



# Thomas Otten, pianist

Sunday, February 22, 2004 at 3:00pm

Zenph Studios Recital Hall

Raleigh, North Carolina

## The Transcriptions of Franz Liszt

~ PROGRAM ~

*The Flying Dutchman*: Senta's Ballad

Richard Wagner  
(1813-1883)

Three Lieder  
Widmung

Robert Schumann  
(1810-1856)

Auf Flügeln des Gesanges

Felix Mendelssohn  
(1809-1847)

Frühlingsnacht

Robert Schumann

Concert Paraphrase on *Rigoletto*

Giuseppe Verdi  
(1813-1901)

*Tristan und Isolde*: Isolde's Liebestod

Richard Wagner

*Grandes Etudes de Paganini*: La Campanella

Niccolo Paganini  
(1782-1840)

*This program will be featured at the 2004 Convention of the American Liszt Society,  
University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana.*

*Thomas Otten is a Steinway Artist.*

## About the Artist

Thomas Otten, a California native born of German-American parents, has appeared in recital and as orchestral soloist in such venues as the Kennedy Center, Lincoln Center, and Carnegie Hall. He has been the recipient of numerous national and international prizes, including first prize in the Joanna Hodge's International Piano Competition and the USIA Artistic Ambassador Competition. As a result of the latter, he represented the U.S. in a three-week concert tour of the Caribbean. He was also the national winner of the National Federation of Music Clubs Young Artist Competition and the MTNA Collegiate Artist Competition.

From 1991 to 1998, Dr. Otten was a member of the California Arts Council's prestigious Touring Artist Roster, performing recitals and giving residencies throughout the state. This led to his expertise in the area of self-management/marketing, and the exploration of highly diverse repertoire, including jazz and ragtime.

A student of master teachers John Perry and Nelita True, Dr. Otten holds performance degrees from the University of Southern California (DMA, MM) and the University of Maryland, College Park (BM, summa cum laude). He also studied collaborative performance with the late Gwendolyn Koldofsky and Martin Katz.

Dr. Otten has taught at several universities in California, including California State University at Sacramento, where he was Artist-in-Residence. From 1997-2002, he chaired the piano division at Kent State University in Ohio, also founding the Kent Piano Seminar. He currently chairs the piano division at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Thomas Otten is gaining recognition as an artist teacher; his students have received prizes in competitions both in this country and abroad. He is in demand as a performer and clinician, giving recitals, master classes, and workshops throughout the U.S.

## About the Piano

This "Faust Harrison Steinway" was built in 1886, the year of Liszt's death. It's Steinway's largest concert grand, known as the Model D. The cast-iron plate and the rosewood case are original. The modern refinishing of these took a year; there are about 20 new coats of lacquer on the rosewood finish. All the other components of the instrument – the keys, strings, action, soundboard, pin block, and so on – were rebuilt new in 2000, exceeding the specifications of modern Steinways. The bass strings were hand-wound in Canada; the Renner action was made in Germany. Both this and the Yamaha have been extensively voiced by Marc Wienert, who heads the piano technology department at the Manhattan School of Music. The showroom for Faust Harrison Pianos is on 58<sup>th</sup> Street in New York City, a block from Carnegie Hall. <http://www.faustharrisonpianos.com>

Please deactivate **mobile phones, pagers, and beeping watches** during the performance.  
Three restrooms are available: two downstairs and one upstairs.