

NAFTZGER YOUNG ARTISTS

AUDITIONS & MUSIC AWARDS

CHRISTOPHER TAYLOR

Piano Judge

Hailed by critics as “frighteningly talented” (*The New York Times*) and “a great pianist” (*The Los Angeles Times*), **Christopher Taylor** has distinguished himself throughout his career as an innovative musician with a diverse array of talents and interests. He has concertized around the globe, with the most recent international tours taking him to Korea, China, Singapore, Italy and Venezuela. At home in the United States he has appeared with such orchestras as the New York Philharmonic, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Detroit Symphony, St. Louis Symphony, Atlanta Symphony, Houston Symphony and the Milwaukee Symphony. Mr. Taylor has undertaken various unusual projects. Recent examples include: programs featuring the music of John Adams and his musical predecessors (ranging from Gottschalk and Joplin through Nancarrow and Thelonious Monk); performances and lectures on the complete etudes of György Ligeti; and a series of performances of the Goldberg Variations on the unique double-manual Steinway piano in the collection of the University of Wisconsin. He has actively promoted the rediscovery and refurbishment of the latter instrument; over the past few years he has also been building a reinvented and modernized version of it, a project that relies on his computer and engineering skills and was premiered in October 2016. Numerous awards have confirmed Mr. Taylor’s high standing in the musical world, among them an American Pianists’ Association Fellowship, an Avery Fisher Career Grant, a Bronze Medal in the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition, first prize in the William Kapell International Piano Competition and an Irving Gilmore Young Artists’ Award.

Mr. Taylor owes much of his success to several outstanding teachers, including Russell Sherman, Maria Curcio-Diamand, Francisco Aybar and Julie Bees. In addition to his busy concert schedule, he currently serves as Paul Collins Associate Professor of Piano Performance at the University of Wisconsin in Madison. He pursues a variety of other interests, including: mathematics (he received a summa cum laude degree from Harvard University in this field); computing; linguistics; and biking, which is his primary means of commuting. Mr. Taylor lives in Middleton, Wisconsin, with his wife and two daughters.