

# FRANK WIENS

CONCERT PIANIST



*“ELOQUENT PHRASING AND  
NOBILITY OF CONCEPTION”*

*Los Angeles Times*

## CONTACT

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**MEDIA LINKS: *AUDIO***

<https://www.frankwiens.com/audiorecordings>

**MEDIA LINKS: *VIDEO***

Grieg - Holberg Suite, Op. 40

<https://youtu.be/LbBo5UUL9dc>

Live recital: Espana Excerpt

<https://youtu.be/5ih-QmpS88c>

Rhapsody on a Theme by Paganini

<https://youtu.be/Tghda3z6p70>



[Visit Frank Wiens's YouTube Channel for more videos](#)

**SHORT BIOGRAPHY (300 words)**

**Frank Wiens** is a pianist known for his strong emotional commitment and virtuosity. His meticulous attention to detail and seemingly effortless control bring out even the most subtle musical elements. Dedicated to bringing his love of the classical piano repertoire to audiences of all levels of concert-going experience, his “nobility of conception” (Los Angeles Times) and command of “tone color” (Fresno Bee) coupled with a “formidable technique” (Sacramento Union) have thrilled audiences on three continents. His ability to establish rapport with an audience with the spoken word is matched by the obvious sincerity with which he communicates the emotional content of each work.

Frank Wiens’s performing career has taken him to Eastern and Western Europe, Asia, and throughout the United States. Possessing a concerto repertoire of over 35 works, he has been a frequent soloist with symphony orchestras in USA and abroad. His recitals have taken him to major cities like London, Warsaw, Vienna, Seoul, New York and Los Angeles, as well as to many venues where classical recitals are rarely heard. Believing that the gifts that one has been given carry social responsibility, he has devoted a significant part of his career to benefit recitals for the homeless and most recently for victims of the northern California fires.

Frank Wiens gave his New York debut at Carnegie Recital Hall. He made his European continental debut in Vienna at the Brahms-Saal of the Musikverein. He has also performed a concert tour of the Soviet Union, Romania, Poland, and two tours in South Korea. Frank Wiens returned to New York to give a recital for the 100th birth anniversary of Prokofiev. He was invited to tour the Soviet Union in April of 1991 in numerous solo and orchestral engagements as part of the 100th anniversary celebrations in Prokofiev’s native land.

## FULL BIOGRAPHY (700 words)

**Frank Wiens** is a pianist known for his strong emotional commitment and virtuosity. His meticulous attention to detail and seemingly effortless control bring out even the most subtle musical elements. Dedicated to bringing his love of the classical piano repertoire to audiences of all levels of concert-going experience, his “nobility of conception” (Los Angeles Times) and command of “tone color” (Fresno Bee) coupled with a “formidable technique” (Sacramento Union) have thrilled audiences on three continents. His ability to establish rapport with an audience with the spoken word is matched by the obvious sincerity with which he communicates the emotional content of each work.

With a performing career that has taken him to Eastern and Western Europe, Asia, and throughout most of the United States, Frank Wiens has maintained an active concert career for more than four decades. Possessing a concerto repertoire of over 35 works, he has been a frequent soloist with symphony orchestras in this country and abroad. His recitals have taken him to major cities such as London, Warsaw, Vienna, Seoul, New York and Los Angeles, as well as to many venues where classical recitals are rarely heard. Believing that the gifts that one has been given carry social responsibility, he has devoted a significant part of his career to benefit recitals for the homeless and most recently for victims of the northern California fires.

Frank Wiens gave his New York debut at Carnegie Recital Hall in 1984. His London recital debut took place in May of 1986. He made his European continental debut in Vienna, Austria in May of 1987 at the Brahms-Saal of the Musikverein. Other international performances have included a concert tour of the Soviet Union, two such tours of South Korea, and engagements in Romania and Poland. In the 1990-91 season Frank Wiens returned to New York with a recital in celebration of Prokofiev’s 100th birth anniversary. Frank Wiens was invited to tour the Soviet Union in April of 1991 in numerous solo and orchestral engagements as part of the celebrations of the 100th anniversary in Prokofiev's native land.

In the fall of 1994 Frank Wiens travelled to Bratislava, Slovakia, to record a compact disc including the Rachmaninoff Third Concerto with the Slovakia National Orchestra and the Rachmaninoff Sonata No. 1. The CD was released internationally in 1995 on the Fanfare-Intersound label.

Late in 2006, Frank Wiens appeared as soloist with the Orchestra “Dinu Lipatti” in Romania, and gave a pair of recitals devoted to the music of Chopin at the Chopin Academy and at the Lazienki Palace on Water in Warsaw, Poland.

Frank Wiens won first prize in the North American Young Artists Competition and the Southwest Pianists Foundation Competition. He has performed as soloist with the Atlanta, Denver and Detroit Symphonies, and has been a touring artist with the Iowa Arts Council and the California Arts Council.

In addition to his active performance schedule, Frank Wiens has established a strong reputation as a trusted teacher and mentor of younger talent, and served as an adjudicator in many important competitions including the Gina Bachauer International Competition. He was on the piano faculty at Drake University, and since 1976 has been at the University of the Pacific Conservatory of Music, where he received the Research-Lecturer Award and Distinguished Faculty Award.

In 2009 he was the recipient of the Stockton Arts Commission’s award for Outstanding Achievement in Music.

A native of New Haven, Connecticut, Frank Wiens lives in Stockton, California with his wife, mezzo-soprano Lynelle Frankforter Wiens. In his spare time he enjoys playing golf and trying his hand at gourmet cooking.

## PRESS QUOTES

*“Musical strength...commanding manner...very convincing...grandeur and power...the phrases firmly and decisively sculpted...”*

**London Times**

*“Technical brilliance, a clarity of color, richness of imagery, and sincerity of performance...a nobility of artistic manner...Frank Wiens is a brilliant representative of the American school of piano technique.”*

**Yaroslavl, USSR**

*“Eloquent phrasing and nobility of conception”*

**Los Angeles Times**

*“There is much to admire in Mr. Wiens’s playing. He has a secure technique and built Aaron Copland’s “Piano Variations” block by sonic block into a starkly majestic conception. One also admired his assured way with Rachmaninoff’s Sonata No. 2 in B-Flat Minor...Mr. Wiens proved himself capable of tenderness...”*

**New York Times**

*“Frank Wiens ...is a major pianist. His performance of the Rachmaninoff concert Saturday night was the kind for which you drag out all the big adjectives-tremendous, titanic, sensational, superb-and then disgustedly put them back again because they aren’t good enough. It delivered the very soul of this Romantic masterpiece with all its dazzle, ache and love.”*

**Sacramento Bee**

*“Great tenderness and delicacy...a flowingly sensitive performance.”*

**Florida Times-Union**

*“Wiens is unexcelled in concerto program”*

**Denver Post**

*“Wiens presents a stunning recital...a young artist to reckon with...a performance of stunning technical pianism, unfailing stylistic affinity...and widely varied dynamic range.”*

**Palo Alto Times**

*“Elegant and lucid”*

**Des Moines Register**

*“Recital in Carmel Memorable...Wiens demonstrated one of the most transparent and revealing of keyboard techniques this town has heard in a long time...Wiens shot ever-sparkling lights and colors from the keyboard.”*

**Monterey Peninsula Herald (1982)**

*“A marvelously beautiful, inspired performance.”*

**Newport News Daily Press**

*“Frank Wiens...has style and a commanding stage presence...a most musical and reliable performer, a pianist with a big sound.”*

**Rocky Mountain News**

*“A musician secure enough with his art and clear enough in his head that he feels no need to exaggerate, distort or proclaim. What Wiens did was elucidate. He simply opened windows onto the music.”*

**Tucson Citizen**

*“Glittering passagework and patrician elegance.”*

**Erie Times**

*“Pianist Frank Wiens played a brilliant recital in the Vocal Performance Hall at California State University, Fresno, even though he had only a few days notice to replace the scheduled artist, Horacio Gutierrez, who was ill. Wiens is a master of tone color. In his hands, each note sparkled. Each phrase unfolded with nuanced perfection.”*

**The Fresno Bee**

*“The highlight of the concert was Frank Wiens’ performance of Mozart’s Piano Concerto in C Major, K. 415. Wiens handled the conventional classical virtuosity of running scales, arpeggios, etc. of this otherwise polyphonic first movement with ease and clarity and a lightness of touch enhanced by rare use of the sustaining pedal. The Andante was sensitively performed and the Finale, incorporating unusual adagio passages in C Minor in an otherwise light movement, sparkled with the gaiety and elegance one associates with a classical concerto finale.”*

**Ames Tribune**

*“A stunning performance of the Rachmaninoff ‘Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini’ with guest soloist Frank Wiens. This writer has not been so moved by a concerto performance in years.. Wiens’ mastery of the piano is of first rank.”*

**Idaho State Journal**

*“Wiens...played a beautiful program. His Mozart ...was as clean, as free from indulgences and blemishes, as stainless steel sculpture. This is not to say it was emotionless. It sparkled and sighed plenty, but all the expression was firmly leashed within the borders of classical propriety. It was hard to imagine [Mozart] with more honesty and taste and reverence for the composer’s spirit. Wiens tuned in equally well to Debussy. ‘La terrasse des audiences du clair du lune’ had this gorgeous inky hue-quiet, liquid, reflective. He closed with Schumann’s ‘Carnaval’. It seemed to grow more intense and impressive with each vignette...Wiens integrated personal passion with architectural logic.”*

**Tucson Citizen**

*“‘Carnaval’ defined the evening. The pianist seems to understand Schumann musically. There is a world within Wiens’ Schumann that is not reducible to one perspective, and that made the performance riveting.”*

**The Arizona Daily Star**

*“Wiens, a first-rate player, gave an excellent performance of this virtuoso piece, playing with bravado, flair, solid technique and an iron concentration.”*

**Bakersfield Californian**

*“Frank Wiens mastered a weighty, admirably balanced program...his recital here revealed a mature, well- rounded artistry...Wiens’s performance cohered marvelously-it was noble in conception and almost flawless in execution. Especially exciting was the motoric drive the pianist imparted to the fugal section, giving it plenty of contrast with the gravity of the measures immediately preceding. The recitalist opened the program with an incisive yet richly emotive reading of Copland’s Piano Variations.”*

**Flint Journal**

*“Very rarely does one hear a musical interpretation of such skill, integrity, authority and empathy with the composer that you know you have heard the definitive performance...Although the compositions offer enormous technical and rhythmic difficulties and thematic complexities, Wiens made them lucid, coherent and accessible.”*

**The Stockton Record**

**CONCERTO REPERTOIRE****Bernstein**

Symphony No. 2: "The Age of Anxiety"

**Beethoven**

Piano Concerto No. 1 in C Major  
 Piano Concerto No. 2 in Bb Major  
 Piano Concerto No. 3 in C Minor  
 Piano Concerto No. 4 in G Major  
 Piano Concerto No. 5 in Eb Major

**Brahms**

Piano Concerto No. 1 in D Minor  
 Piano Concerto No. 2 in Bb Major

**Chopin**

Andante spianato et grande polonaise brillante  
 Piano Concerto No. 1 in E Minor  
 Piano Concerto No. 2 in F Minor

**Franck**

Les Djinns

**Grieg**

Piano Concerto in A Minor

**Gershwin**

Rhapsody in Blue

**Haydn**

Piano Concerto no. 11 in D Major

**Kabalevsky**

Piano Concerto No. 3 in D Major

**Khachaturian**

Piano Concerto in Db Major

**Liszt**

Piano Concerto No. 1 in Eb Major  
 Piano Concerto No. 2 in A Major Totentanz

**Mendelssohn**

Piano Concerto No. 2 in G Minor

**Mozart**

Piano Concerto in A Major, K. 414  
 Piano Concerto in C Major, K. 415  
 Piano Concerto in Eb Major, K. 449  
 Piano Concerto in Bb Major, K. 450  
 Piano Concerto in C Major, K. 467  
 Piano Concerto in C Minor, K. 491  
 Piano Concerto in Bb Major, K. 495

**Prokofiev**

Piano Concerto No. 1 in Db Major  
 Piano Concerto No. 3 in C Major

**Rachmaninoff**

Piano Concerto No. 2 in C Minor  
 Piano Concerto No. 3 in D Minor  
 Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini

**Schumann**

Piano Concerto in A Minor

**Tchaikovsky**

Piano Concerto No. 1 in Bb Minor  
 Piano Concerto No. 3 in Eb Major

## EXAMPLES OF PAST RECITALS

### 1. World Travels: "POSTCARDS"

#### *Argentina*

**Guastavino** - Sonatina in G Minor

**Ginastera** - Malambo, Op. 7

#### *China*

**WenCheng** - Autumn Moon over the Calm Lake

**Lishan** - The Sound of the Waves

#### *Switzerland*

**Liszt** - Au bord d'une source

**Liszt** - Vallée d'Obermann

#### *Brazil*

**Villa-Lobos** - Ciclo Brasileiro

#### *Russia*

**Liadov** - Prelude, Op. 11, No.1

**Liapunov** - Transcendental Étude, Op. 11 No. 10

### 2. The Music of Edvard Grieg

#### **Grieg**

- Selections from Lyric Pieces, Op. 54, Op. 43, and Op. 65
- Piano Sonata in E Minor, Op. 7
- Humoreske, Op. 6, No. 3
- "Bridal Procession" from Pictures from Folk Life, Op. 19, No.2
- Norwegian Peasant Dances (Slatter, Op. 72) No. 4: "Residence of the Goblins"
- Agitato, EG 106
- Selections from Moods (Stimmungen, Op. 73)
- Holberg Suite, Op. 40

### 3. 200th Anniversary of the Birth of Chopin

#### **Chopin**

- Four Mazurkas, Op. 33
- Scherzo in B Minor, Op. 20, No. 1
- Nocturne in F# Major, Op. 15, No. 2
- Impromptu in F# Major, Op. 36, No. 2
- Ballade in F Minor, Op. 52 No. 4
- Preludes, Op. 28 (Complete)

### 4.

**Brahms** - Variations on an Original Theme, Op. 21, No. 1

**Mendelssohn** - Fantasie in F# Minor, Op. 28

**Faure** - Nocturne No. 6 in Db Major, Op. 63

**Liszt** - Mephisto Waltz No. 1

**Rachmaninoff** - Ten Preludes from Op. 32

### 5.

**Beethoven** - Sonata in E Minor, Op. 90

**Beethoven** - Rondo a capriccio in G Major, Op. 129: "Rage Over a Lost Penny"

**Muczynski** - Desperate Measures (Variations on a theme of Paganini), Op. 48

**Liszt** - Funerailles

**Chopin** - Berceuse, Op. 57

**Schumann** - Carnaval, Op. 9

### 6.

**Schubert** - Impromptu in F Minor, Op. 142, No. 1

**Beethoven** - Variations and Fugue in Eb Major "Eroica", Op. 35

**Rachmaninoff** - Études-Tableaux in C Major, Op. 33, No. 2

**Rachmaninoff** - Études-Tableaux in Eb Minor, Op. 39, No. 5

**Rachmaninoff** - Prelude in C Minor, Op. 23, No. 7

**Tchaikovsky** - Dumka, Op. 59 (Scene from a Russian Village)

**Chopin** - Sonata No. 3 in B Minor, Op. 58

*“A MAJOR PIANIST”*

*Sacramento Bee*



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