

Bach Festival Society OF WINTER PARK

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73rd Annual Bach Festival:
Kennedy Center Honoree Leon Fleisher to perform a program of
Mozart and Beethoven

Winter Park, FL Acclaimed American pianist Leon Fleisher and his wife, Kathy Jacobson Fleisher, will be joining the Bach Festival Society on the 73rd Annual Bach Festival with two performances February 23 and 24, 2008. Mr. Fleisher received a Kennedy Center Lifetime Achievement Award in December 2007 for his life-long contribution to the arts, along with Steve Martin, Diana Ross, and others. For our concert, Mr. Fleisher will perform Mozart's *Piano Concerto No. 12 in A Major*, and Kathy Jacobson Fleisher will perform Beethoven's *Choral Fantasy*. The *Choral Fantasy* was played at the awards ceremony at the Kennedy Center to honor Mr. Fleisher, so it is fitting that his wife will be performing the work with the Bach Festival Society.

Leon Fleisher has received much attention during his career. In the 1960s, after rising quickly to prominence in the musical field, he lost the use of his right hand due to a nerve disorder later diagnosed as focal dystonia. Mr. Fleisher dedicated much of his time to teaching but continued to perform the left-handed piano repertoire until he regained the use of his right hand in the 1990s. Since then, he has re-energized his concert career playing repertoire for both hands. He was also the subject of 2007 Oscar-nominated short documentary, *Two Hands*.

On the Bach Festival program, Mr. Fleisher will be performing Mozart's *Piano Concert No. 12 in A Major* with the Bach Festival Orchestra. Mozart, a child prodigy and star, grew to become a world-famous musician in his own time. This work was completed in 1782, when he was 26, and is noted for being very lyric and melodic.

The Bach Festival Choir will join Ms. Jacobson Fleisher for Beethoven's *Choral Fantasy*.

Beethoven first conceived the idea of an instrumental composition with a choral finale in 1800. He wrote the *Choral Fantasy* in 1808 in Vienna, and in it can be discerned foreshadowings of the magnificent *Ninth Symphony*, Beethoven's crowning glory.

Also on this concert will be a small work by Jan Vaclav Vorisek—his *Symphony in D*. Vorisek was a contemporary of Beethoven's and knew him when they were both living in Vienna. Vorisek's works are largely unknown to U.S. audiences, and the *Symphony in D*, written in 1823, is his only symphonic work.

Performance Information

What: Leon Fleisher in a program of Mozart and Beethoven featuring the Bach Festival Choir and Orchestra

Where: Knowles Memorial Chapel, Rollins College

When: Saturday, February 23, 2008, at 8:00pm and Sunday, February 24, 2008, at 3:00pm

Tickets: \$55/\$45/\$20, depending on seat location

About the Bach Festival Society

The Bach Festival Society, located in Winter Park, Florida, is one of the longest continuously operating Bach Festivals in the country and among America's great oratorio societies. The Bach Festival Society brings the highest caliber of classical music to Central Florida. Performances are held in the intimate settings of Tiedtke Concert Hall and Knowles Memorial Chapel on the beautiful campus of Rollins College.

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For more information regarding the upcoming season or to order tickets, please call the Bach Festival Society at 407.646.2182 or visit us online at www.bachfestivalflorida.org.

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