



FRIEMAN FAMILY PIANO SERIES

# RAFAŁ BLECHACZ, *piano*

FRIDAY, MAY 10 • 8:00 PM • MCASD SHERWOOD AUDITORIUM

## BACH

(1685-1750)

### Partita No. 3 in A Minor, BWV 827

- Fantasia*
- Allemande*
- Courante*
- Sarabande*
- Burlesca*
- Scherzo*
- Gigue*

## BEETHOVEN

(1770-1827)

### Piano Sonata in D Major, Opus 10, No. 3

- Presto*
- Largo e mesto*
- Menuetto: Allegro*
- Rondo: Allegro*

INTERMISSION

## CHOPIN

(1810-1849)

### Two Polonaises, Opus 40

- No. 1 in A Major "Military"*
- No. 2 in C Minor*

### Scherzo No. 3 in C-sharp Minor, Opus 39

## SZYMANOWSKI

(1882-1937)

### Piano Sonata No. 1 in C Minor, Opus 8

- Allegro moderato*
- Adagio*
- Tempo di minuetto: Comodo*
- Finale. Introduzione: Adagio; Fuga: Allegro energico*

## PRELUDE 7:00 PM

Lecture by Steven Cassedy

*Polish folk music dressed up, from Chopin to Szymanowski*

Many composers who drew on their own ethnic traditions transformed those traditions for their contemporary audiences. Just as Chopin's Polonaises betray the influence of his non-Polish romantic predecessors, Szymanowski took his native traditions and heavily mixed them with traces of music from composers as diverse as Wagner, Richard Strauss, Scriabin, and Debussy.



The Frieman Family Piano Series is

underwritten by Medallion Society members:

**Conrad Prebys and  
Debbie Turner**

La Jolla Music Society's 2012-13 Season is supported by The City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture, the County of San Diego Community Enhancement Fund, the National Endowment for the Arts, ResMed Foundation, Sempra Energy, Vistage International, The Westgate Hotel, Conrad Prebys and Debbie Turner, Brenda Baker and Steve Baum, Joan and Irwin Jacobs, The Frieman Family, Rita and Richard Atkinson, Brian and Silvija Devine, Sam B. Ersan, Jeanette Stevens, and an anonymous donor.

Performs courtesy of:  
Arts Management Group, Inc.

*This performance marks Rafał Blechacz's La Jolla Music Society debut.*



## MARCIA BALL, *keyboard and vocals*

Texas-born, Louisiana-raised pianist, vocalist and songwriter, Marcia Ball, is famed worldwide for igniting a full-scale roadhouse rhythm and blues party every time she strolls on stage. Ms. Ball's groove-laden New Orleans boogie and rollicking Gulf Coast blues have made her a favorite with music fans all over the world. She's also a master at transfixing her audience with an emotionally rich, passionately sung ballad.

Born in Orange, Texas in 1949 to a family whose female members all played piano, Ms. Ball began taking piano lessons at age five, playing old Tin Pan Alley tunes from her grandmother's collection. From her aunt, she heard more modern and popular music. But it wasn't until she was 13 that Ms. Ball discovered the power of soul music.

In 1970, Ms. Ball set out for San Francisco. Her car broke down in Austin and she decided to stay. It wasn't long before she was performing in the city's clubs with a progressive country band called Freda and the Firedogs, while beginning to perfect her songwriting skills. It was around this time that she delved deeply into the music of the great New Orleans piano players, especially Professor Longhair. When the band broke up in 1974, Ms. Ball launched her solo career, debuting with the country-rock album *Circuit Queen* in 1978.



## ALISON BALSOM, *trumpet*

Recently crowned 'Female Artist of the Year' for the second time at the Classic BRITs, trumpeter Alison Balsom has cemented an international reputation as one of classical music's great ambassadors and is ranked among the most distinctive and ground-breaking musicians on the international circuit today.

Ms. Balsom's highly distinctive sound earned her recognition when she mainly reached her audience through radio broadcasts of the BBC Radio 3 New Generation Artists scheme.

While represented by the Young Concert Artists Trust, Ms. Balsom caught the attention of EMI Classics with whom she records exclusively. In 2009, Ms. Balsom headlined one of classical music's most celebrated concerts, The Last Night of the BBC Proms, which reached its biggest ever global television audience of an estimated 200 million.

Ms. Balsom studied trumpet at the Guildhall School of Music, the Paris Conservatoire, and with Håkan Hardenberger. She was a concerto finalist in the BBC Young Musician competition in 1998 and received the Feeling Musique Prize for quality of sound in the 2001 Maurice André International Trumpet Competition. Ms. Balsom performs a wide range of recital and concerto repertoire and performs on both modern and baroque trumpets. In addition to transcribing and arranging existing works, Ms. Balsom is increasingly active in commissioning new works for trumpet.



## RAFAŁ BLECHACZ, *piano*

In October 2005, Rafał Blechacz was the winner of the 15th Frédéric Chopin International Piano Competition in Warsaw, Poland. In addition to the Grand Prize, Mr. Blechacz won all the special prizes of the Competition including the National Philharmonic of Poland Prize for the best concerto performance.

Born in 1985 in Nakło nad Notecią, Poland, Mr. Blechacz began his piano studies at age five, and continued his musical education at the Artur Rubinstein State School of Music in Bydgoszcz. In May 2007, he graduated from the Feliks Nowowiejski Academy of Music where he studied with Professor Katarzyna Popowa-Zydroń. Since then, the Mr. Blechacz has won many prestigious prizes and awards at music festivals and competitions in his native Poland and worldwide.

The 2005 victory in Warsaw opened the doors of the most famous concert halls of the world, including Wigmore Hall in London, Berlin's Philharmonie, Liederhalle in Stuttgart and Avery Fisher Hall in New York. Mr. Blechacz has also performed at the most renowned music festivals of the world, such as Salzburg, La Roque-d'Anthéron and the Gilmore Festival. He has received critical acclaim and praise from audiences for his performances with orchestras under the direction of such noted conductors as Valery Gergiev, Mikhail Pletnev, and Marek Janowski.