



Flat Rock Campus

180 West Campus Drive, Flat Rock, NC 28731

Transylvania Center

45 Oak Park Drive, Brevard, NC 28712

www.blueridge.edu

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Blue Ridge Concert Series Presents Pianist Ned Kirk on March 22



The Blue Ridge Community College Concert Series will present pianist Ned Kirk on Monday, March 22 at 7:30 P.M. in Thomas Auditorium. The program will feature several works by Beethoven, including the famous “Appassionata” sonata; selections from “Iberia,” by Albeniz; various etudes by Debussy; and “Mephisto Waltz No. 1,” by Liszt.

A native of Redding, California, Ned Kirk has performed extensively as a soloist and chamber musician. This season he is performing on four continents. In the United States he is appearing on concert series in California, Nevada, Nebraska, Minnesota, Illinois, North Carolina and Florida; other highlights include concerto engagements with the Minnesota Orchestra and the Eau Claire Chamber Orchestra. Overseas performances include ten recitals in Kenya, Denmark, France, Hong Kong, and China. Next season he will be performing in Germany, Singapore and China, as well as the United States.

Since 2007, Kirk has served as artistic and managing director of the Minnesota Beethoven Festival. Now in its fourth season, the festival is dedicated to showcasing regional talent, as well as featuring

some of the most important international concert artists of our time, including Joshua Bell, Marc-André Hamelin, Branford Marsalis, Thomas Hampson and many others; the festival also features the Minnesota Orchestra in two performances each summer.

Kirk studied at the Peabody Conservatory of Music, the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, and the University of Washington. His piano and chamber music coaches have included Craig Sheppard, Walter Hautzig, Nigel Coxe, Earl Carlyss, Tinka Knopp, Lillian Freundlich, Estela Olevsky, Charles Treger and Yefim Bronfman. Kirk has served as orchestral pianist for the Colorado Music Festival, and has been a faculty member at the Marrowstone Music Festival; he also spent four summers teaching piano master classes to students from rural Alaska at the Sitka Fine Arts Institute. For seven years, he served on the piano faculty at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Washington. Presently, he is Associate Professor of Piano and Chair of the Music Department at Saint Mary's University in Winona, Minnesota.

Admission to the concert is \$10, payable at the door; admission for all students is only \$3. All concerts feature open seating. Proceeds benefit the college's Community Enrichment Program. Thomas Auditorium is located in the Sink Building on Blue Ridge's Flat Rock campus. For more information, contact Dr. Kevin Ayesh at (828) 694-1860 or kevina@blueridge.edu.

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