

NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT: Shawn Farley or Carolyn Kilmer at 545-3671



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 13, 2006

WHAT: Center Series presents: Jonathan Biss, piano

WHEN: Thursday, March 9 at 7:30pm

**WHERE: Bowker Auditorium
University of Massachusetts Amherst
Call 1-800-999-UMAS or 545-2511 for tickets or
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(Pianist Jonathan Biss brings diverse repertoire to Bowker Auditorium)

“A huge talent – an extraordinary virtuoso.”
The Baltimore Sun

Twenty-four-year-old American pianist Jonathan Biss has already proved himself an accomplished and exceptional musician with a flourishing international reputation through his orchestral and recital performances in North America and Europe. Noted for his intriguing programs, artistic maturity and versatility, Biss performs a diverse repertoire ranging from Mozart and Beethoven, through the Romantics to Janáček and Schoenberg as well as works by contemporary composers. Biss brings his exceptional talent to Bowker Auditorium on the UMass Campus on Thursday, March 9 at 7:30pm.

The evening's performance includes *Sonata No. 8 in C minor, Op. 13 "Pathétique"* by Ludwig Van Beethoven (1770-1827), *Wonderer* (2005) by Lewis Spratlan (b. 1940), *Sonata No. 30 in E Major, Op. 109* by Ludwig Van Beethoven, *Six Little Pieces, Op. 19* by Arnold Schoenberg (1874-1951), and *Fantasy in C Major, Op. 17* by Robert Schumann (1810-1856).

In April, EMI Classics released Biss' highly anticipated recording debut: a CD comprising Schumann's *Davidsbündlertänze, Op. 6* and two works by Ludwig van Beethoven-*Fantasy*

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in G minor, Op. 77 and Piano Sonata No. 23 in F minor, Op. 57 (Appassionata). The *Los Angeles Times* called Biss, “a serious, accomplished artist who puts the composer before the player,” the *San Francisco Chronicle* said his debut CD is “brilliant,” and the *Cleveland Plain Dealer* remarked that this “recording is a clear signal that a master is emerging.”

Biss made his New York recital debut at 92nd Street Y’s Tisch Center for the Arts in 2000. Of his New York Philharmonic debut under Kurt Masur that same season, *The New York Times* wrote that Biss played with “assurance, intelligence, and vitality.” Biss has given recitals at New York’s Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., and in many other cities throughout the U.S. and Canada including Boston, Baltimore, Chicago, Cincinnati, Philadelphia, San Diego and Vancouver as well as at Caramoor and Ravinia. Abroad he has performed with the BBC Symphony, the BBC Philharmonic, the Munich Philharmonic, the Rotterdam Philharmonic and many others.

Biss was an artist-in-residence on NPR’s “Performance Today” and has been recognized with numerous awards, including the 2002 Gilmore Young Artist Award, Wolf Trap’s Shouse Debut Artist Award, Lincoln Center’s Martin E. Segal Award, an Avery Fisher Career Grant, the Andrew Wolf Memorial Chamber Music Award, and the 2003 Borletti-Buitoni Trust Award. He was the first and only American chosen to participate in the BBC’s New Generation Artist program.

Tickets for the Biss performance are \$25, \$15, Youth 17 and under are \$10, and Five College Students are \$10 and \$7. On Wednesday, March 8, there will be an artist/composer dialog at the Buckley Recital Hall at Amherst College from 4 – 5:15 pm. Composer Lewis Spratlan and Biss discuss the Spratlan’s composition that will be performed that evening. This talk is free and open to the public.

[End]