



Sunday, February 2, 2025

# MARC-ANDRÉ HAMELIN, PIANO

**Sonata in D major, Hob.XVI:37** (1780)

Franz Joseph Haydn (1732–1809)

- I. Allegro con brio
- II. Largo e sostenuto
- III. Finale: Presto ma non troppo

**Ruth Is Sleeping** (about 1991)

Frank Zappa (1940–1993)

**Passacaglia** (1936)

Stefan Wolpe (1902–1972)

**TIP** (2021)

John Oswald

## INTERMISSION

**Improvisation in B-flat minor (in variation form), Op. 31, No. 1** (1914)

Nikolai Medtner (1880–1951)

**Danza festiva, Op. 38, No. 3** (1921–22)

Medtner

**Étude-Tableau, Op. 39, No. 5** (1916–17)

Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873–1943)

**Piano Sonata No. 2, Op. 36** (1913, rev. 1931)

Rachmaninoff

- I. Allegro agitato
- II. Non allegro—Lento
- III. Allegro molto

Marc-André Hamelin appears by arrangement with Colbert Artists Management, Inc.,  
180 Elm Street, STE 1 #221, Pittsfield, MA 01201-6552.

Marc-André Hamelin records exclusively for Hyperion Records, Ltd.



# NOTE FROM THE CURATOR

Marc-André Hamelin is a wonder. I first got to know his playing—as his fans all over the world did—through his astounding catalog of recordings. Those showed him to be a beautiful musician, fearless and virtuosic, and hungry to champion ferocious works that lay unknown and unrecorded. Beyond his admirable adventuresomeness, he is a probing and ear-opening interpreter. It is a joy to bring Maestro Hamelin to the Gardner Museum to share this remarkably wide-ranging program.

—George Steel, *Abrams Curator of Music*

# ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Pianist **Marc-André Hamelin**, a “performer of near-superhuman technical prowess” (*New York Times*), is known worldwide for his unrivaled blend of consummate musicianship. He continues to amass praise for his brilliant technique in the great works of the repertoire, and for his intrepid exploration of the rarities of the 19th, 20th, and 21st centuries. He regularly performs around the globe with the leading orchestras and conductors of our time and gives recitals at major concert venues and festivals worldwide.

Mr. Hamelin’s 2024-2025 season began with recitals in Asia at the Beijing Concert Hall, Xi’an Concert Hall, Seoul Arts Center, and in duo recitals with Charles Richard-Hamelin in Tokyo, Yokohama, and Fukuoka, with later solo recitals in Gulangyu, Chengdu, and the Shanghai Symphony Hall. European highlights include recitals in Warsaw, Ascona, Copenhagen, Toulouse, Cremona, Florence, Budapest, Detmold, Nijmegen, Herrenhausen, Ruhr, Hamburg’s Elbphilharmonie, and London’s Wigmore Hall. Orchestral appearances include the RTVE Madrid, Bruckner Orchester Linz, and Prague Radio Symphony. He returned to São Paulo State Symphony Orchestra in the fall for Mozart Piano Concerto No. 23 and will return later in the season for a recital, Bernstein Symphony No. 2, and *Rhapsody in Blue* before touring with the orchestra to the Bogotá International Classical Music Festival.

In North America he returns to Carnegie Hall for Beethoven Piano Concerto No. 5 with the Orchestra of St. Luke’s with Bernard Labadie. Further orchestral appearances include the Cleveland Orchestra, Montreal Symphony, Atlanta Symphony, National Arts Center Orchestra in Ottawa; and the orchestras of Quebec, Toledo, and Amarillo; and a complete Beethoven Concerti Cycle with the Edmonton Symphony. Recital highlights include San Francisco Performances, Music Toronto, Boston’s Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, the Music Room at Caramoor, and the University of Georgia Presents. He also tours with the Dover Quartet in a program that features his own Piano Quintet.



Summer 2024 included recitals at the Schubertiade, Deutschlandsberg, Banff Center, Vivace Festival, a duo recital with Charles Richard-Hamelin at Ottawa Chamberfest, and Liszt Piano Concertos 1 and 2 with Yannick Nézet-Séguin and the Orchestre Métropolitain at Festival de Lanaudiere and Domaine Forget.

An exclusive recording artist for Hyperion Records, Hamelin has released 89 albums to date, with notable recordings of a broad range of solo, orchestral, and chamber repertoire. In October, Hamelin released his recording of Beethoven's imposing Piano Sonata in B-flat major, *Hammerklavier*, Op. 106, coupled with the earlier Piano Sonata in C major, Op. 2, No. 3, which received incredible critical acclaim. In 2025, he releases *MixTape*, featuring 20th-century music.

Featuring nine original pieces, Hamelin's 2024 album *New Piano Works* is a survey of some of his own recent works, exhibiting his formidable skill as a composer-pianist whose music imaginatively and virtuosically taps into his musical forebears. "His previous offerings of his own music were rich, but his latest self-portrait album is on another level," wrote the *New York Times*, one of many outlets that wrote glowing reviews. It was Hamelin's first album of all original compositions since *Études* (2010). In 2023, Hyperion released Hamelin's recording of Fauré's *Nocturnes & Barcarolles*, with the four-hand *Dolly* suite, played with his wife, Cathy Fuller. A double album of C.P.E. Bach's *Sonatas & Rondos* was released in 2022, and another of William Bolcom's *Complete Rags*. Both received wide critical acclaim and chart success.

Hamelin has composed music throughout his career, most of which is published by Edition Peters, including his *Études* and Toccata on "L'homme armé," the latter commissioned by the Van Cliburn Foundation. Hamelin performed the Toccata along with music by C.P.E. Bach and Bolcom in an NPR Tiny Desk concert in 2023. His latest compositions include a piano quintet, which he premiered in 2022 with the Dover Quartet, and the solo piano works *Hexensabbat* and *Mazurka*, the latter commissioned by the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., where the composer presented the first performance in spring 2024.

Hamelin makes his home in the Boston area with his wife, Cathy Fuller, a producer and host at Classical WCRB. Born in Montreal, he is the recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Award from the German Record Critics' Association, and over 20 of its quarterly awards. He has also received seven Juno Awards, 12 GRAMMY® Award nominations, and the 2018 Jean Gimbel Lane Prize in Piano Performance from Northwestern University's Bienen School of Music. In December 2020, he was awarded the Paul de Hueck and Norman Walford Career Achievement Award for Keyboard Artistry from the Ontario Arts Foundation. Hamelin is an Officer of the Order of Canada, a Chevalier de l'Ordre national du Québec, and a member of the Royal Society of Canada.



## UPCOMING PERFORMANCES:

### **BROOKLYN RIDER**

Sunday, February 9

### **YARN/WIRE WITH NICOLETTA BERRY, SOPRANO**

Sunday, February 23

### **SIMONE PORTER, VIOLIN WITH PALLAVI MAHIDHARA, PIANO**

Sunday, March 2

### **ACRONYM WITH REGINALD MOBLEY, COUNTERTENOR**

Sunday, March 9

### **JOHAN DALENE, VIOLIN WITH SAHUN SAM HONG, PIANO**

Sunday, March 16

### **NEVERMIND**

Sunday, March 23

### **MORGENSTERN TRIO**

Sunday, March 30

### **SŌ PERCUSSION**

Sunday, April 6

### **STRING TRIO: GENEVA LEWIS, VIOLIN | YURA LEE, VIOLA | JAY CAMPBELL, CELLO**

Sunday, April 13

### **STERLING ELLIOTT, CELLO WITH WYNONA WANG, PIANO**

Sunday, April 27

The Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum resides on the homelands of the Massachusetts Tribe, who belong to this place and continue to regard these lands and waters as sacred.

Music at the Gardner is supported by Nora McNeely Hurley / Manitou Fund. Hemenway & Barnes LLP is the lead corporate sponsor of the Weekend Concert Series. The Museum thanks its generous concert donors: The Coogan Concert in memory of Peter Weston Coogan; Fitzpatrick Family Concert; James Lawrence Memorial Concert; Alford P. Rudnick Memorial Concert; David Scudder in memory of his wife, Marie Louise Scudder; Wendy Shattuck Young Artist Concert; and Willona Sinclair Memorial Concert. The piano is dedicated as the Alex d'Arbeloff Steinway. The harpsichord was generously donated by Dr. Robert Barstow in memory of Marion Huse, and its care is endowed in memory of Dr. Barstow by The Barstow Fund. Music at the Gardner is also supported in part by New Music USA's Organization Fund, Nicie and Jay Panetta, and the Massachusetts Cultural Council, which is supported by the state of Massachusetts and the National Endowment for the Arts.



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