

Robert Silverman Biography | 533 words (August, 2013)

In a career spanning more than five decades, Robert Silverman has climbed every peak of serious pianism: lauded performances of the complete sonata cycles by Beethoven and Mozart; concerts in prestigious halls across the globe; orchestral appearances with many of the world's greatest conductors; and award-winning recordings distributed internationally. One of Canada's premiere pianists, Robert Silverman has reached a level of musical and technical authority that can only be accomplished after years of deep commitment to the instrument and its vast literature. Many aspects of Silverman's playing are frequently noted: a polished technique, an extraordinary range of tonal palette, an uncanny ability to sing his way into the heart of a phrase, and probing interpretations of the most complex works in the repertoire.

Following his eight-concert cycle of all thirty-two Beethoven sonatas, Robert Silverman embarked upon a four-concert series encompassing the complete sonatas of Mozart to commemorate the composer's 250 birthday in 2006. Performances of the cycles took place in numerous cities across North America, including Washington DC, San Francisco, Seattle, Winnipeg, and Vancouver. Studio recordings of the complete Beethoven and Mozart sonatas have been preserved on multi-disc CD sets. In the 2010-11 season Silverman returned to the complete Beethoven sonata cycle in Vancouver and San Jose.

The distinguished pianist has performed in concert halls throughout North America, Europe, the Far East and Australia. Under the batons of such renowned conductors as Seiji Ozawa, John Eliot Gardiner, Gerard Schwarz, Neeme Järvi, Sergiu Comissiona, Zdenek Macal, and the late Kiril Kondrashin, he has appeared with orchestras on three continents, including the Chicago Symphony, the Sydney Symphony, the BBC (London) Symphony, the St. Petersburg Philharmonic Orchestras, and every major orchestra in Canada.

Robert Silverman's discography includes over 30 CDs and a dozen LPs. His recording of Liszt's piano music received a Grand Prix du Disque from the Liszt Society of Budapest, while his widely-acclaimed 10-CD recording of all thirty-two Beethoven sonatas was short-listed for a Juno Award. An integral recording of all the Mozart Sonatas was released in 2013.

In 2013 Robert Silverman was appointed to the Order of Canada, an honour (comparable to Great Britain's OBE) accorded to about 150 Canadians annually. Earlier, Robert Silverman was the first winner of the Ontario Arts Council Foundation's Career Achievement Award for Keyboard Artistry, in recognition of "his high level of artistry, his moving interpretations of a wide range of music... and his commitment and contribution to music in Canada."

Robert Silverman resides in Vancouver where he was a faculty member at the University of British Columbia for thirty years, served a 5-year term as Director of the School of Music in the 1990s, and was awarded an honorary Doctor of Letters in 2004. A long-standing Steinway artist, he now devotes himself full-time to concertizing and recording. He is frequently heard on the CBC English and French radio network and he has recorded for EMI, Stereophile, Marquis Classics, OrpheumMasters and CBC Records.

Silverman enjoys an enormous following on the internet, where the generous selection of his recordings has been heard by well over 50,000 listeners. Many of his recordings are available for download on iTunes, amazon, and [cd baby](#). Visit him online at <http://www.robertsilverman.ca>.