

## Benjamin Hochman — Biography 2023

[long version, 889 words, past tense]

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

Hochman's engagements in 2022-2023 include Beethoven's last three Piano Sonatas at the Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival, Bartok's *Piano Concerto No. 3* with Symphony Pro Musica in Boston and Schubert's *Trout Quintet* at the Schubertiade Festival in Austria with the Emerson String Quartet and Dominik Wagner. He tours North America and Europe with cellist Zlatomir Fung, with performances at University of Chicago, Vancouver Recital Society and London's Wigmore Hall, among others. Benjamin will conduct Schumann's *Second Symphony* and play-direct Beethoven's *First Piano Concerto* with the Greater Bridgeport Symphony in Connecticut and will conduct Kurtág's *Messages of the Late Miss R Troussova* at Bard in New York.

Born in Jerusalem in 1980, Hochman's musical foundation was laid in his teenage years, playing in masterclasses for Murray Perahia and Leon Fleisher. Claude Frank at the Curtis Institute of Music proved to be a defining influence.

His American profile rose when Isaac Stern invited him to perform a chamber music concert at Carnegie Hall at the age of 20. Mitsuko Uchida was in attendance and immediately invited him to the prestigious Marlboro Music Festival.

Hochman's studies with Richard Goode at the Mannes School of Music in New York allow him to further develop a deeply felt intellectual approach coupled with freedom of expression.

At 24, Hochman's international career took off when he debuted as soloist with the Israel Philharmonic in Tel Aviv and at Carnegie Hall, where he was conducted by Pinchas Zukerman. Many orchestral appearances followed: with the New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Pittsburgh and San Francisco orchestras, as well as Prague Philharmonia and Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra under conductors including Gianandrea Noseda, Trevor Pinnock, David Robertson, John Storgårds and Joshua Weilerstein.

A winner of Lincoln Center's Avery Fisher Career Grant, Hochman performs as a recitalist, orchestral soloist, and chamber musician at venues including the Philharmonie and Konzerthaus in Berlin, Wiener Konzerthaus, Concertgebouw Amsterdam, the Louvre in Paris, Liszt Academy in Budapest, Mariinsky Theatre in St. Petersburg, New York's 92NY, Kennedy Center in Washington, and Suntory Hall in Tokyo. Festival highlights include IMS Prussia Cove, Israel Festival, Klavierfestival Ruhr, Lucerne, Marlboro, Spoleto and Verbier.

In 2015, Hochman developed an auto-immune condition affecting his left hand. He decided to pursue his longstanding interest in conducting, studying with Alan Gilbert at Juilliard where he was granted the Bruno Walter Scholarship and the Charles Schiff Award. He received further instruction from Fabio Luisi and David Zinman.

Hochman founded the Roosevelt Island Orchestra, consisting of some of New York's finest orchestral and chamber musicians alongside promising young talent from top conservatories. He fully embraces the impact of community outreach. A recent highlight with the orchestra has been conducting Beethoven *Symphony No.7*, Gideon Klein, and Schumann *Cello Concerto* with the MET Orchestra's Assistant Principal cellist Joel Noyes.

As a conducting assistant, he collaborated with Louis Langrée, Paavo Järvi, Thierry Fischer, Jeffrey Kahane and Edo de Waart. In 2018 he participated in the Tanglewood Conducting Seminar, working with Stefan Asbury. Conducting highlights include the English Chamber Orchestra, The Orchestra Now at Bard

# Green Room

Music Festival and the Juilliard Orchestra. He works on a regular basis with the Santa Fe and Orlando orchestras.

Following a full recovery, Hochman re-emerged as pianist starting in 2018, further building an extensive and versatile repertoire. He presented the complete Mozart Piano Sonatas at the Israel Conservatory in Tel Aviv. As part of a filmed workshop, he performed four Beethoven Piano Sonatas for Daniel Barenboim at the Pierre Boulez Saal in Berlin. He played for composer György Kurtág at the Budapest Music Centre, working on the music of both Kurtág and Beethoven. This continued Hochman's longstanding focus on collaboration with composers, including George Benjamin, Brett Dean, Philippe Hurel, Peter Lieberson, Josef Tal and Jörg Widmann. Recent commissions include solo piano works by Christopher Trapani and Tamar Muskal, the latter with support from Germany's Neustart Kultur.

The pianist-conductor role offers new possibilities: the advantage of a single artistic vision and enriched programming options. Recent highlights include the opening of Santa Fe Pro Musica's 2021-2022 season conducting Beethoven's *Symphony No.5* and play-conducting Mozart's *Concerto for Two Pianos* with Anne-Marie McDermott.

Chamber music partners have included the Casals, Emerson, Jerusalem, and Tokyo quartets, Lisa Batishvili, Noah Bendix-Balgley, Jonathan Biss, Amihai Grosz, Jaime Laredo, Miklós Perényi and David Soyer. Recent chamber music highlights are performances at Sala São Paulo, the National Philharmonic in Warsaw, The Schubert Club in Minnesota and Music Mountain in Connecticut.

Benjamin Hochman recorded Mozart Piano Concertos Nos. 17 and 24, playing and directing the English Chamber Orchestra (Avie Records). His solo recordings include *Homage to Schubert* (works by Schubert, Kurtág and Widmann) and *Variations* (works by Knussen, Berio, Lieberson, Benjamin and Brahms), selected by The New York Times as one of the best recordings of 2015.

Hochman is a Steinway Artist and a resident of Berlin, where he is a Lecturer at Bard College Berlin.

Private and professional interests are closely intertwined. Like music, his love for literature and nature offer space to reflect. The values of community and camaraderie find their place through Benjamin's passion for food when he is cooking for friends.