

have created new music series, pursued graduate degrees in contemporary performance, and been awarded some of the most prestigious composition prizes in the world. Annually, members of the Cortona Collective (the faculty performance ensemble) present concerts featuring major contemporary repertoire alongside works of Fellows at universities and concert halls around the U.S.

Kirkendoll is Associate Professor of Piano at the University of Kansas, where he earned his doctoral and bachelor's degrees, and also holds a masters degree from the Manhattan School of Music. In addition to teaching at the Cortona Sessions for New Music, he is also on the faculty of the prestigious International Institute for Young Musicians. When not at the piano, Kirkendoll can be found enjoying fine wine, cooking, golfing, or playing with his dog, Sam. Kirkendoll is also the author of the food and wine blog, The Uncorked Pianist, and can be followed on Twitter @UncorkedPianist. He is proud to be a Yamaha Artist.

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UNIVERSITY OF
OREGON

SCHOOL OF MUSIC AND DANCE

GUEST ARTIST

Michael Kirkendoll

ACTING LIKE A PIANIST

PART 1: THE LITERARY PIANO

TOLSTOY/WILDE/RZEWSKI

Beall Concert Hall
Wednesday, Nov. 8, 2017 | 7:30 p.m.





Marriage, mile 53 from The Road (2008)
text from Leo Tolstoy's The Kreutzer Sonata

Frederic Rzewski
(b. 1938)

— PAUSE —

De Profundis (1992)
text from Oscar Wilde's De Profundis

Frederic Rzewski
(b. 1938)

Called “the very model of a 21st Century musician” by critics of the Indianapolis Star, pianist **Michael Kirkendoll** has established himself at the forefront of contemporary pianism. A dedicated advocate for the music of the 20th and 21st centuries, Kirkendoll has presented over one hundred new works in both solo and collaborative settings. His performances are musical journeys that often span the history of keyboard repertoire, including a sixteen-piece program entitled *Musical Gastronomy*, featuring works of Scarlatti, Haydn, Beethoven, Brahms, Debussy, Ives, Schoenberg, Ligeti, Rzewski, and a host of other living composers.

Kirkendoll has been featured at prestigious venues in China, Singapore, Italy, France, and throughout the United States, and was a finalist in the 2009 American Pianists Association Classical Fellowship Awards, where his performances were heralded as “inspired” showcasing “extraordinary” technical gifts and “superior intelligence.” Past performances of works including Beethoven’s Fourth Piano Concerto, and recitals featuring music of Frédéric Chopin, have been called “astonishing, regal, and eloquent.” Kirkendoll’s forthcoming DVD/CD release entitled *Acting Like a Pianist* (featuring theatrical piano music of Frederic Rzewski) will be released by Meyer Media in 2017. His previous CD, *Bison Circles: Music of Forrest Pierce*, is currently available on Meyer Media, and collaborations with the h2 Quartet can be found on Blue Griffin Records.

A devoted educator, particularly of both musicians and audiences about the excitement of contemporary music, Michael founded the Cortona Sessions for New Music in 2010 (Cortonasessions.org). The Cortona Sessions offer young performers and composers from around the world two weeks of focused study, performance, and collaboration with a faculty of esteemed contemporary music specialists. Located near the Tuscany-Umbria border in the hill-town of Cortona, Italy, the nightly concerts at the Sessions showcase nearly 100 works annually, including dozens of world premieres by both students and faculty. Fellows of the Sessions