

Benjamin Hochman — Biography 2023–24

[425 words]

In all roles, from orchestral soloist, recitalist and chamber musician to conductor, Benjamin Hochman regards music as vital and essential. Composers, fellow musicians, orchestras and audiences recognize his deep commitment to insightful programming and performances of quality.

Highlights of 2023-2024 include Bartok's *Piano Concerto No. 3* with the Boston Philharmonic conducted by Benjamin Zander and solo recitals in Jerusalem, Brattleboro and on Chicago's Live from WFMT. His chamber music collaborations take him to Carnegie Hall, People's Symphony Concerts, Kronberg Festival, and Krzyzowa Music. He conducts the premiere of Gilad Cohen's *Concerto for Harp, Strings and Horn*, tours the US with cellist Zlatomir Fung, and curates the Kurtág Festival at Bard College New York.

Born in Jerusalem in 1980, Hochman's musical foundation is laid in his teenage years. Claude Frank at the Curtis Institute of Music and Richard Goode at the Mannes School of Music prove defining influences. At the invitation of Mitsuko Uchida, he spends three formative summers at the Marlboro Music Festival.

At 24, Hochman debuts as soloist with the Israel Philharmonic at Carnegie Hall conducted by Pinchas Zukerman. Orchestral appearances follow with the New York Philharmonic, Chicago and Pittsburgh Symphonies, and Prague Philharmonia under conductors including Gianandrea Noseda, Trevor Pinnock, David Robertson, and John Storgårds.

A winner of Lincoln Center's Avery Fisher Career Grant, Hochman performs at venues and festivals across the globe, including the Philharmonie in Berlin, Vienna Konzerthaus, the Kennedy Center in Washington, Suntory Hall in Tokyo, Germany's Klavierfestival Ruhr, and Lucerne and Verbier festivals in Switzerland.

Green Room

In 2015, Hochman develops an auto-immune condition affecting his left hand. He decides to pursue his longstanding interest in conducting, studying with Alan Gilbert at Juilliard where he is granted the Bruno Walter Scholarship and the Charles Schiff Award. He assists Louis Langrée, Paavo Järvi, and Edo De Waart and creates the Roosevelt Island Orchestra, consisting of some of New York's finest orchestral and chamber musicians alongside promising young talent from top conservatories. Invitations to conduct the orchestras of Santa Fe Pro Musica, Greater Bridgeport Symphony, Orlando, and The Orchestra Now at Bard New York follow.

Fully recovered, Hochman re-emerges as pianist in 2018. He records Mozart Piano Concertos Nos. 17 and 24, playing and directing the English Chamber Orchestra (Avie Records). He presents the complete Mozart Piano Sonatas at the Israel Conservatory in Tel Aviv, performs Beethoven sonatas for Daniel Barenboim as part of a filmed workshop at the Pierre Boulez Saal in Berlin and plays both Beethoven and Kurtág for Kurtág himself at the Budapest Music Centre.

Hochman is a Steinway Artist and a Lecturer at Bard College Berlin.