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Concert pianist Jeffrey Brown to perform at MBC for Sunday recital

*By Charles Culbertson
Contributor*

Classical music lovers interested in quantity as well as quality will get their money's worth this weekend in the next installment of Mary Baldwin College's Sunday Concert Series.

Prize-winning concert pianist Jeffrey Brown, who has performed extensively throughout the United States, Europe and Asia, will deliver a program packed with musical treasures representing a range of eras, from Domenico Scarlatti to modern Australian composer Carl Vine.

"Dr. Brown is a terrific pianist and has prepared a wonderful, varied program," said Lise Keiter-Brotzman, MBC associate professor of music, chair of the music department and coordinator for the Sunday Recital Series. "He will treat us to some familiar works and to some fascinating new ones, as well."

The program will feature three sonatas by Scarlatti, the popular Fantasia in C Major ("Wanderer Fantasy") by Franz Schubert, five works from Vine's "The Anna Landa Preludes" and two compositions by Alexander Scriabin — "Poeme" and the Fantasy in B Minor, Op. 28.

"I designed this program around two great fantasies from the Romantic period," Brown said. "The Schubert fantasy was written at the beginning of the era and is constructed on a theme from Schubert's own song, 'Der Wanderer,' which he composed a few years earlier. The Scriabin fantasy was written at the end of the Romantic period and is a culmination of the rich harmonic and melodic influence of composers such as Liszt and Chopin."

Brown — a solo recitalist, chamber musician and soloist with orchestras — has scored recent performance triumphs that include the Dame Myra Hess Series in Chicago, the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., universities and conservatories in New York, Florida, Ohio, South Carolina and Virginia, live radio and television broadcasts and music festivals in France, Italy, Germany and Austria.

He has distinguished himself as a versatile artist with a broad range of repertoire. A strong advocate of new music, he champions works by contemporary composers that include Vine, György Ligeti, Lowell Liebermann and Martin Scherzinger. Brown frequently collaborates with vocalists and instrumentalists and has served as the official pianist for a number of national and international competitions, including the Eastman International Piano Competition. He has served on the faculty of summer music festivals in the United States and abroad, including the American Institute of Musical Studies in Graz, Austria, and performs frequently with the Virginia Symphony.

Brown is a graduate of the Eastman School of Music where he earned the Performer's Certificate, the Master of Music, and the Doctor of Musical Arts degrees as a student of Natalya Antonova. He joined the faculty of Christopher Newport University in 2004, where he teaches private piano, supervises the class piano program, and coordinates auditions for the department of music.
