

Bach Festival Society OF WINTER PARK

Elizabeth Gwinn
Executive Director

John V. Sinclair
Artistic Director

Eric Ravndal III
President

Contact: Margo Stedman, Program Coordinator
Phone: 407.646.2342
Fax: 407.646.2692
E-mail: mstedman@bachfestivalflorida.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 25, 2008

Bach Festival Society presents Exceptional Pianist Hélène Grimaud

Winter Park, FL Opening the 2008–2009 Bach Festival Season, **pianist Hélène Grimaud will perform a solo piano recital in Tiedtke Concert Hall on the Rollins College Campus on Sunday, October 12 at 3:00 p.m.** Grimaud has received a tremendous amount of attention recently as the piano soloist for the final concert of PROMS, the world's largest classical music festival, which takes place each summer in London. PROMS is a phenomenally successful 8-week festival that features the greatest classical musicians in the world for this annual BBC event in the Royal Albert Hall. As part of her involvement with PROMS, Grimaud was asked to be the first-ever Guest Editor of the July 2008 issue of *Gramophone* magazine. As Guest Editor, Grimaud conducted an interview with the young conductor Vladimir Jurowski, who is widely considered to be among the top conductors working today.

The Bach Festival Society is partnering with **Enzian Theater** to present the film *Note By Note: The Making of Steinway #L1037*, an award-winning feature-length documentary that follows the creation of a Steinway concert grand piano from forest floor to concert hall. Grimaud is featured in this film along with other noted pianists, such as Harry Connick Jr. and Lang Lang. This film will be shown at **Enzian Theater on Sunday, October 5 at 1:00 p.m.**

Grimaud has a full performance schedule for the 2008–09 season. Because of Grimaud's extremely limited solo recital schedule, the Bach Festival Society of Winter Park is

fortunate to host her. “She is very much in demand as a recitalist,” said Executive Director, Betsy Gwinn. “Her schedule is very full, and we are so pleased that she will perform with the Bach Festival Society of Winter Park.”

Grimaud has won numerous awards, among them the Order of Arts and Literature, the French government’s most prestigious honor awarded to those who have significantly contributed to the enrichment of the French cultural inheritance. She is also a published author and discusses in her memoir, *Wild Harmonies*, her experiences with synesthesia, a neurologically based phenomenon in which the brain associates letters, numbers, or music as colors. Grimaud first became aware of this singularity when she was eleven years old..

Born in Aix-en Provence in the south of France in 1969, Hélène Grimaud began piano lessons at the age of seven. At 13 she was accepted to the Paris Conservatory, where she won the first prize in piano in 1985. Grimaud’s professional career began in 1987 at the age of 17. Since then, Grimaud has performed in the world’s most impressive concert halls with internationally renowned orchestras, including the Los Angeles, New York, and Berlin Philharmonic orchestras.

Performance Information

What: Hélène Grimaud solo piano recital

Where: Tiedtke Concert Hall, Rollins College

When: Sunday, October 12, 2008 at 3:00 p.m.

Tickets: \$30 or \$40, depending on seat location

More information: www.bachfestivalflorida.org

Film Information

What: Note By Note – The Making of Steinway L1037

Where: Enzian Theater

When: Sunday, October 5, 2008 at 1:00 p.m.

Tickets: \$7; FREE to Enzian Members and Bach Festival Society Subscribers

More information: www.enziantheater.org

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.

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.

#