

Robert Cassidy *piano*

Pianist Robert Cassidy has received widespread acclaim for his performances and recordings of both solo piano repertoire and chamber music. About his eponymous solo recording, the Cleveland Plain Dealer's review praised him, remarking, "Cassidy demonstrates a keen grasp of varied styles on his new recital disc, which spans three centuries... with delicate and expressive sensitivity, savoring the magical atmospheres." Cassidy's second solo disc "*Pathways*" was released in March of 2016 and includes works by Chopin, Debussy, and American composer Joel Feigin.

Dr. Cassidy often appears in concert as a soloist and chamber musician, most recently on a solo recital tour in Cleveland, New York, and Vienna, and in a chamber performance at the Music Academy of the West in Santa Barbara. Dr. Cassidy has been presented on radio stations WFMT in Chicago (Dame Myra Hess Series), WRUW, WCLV and WCPN in Cleveland, WKSU in Kent, Ohio, and WNYC in New York (*Around New York*).

He has premiered solo piano works by the American composers David Noon and Keith Fitch. For eight years, from 2008-2016 Cassidy was the pianist in the Cleveland-based Almeda Trio with whom he concertized and recorded. He also has performed chamber music with the members of the Cleveland Orchestra, Mari Sato of the Cavani String Quartet, and cellist Ani Aznavoorian.

An extremely active and highly sought-after teacher and chamber music coach, Dr. Cassidy is in demand for master classes, workshops and lectures, private teaching, and adjudication. Joining the faculty of Cleveland State University in 2008, he held the position of Lecturer of Applied Piano and Coordinator of Chamber Music, where he maintained a studio of undergraduate and graduate private students and taught Collaborative Piano and Accompanying from 2011-2014. He also served as Interim Coordinator of the Keyboard Area in 2011-12. Dr. Cassidy gave concert performances with the Cleveland State University Orchestra and Chamber Orchestra under the direction of Victor Liva. He also educated private students at The Music Settlement, one of the nation's oldest community music schools founded in 1912, and at the Laurel School, a nationally recognized, college preparatory, independent day school for girls. Currently, Dr. Cassidy teaches at the Music Academy of the West and is Director of Piano Chamber Music for Santa Barbara Strings.

Many of Dr. Cassidy's former students continue on in performance, and are employed as professional music teachers and arts administrators. They have careers in New York City as professional recording artists, teach music at public and private schools, and work as managers in performing arts organizations. He has adjudicated numerous competitions sponsored by the Northeast Ohio Music Teachers Association, the Tuesday Musical Scholarship Award Competition, and the Music Teachers Association of California (MTAC).

Dr. Cassidy received his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Piano Performance from the Manhattan School of Music, where he studied with Solomon Mikowsky, Constance Keene, and Marc Silverman. Subsequent studies followed with the legendary pianist Menahem Pressler at Indiana University. Dr. Cassidy holds a Doctor of Arts degree in Piano Chamber Music and Accompanying/Piano Performance from Ball State University, where he studied with Robert Palmer.