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Mack McCray

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Mack McCray

FEBRUARY 14, 1999

GOVERNORS STATE UNIVERSITY
"University Park, Illinois
Mack McCray won First Prize in the San Francisco Symphony’s Young Artist Competition and the Charleston Symphony Competition, Silver Medal at the International “Enescu” Competition in Bucharest (plus a special award for best performance of a contemporary work), Silver Medal at the International Liszt Competition in Boston, and Juilliard’s coveted Steuerman Award. In 1969-70 McCray made his first spectacularly successful tour of Europe, with debuts in London, Vienna, Amsterdam, Hamburg, Brussels and Zurich.

Since then McCray has performed around the world, notably at the Paris “Festivale d’automne,” at Seville’s “Great Interpreters Series,” with the Monte Carlo Orchestra at the UNESCO “Festival of International Artists” in Monaco, at Hong Kong’s City Hall Concert Series, at the Bucharest Philharmonic’s Bach-Beethoven-Brahms Festival, Harvard University’s Fromm Foundation Concerts, San Francisco’s Chamber Music West, and U.C. Berkeley’s prestigious “Artists and Lectures” Series. He founded an international chamber musical festival in Trogen, Switzerland. McCray’s recording of John Adams’ piano work, Phrygian Gates (New Albion Records), made the “Best Recordings of the Year” lists of both the New York Times & High Fidelity. Upcoming are performances in Spain, Japan (where he will be the featured artist in Tokyo’s Gershwin Centennial Celebration), Korea and China as well as throughout the U.S.

McCray has been soloist with numerous national and international orchestras, including the San Francisco Symphony, and with such conductors as Michael Tilson Thomas, Edo de Waart, Leon Fleischer and Arthur Fiedler. He was an invited soloist at the 1989 American Liszt Society Conference, the New Orleans International Piano Festival and Competition (as performer, judge, and master class teacher), and the Atlanta Festival of the Arts. In ‘91 he gave the American Premier of John Adams’ new work for piano and orchestra, Eros Piano. He has taught at the San Francisco Conservatory since ‘71, and was artist-in-residence at Yale University in ‘95.
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