

# Anthony de Mare, piano

LIAISONS 2020: Re-Imagining Sondheim from the Piano

*Celebrating Stephen Sondheim at 90*

*(All works based on material by Stephen Sondheim)*

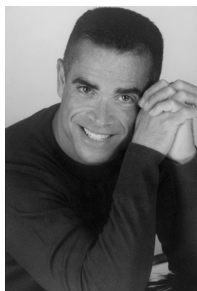
|   |                              |
|---|------------------------------|
| Pretty Lady (2019)<br><i>(Pacific Overtures)</i>  | Stephen Hough                |
| All Things Bright and Beautiful (2019)<br><i>(Follies)</i>  | Anthony de Mare              |
| Not A Day Goes By (2019)<br><i>(Merrily We Roll Along)</i>  | Jeff Beal                    |
| Always (2019)<br><i>(after "I Wish I Could Forget You" - Passion)</i>                                     | Paola Prestini               |
| Kiss Me (2019)<br><i>(Sweeney Todd)</i>   | Christopher Cerrone          |
| The Gun Song / The Ballad of Booth (2019)<br>Another National Anthem (2019)<br><i>(Assassins)</i>         | Jon Batiste<br>Ted Hearne    |
| ***INTERMISSION***  |                              |
| Everybody Says Don't (2019)<br><i>(Anyone Can Whistle)</i>  | Mark Bennett                 |
| Nice Is Different Than Good (2019)<br><i>(after "I Know Things Now" - Into the Woods)</i>                 | Timo Andres                  |
| Rhapsody in Red (2019)<br><i>(after "Goodbye for Now" - Reds)</i>   | Marc Schubring               |
| Color and Light (2010)<br>Finishing the Hat -Two Pianos (2010)<br><i>(Sunday in the Park with George)</i> | Nico Muhly<br>Steve Reich    |
| The Ladies Who Lunch (2010)<br>Being Alive (2019) *<br><i>(Company)</i>                                   | David Rakowski<br>Kevin Puts |

**Tuesday, March 3, 2020 – 7:30 p.m.**

*Brooks-Rogers Recital Hall*  
*Williamstown, Massachusetts*

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*Please turn off cell phones. No photography or recording is permitted.*



**Anthony de Mare**

## FROM THE ARTIST

*The Liaisons Project* began as a dream of mine a little over 30 years ago. Stephen Sondheim's music has been a part of my life as far back as I can remember, and as I embarked on a career as a concert pianist, I often found myself imagining how his melodies would sound transformed into serious piano works. Of course, there was already a tradition for this—from Liszt transcribing Beethoven, Schubert and Verdi, to Earl Wild and Art Tatum transcribing iconic jazz and classical works.

Throughout an active performance and teaching life, the idea never left me. It eventually gained the perfect title, in a bolt of inspiration from my partner Tom – *Liaisons: Re-Imagining Sondheim from the Piano*. In 2006, after years of working with so many talented composers, I finally began inviting some of them to try their hand at this ambitious idea. Aided and abetted by a generous spark of encouragement from Mr. Sondheim, and the talents of producer Rachel Colbert, the initial round of *Liaisons* premiered at Symphony Space in 2012 and eventually grew into a compendium of 37 pieces.

Three dozen U.S. concerts, four international tours, and one 3-CD release later (by the wonderful ECM Records), I am delighted to present a sneak preview of this “coda” to the collection, *Liaisons2020*, in honor of Steve's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, which will have its formal premiere in New York at the end of March. What a delight to be able to invite 13 new composers – 14, including myself! – to join in the creative alchemy of this landmark project and joyous tribute. While Steve has at times expressed amazement at the breadth of composers who know and love his work, it comes as no surprise to me. From jazz and contemporary classical to pop, film, and musical theater, he is beloved by so many – each of whom, during the course of the project, expressed their delight (and trepidation) at the challenge of adding their voice to his. *Liaisons* affirms that Sondheim's work is as much at home in a concert hall as on a Broadway stage.

The producer joins me in thanking each of the composers in the collection – now 50 strong! – and the generous commissioners who made their work possible. We are very especially grateful to Tony Sheppard and Jonathan Myers and their staff for bringing *Liaisons2020* to Sondheim's alma mater Williams College. And above all, we want to thank Stephen Sondheim for sharing his talents with the world. While everyone has their own private reasons for loving his work, it has had a singular impact on us all.

- Anthony de Mare

See [music.williams.edu](http://music.williams.edu) for full details and additional happenings as well as to sign up for the weekly e-newsletters.

### Upcoming Events

#### **Williams Chamber Players**

Thu Mar 5 | Brooks-Rogers Recital Hall | 7:30 PM

#### **Sondheim@90@Williams - Symposium**

Fri Mar 6 | Brooks-Rogers Recital Hall | 1:30 PM

#### **Alumni Concert - Sondheim@90@Williams**

Fri Mar 6 | Chapin Hall | 7:30 PM

#### **Sondheim@90@Williams - Symposium**

Sat Mar 7 | Brooks-Rogers Recital Hall | 9:00 AM