

NOTE OF INTENT

“Shattered Gestures”

Each pianist carries with them a lifetime of gestures in their hands, embodied from hundreds of years of repertoire through hours of practice, care, and dedication. What happens when these constructs are manipulated, broken apart, and utterly reconceived by the composer? The six works on this program begin from the fundamental starting point of pianism, and shatter it into emotional extremes. Eric Wubbels’s blazing work uses metallic preparation and formalistic repetition to challenge somatic virtuosity. Peter Schat’s anachronistic anomaly freely jumps between musical memories in a surprising and ultimately poignant quasi-Fantasia. André Boucourechliev imagines a new kind of étude in which every possible gesture is deconstructed into parts, and charges the performer with the essential decisions of structure and content. Kajia Saariaho references a canonically expressive form to create drastic affect. Finally, André Jolivet invokes a cosmic ritual, answered in turn by the new work by Pascal Dusapin, in which the performer’s technique is pushed to the extremes in a frightening exorcism for negative emotions.

Robert Fleitz