

performing Prokofiev's Piano Concerto No. 3. He quickly gained recognition for his technical prowess, musical sensitivity, and powerful performances. Graffman's repertoire includes a wide range of classical and romantic works, with a particular emphasis on Russian composers such as Rachmaninoff, Prokofiev, and Tchaikovsky.

Gary Graffman has recorded extensively throughout his career, showcasing his interpretations of works by composers like Beethoven, Brahms, Chopin, and Liszt. His recordings of Rachmaninoff's Piano Concertos with conductors like Leonard Bernstein and Eugene Ormandy are especially acclaimed.

In 1979, Graffman experienced a hand injury that significantly impacted his ability to perform. Despite this setback, he continued to contribute to the music world by focusing on teaching and serving as the President of the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia from 1986 to 2006.

Graffman has been highly regarded as a piano teacher, imparting his knowledge and expertise to numerous students. He has served on the faculty of the Curtis Institute of Music and the Juilliard School, among others, and has mentored many successful pianists who have gone on to have notable careers.

Throughout his career, Gary Graffman has received numerous awards and honors for his contributions to music and education. These include the Avery Fisher Prize, the Harriet Cohen International Music Award, and the National Medal of Arts, among others.

Gary Graffman's legacy extends from his brilliant performances on the concert stage to his nurturing of young talent as an esteemed educator, making him a highly respected figure in the classical music community.

Chopin CONCERTO No. 1



GRAFFMAN / MUNCH BOSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Rachmaninoff RHAPSODY ON A THEME OF PAGANINI

GRAFFMAN / BERNSTEIN NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC



Frédéric Chopin's Piano Concerto No. 1 in E minor, Op. 11, is one of his most beloved works and a cornerstone of the Romantic piano concerto repertoire.

Here are some key details about this piece:

Chopin composed the concerto between 1830 and 1831, during his early years in Paris. It premiered on October 11, 1830, with Chopin himself as the soloist. However, the official premiere with an orchestra took place on February 21, 1832, at the Salle Pleyel in Paris, with Chopin as the soloist and his friend Franz Liszt conducting.

The concerto follows the traditional three-movement structure of classical concertos.

The concerto is characterized by its lyrical melodies, expressive passages, and virtuosic piano writing. It showcases Chopin's unique blend of classical forms with his distinctive harmonic language and emotional depth.

The first movement opens with a dramatic orchestral introduction leading to the piano's entrance with a bold and passionate theme. The second movement is a serene and introspective romance, featuring beautiful melodies and delicate ornamentation. The final rondo is lively and energetic, incorporating Polish folk dance elements, particularly the mazurka.

While the concerto received mixed reviews initially, it has since become one of Chopin's most popular and frequently performed works. Its expressive depth, technical challenges, and melodic beauty continue to captivate audiences and musicians alike.

Chopin's Piano Concerto No. 1 remains a masterpiece of the Romantic era, showcasing the composer's exceptional talent and innovation in blending

piano virtuosity with orchestral grandeur.

Rachmaninoff's "Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini" is a renowned composition that showcases both the composer's virtuosity as a pianist and his skill as a composer.

Rachmaninoff composed the "Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini" in 1934, and it premiered on November 7 of the same year in Baltimore, Maryland, with Rachmaninoff himself as the soloist and Leopold Stokowski conducting the Philadelphia Orchestra.

The piece is structured into 24 variations based on Niccolò Paganini's Caprice No. 24 in A minor for solo violin. These variations are divided into three main sections:

"Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini" is a testament to Rachmaninoff's genius as both a pianist and a composer, blending technical brilliance with lyrical beauty in a captivating musical journey.

Gary Graffman is an American classical pianist who has made significant contributions to the world of classical music both as a performer and as an educator. Here are some key points about Gary Graffman:

Gary Graffman was born on October 14, 1928, in New York City. He began studying piano at a young age and showed exceptional talent early on. He studied with renowned piano teachers including Isabelle Vengerova and Vladimir Horowitz.

Graffman made his debut with the Philadelphia Orchestra at the age of 17,

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Chopin Piano Concerto No. 1

1 Allegro Maestoso 17:11

2 Romance 10:28

3 Rondo 9:33

4 Rachmaninoff Rhapsody On A Theme Of Paganini 23:00

Chopin: Engineer - John Crawford • Producer – Max Wilcox
Rachmaninoff: Producer John McClure



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