

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 16, 2011

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MEDIA ALERT: Superstar fortepianist Kristian Bezuidenhout performs an all-Mozart program with the Boston Early Music Festival on Friday, February 25, 2011

ARTIST: Kristian Bezuidenhout (fortepiano; South Africa)

WHEN: Friday, February 25, 2011 at 8pm
Sanders Theatre at Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

PROGRAM: *The Genius of Wolfgang Amadé Mozart*

Sonata in F Major, K. 332
Variations in F Major on "Ein Weib ist das herrlichste Ding", K. 613
Fantasie in C Minor, K. 396
Sonata in B-flat Major, K. 333

TICKETS: Tickets for the Cambridge performance are priced at **\$19, \$38, \$49, \$66, and \$100** each and can be purchased at **WWW.BEMF.ORG** and **617-661-1812**; a \$5 discount for students, seniors, and groups is offered by calling 617-661-1812. Subscription discounts of 10% are available with the purchase of three or more programs.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM:

By popular demand, the **Boston Early Music Festival** presents celebrated fortepianist and audience favorite **Kristian Bezuidenhout** in his first solo recital on the Boston Concert Series. Called the "MVP" of the 2009 Boston Early Music Festival (*New York Times*) and the "prince of the fortepiano" (*The Times*, London) Bezuidenhout has won acclaim around the world for his concerts and recordings. Praised for his "complete comprehension of everything Mozart" (*Early Music*), he is considered one of the most gifted interpreters of the legendary composer's music performing today, melding vibrant humor, intense drama, and virtuosic playing.

For this performance, Bezuidenhout will feature intimate masterpieces showcasing the tumultuous emotion and breathtaking beauty of these timeless works by one of greatest musical geniuses the world has ever known. The music is stylistic, ambitious, and thematically varied, often within a single piece, demonstrating the impeccable range of composer and performer alike.

ABOUT THE ARTIST:

Kristian Bezuidenhout first gained international recognition at the age of 21 after winning both the first and audience prize in the Bruges Fortepiano Competition. He has been a frequent guest with the world's leading ensembles, including The Freiburg Baroque Orchestra, Orchestre des Champs Elysées, The Orchestra of the 18th Century, Concerto Köln, The Chamber Orchestra of Europe and Collegium Vocale

Gent, in many instances assuming the role of guest director. He has performed with celebrated artists including Philippe Herreweghe, Frans Brüggen, Christopher Hogwood, Pieter Wispelwey, Daniel Hope, Viktoria Mullova, Carolyn Sampson, Mark Padmore and Jan Kobow.

Bezuidenhout now divides his time between concerto, recital and chamber music engagements, appearing in the early music festivals of Barcelona, Boston, Bruges, Innsbruck, St. Petersburg, Venice and Utrecht; the Saintes Festival, La Roque d'Anthéron, the Chopin Festival Warsaw, the Tanglewood Festival and Mostly Mozart Lincoln Center, and at many of the world's most important concert halls. Since 2009, Bezuidenhout has embarked on a long-term recording relationship with Harmonia Mundi. Recent recordings include a disc of Mozart Violin Sonatas with Petra Müllejans, and Volumes 1 & 2 of a projected 10 volume series of the complete keyboard music of Mozart; Volume 1 was awarded a *Diapason Dor*.

Bezuidenhout is a guest professor at the Schola Cantorum in Basel and the Eastman School of Music, and in 2007 he was awarded the Erwin Bodky Prize and the Deutschlandfunk Förderpreis. Bezuidenhout is an Artistic Advisor to the Constellation Center in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

RESOURCES:

Download artist photos: <http://www.bemf.org/pages/press/images.htm>

ABOUT THE BOSTON EARLY MUSIC FESTIVAL:

Recognized as the preeminent early music presenting organization in North America, the **Boston Early Music Festival** has been credited with securing Boston's reputation as "America's early music capital" (*The Boston Globe*). Founded in 1981, the Boston Early Music Festival offers diverse programs and activities, including three Grammy-nominated opera recordings, an annual concert series that brings early music's brightest stars to the Boston and New York concert stages, and a biennial week-long Festival and Exhibition recognized as the "world's leading festival of early music" (*The Times*, London). The fully staged operatic centerpiece of the 16th Festival and Exhibition in 2011 will be the North American premiere of **Agostino Steffani's *Niobe, Queen of Thebes*** led by BEMF Artistic Directors **Paul O'Dette** and **Stephen Stubbs**, and *Stage Director and Set Designer* **Gilbert Blin**. The international cast will include soprano **Amanda Forsythe** in the title role and countertenor **Philippe Jaroussky** as *Anfione*.

The 2010–2011 Boston Early Music Festival concert season is presented with support from the Dante Alighieri Society, Massachusetts Cultural Council, National Endowment for the Arts, ConstellationCenter, WGBH Radio Boston, Harpsichord Clearing House, Zuckermann Harpsichords International, The Gregory E. Bulger Foundation, and U. S. Trust/Bank of America Private Wealth Management. Dates, times, venues, artists, and programs are subject to change.

For more information, images, press tickets, or to schedule an interview, please contact Kathleen Fay at 617-661-1812 or email kathy@bemf.org.

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