

# Westside Music Foundation—Artist Series

proudly presents

## Max Levinson, piano

### “Five Misconceptions about Chopin”

Monday, May 3, 2010, 10:00 a.m.

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Home of Sylvie Ollivier  
703 22<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Santa Monica 90402

\$15—Limited seating, please RSVP to Sylvie Ollivier  
at (310) 454-5741 or [sylvie1031@aol.com](mailto:sylvie1031@aol.com)  
*refreshments to follow lecture*

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**Max Levinson**, pianist, is known as an intelligent and sensitive artist with a fearless technique. Levinson's career was launched when he won First Prize at the 1997 [Guardian Dublin International Piano Competition](#), the first American to achieve this distinction. He received overwhelming critical acclaim for his two solo recordings on N2K Encoded Music, and was awarded the prestigious [Avery Fisher Career Grant](#) in 1999. Most recently, he was awarded the 2005 [Andrew Wolf Award](#) for his chamber music playing. The Boston Globe proclaimed: "The questioning, conviction, and feeling in his playing invariably reminds us of the deep reasons why music is important to us, why we listen to it, why we care so much about it".



Max Levinson has performed as soloist with the San Francisco Symphony, St. Louis Symphony, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Detroit Symphony, Baltimore Symphony, New World Symphony, Indianapolis Symphony, Colorado Symphony, Oregon Symphony, St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, Utah Symphony, Boston Pops, Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, and National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland amongst others. He has worked with such conductors as Robert Spano, Neemi Järvi, Uriel Segal, Joseph Swensen, Jeffrey Kahane and Alasdair Neale. Recent recital appearances include Washington Performing Arts Society's "Kreeger String & Hayes Piano Series" at the Kennedy Center, Tonhalle Orchester Zurich's "Competition Winner Series," Ravinia's "Rising Stars," Lincoln Center's "What Makes it Great" and the FleetBank Boston "Emerging Artists Series."

Max Levinson's debut recitals at Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall and London's Wigmore Hall as the Guardian Competition winner were critical successes and received standing ovations. He performed ambitious programs, which included works by Bartók, Brahms, Chopin, Liszt, Schönberg, Schubert and Kirchner. Of the New York debut performance, The New York Times wrote that Levinson's "quietly eloquent conceptions, formidable technique and lovely touch left little else to be desired."

Strongly committed to nurturing young audiences, Max Levinson has been an active participant in the Grammy-in-the-Schools program throughout the United States and is on the faculty of the [Boston Conservatory](#) and [Brown University](#). He has experimented with Internet broadcast, served as Artist-in-Residence at Harvard University's Lowell House for four years, and has been featured on National Public Radio's "Performance Today" and "A Note to You." Mr. Levinson serves on the boards of the Aube Tzerko Piano Institute and AMRON (Artists Musicians Recital Opportunity Network). In 2000, he was asked by the Millennium Committee of Ireland to design a National Education Initiative, and gave a televised masterclass as part of the project. He has also taught masterclasses at the Royal Irish Academy of Music, Harvard, MIT, Brigham Young University, Rutgers, the University of Washington, Boston University, the Music Teacher's Association of California annual convention and in various cities throughout the U.S. In 1997, he was named "Best Debut Artist" by The Boston Globe and was added to Steinway's distinguished roster of artists.

Born in the Netherlands and raised in Los Angeles, Max Levinson began studying piano at age five. His first teachers were Bruce Sutherland and Aube Tzerko, and as a child he also studied cello, composition and conducting. He attended Harvard University, graduating cum laude with a degree in English Literature, and later completed his graduate studies with Patricia Zander at the New England Conservatory of Music, receiving an Artist Diploma and the Gunther Schuller Medal, an award given to the school's top graduate student. Max Levinson currently lives in the Boston area with his wife, cellist Allison Eldredge and their two daughters, Natalie and Jessica.