



Maestro Leon Botstein, The Orchestra Now, and the Bard College Conservatory of Music dedicate this weekend's concerts to the memory of

PETER SERKIN

who passed away this past Saturday at the age of 72.

Recognized as an artist of passion and integrity, American pianist Peter Serkin was one of the most thoughtful and individualistic musicians of his era. Throughout his career he successfully conveyed the essence of five centuries of repertoire through performances with symphony orchestras, recital appearances, chamber music collaborations, and numerous recordings. Serkin's rich musical heritage extended back several generations: his grandfather was violinist and composer Adolf Busch, and his father was pianist Rudolf Serkin. At age 11 he entered the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia, where he was a student of Lee Luvisi, Mieczyslaw Horszowski, and Rudolf Serkin. Throughout his career he performed with the major symphony orchestras of the world, with such eminent conductors as Seiji Ozawa, Pierre Boulez, Daniel Barenboim, Claudio Abbado, Simon Rattle, James Levine, Herbert Blomstedt, and Christoph Eschenbach. Also a dedicated chamber musician, Serkin collaborated with Alexander Schneider, Pamela Frank, Yo-Yo Ma, and the Budapest, Guarneri, and Orion string quartets, as well as TASHI, of which he was a founding member.

An avid proponent of the music of many of the 20th and 21st century's most distinguished composers, Serkin was instrumental in bringing the music of Schoenberg, Webern, Berg, Stravinsky, Wolpe, Messiaen, Takemitsu, Henze, Berio, Wuorinen, Goehr, Knussen, and Lieberon, among others, to international audiences.

Serkin joined the faculty of Bard College Conservatory in 2014. In addition to his work with numerous piano students, he often performed with his fellow faculty members and with the students—most notably as a soloist with the Conservatory Orchestra and Leon Botstein on their June 2016 tour of Cuba. He has also performed multiple concerts with The Orchestra Now. He was a cherished artist, colleague, and friend. There can be no finer tribute to his memory than the works performed on these concerts—and performed in honor of his artistic and educational legacy at Bard by his colleagues and students.