



James W. Iman
Pianist

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Biography

Pianist James Iman plays the usual and the unusual, by composers known and unknown. As a specialist in music written since 1900—with an emphasis on music written since 1945—his repertoire spans many stylistic developments since Debussy. He is meticulous in his study of the scores and the aesthetic concepts behind each of the works he plays. This allows him to find fresh approaches to established canonic warhorses and to make complex contemporary works engaging and immediately clear to audiences.

Frances Wilson of *The Cross-Eyed Pianist* heralded James as among the few pianists who can “rise to the challenge of this music and meet it head on with conviction, musicality, and a supreme alertness to its myriad details and quirks” and as a performer he gives “a very clear sense of his total commitment to this music, and also how comfortable he feels in this repertoire.”

James is constantly looking for new and interesting works to add to his repertoire and curates his programs with an interest in diversity, contrast, and continuity. He is a vocal advocate of underrepresented composers and frequently performs music by women, BIPOC, and LGBTQIA+ composers. He has appeared on Chatham University's Friday Afternoon Musicales concert series in which he has presented four programs of works by female composers.

James has given world premieres of works by Charlie Wilmoth, David Dies, and Everette Minchew and United States premieres of works by Gilbert Amy, Alwynne Pritchard, Raphaël Languillat, and Soe Tjen Marching. In April of 2017, James gave the World Premiere of “People,” a concert-length work he commissioned from composer Lowell Fuchs.

In 2017, James released his debut album. Recorded in Belgium's famous Flagey Studio, the album includes the world premiere recording of Gilbert Amy's labyrinthine *Sonate pour Piano* alongside Pierre Boulez's *Troisième Sonate*, Arnold Schoenberg's *Drei Klavierstücke op.11*, and Anton Webern's *Variationen für Klavier op.27*.

Boulez scholar Peter O'Hagan has said of the album that “[the] performances are characterized throughout by a passionate sense of commitment” and Andrea Bedetti of MusicVoice.com has said James' recording of the Boulez *Troisième Sonate* is among the “definitive versions.”

In 2021, he will record two albums that will include works by Alban Berg, Betsy Jolas, Morton Feldman, Klaus Huber, Claude Debussy, Donald Martino, and Jenny Beck. As with his debut release, both albums will include world premiere recordings.

In addition to his activities as a performer, James is active as a lecturer and clinician. He is a frequent guest lecturer on contemporary music at Shenandoah Conservatory, and has been a resident at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and at Grand Valley State University giving master classes for pianists and clinics with composition students.

As a graduate of Indiana University of Pennsylvania, James holds an MA in Piano Performance and a BA in Music History and Piano Performance. While at IUP, he studied piano with Judith Radell and James Staples. In 2015, James worked with Steve Drury as a fellow at New England Conservatory's Summer Institute for Contemporary Performance Practice.

For more information visit: jameswiman.net

Proposed Programs*

Program 1 (c.60')

Klaus Huber (1924-2017) – Ein Hauch von Unzeit II (1972)
Alban Berg (1885-1935) – Klaviersonate Op.1 (1909)
Morton Feldman (1926-1987) – Last Pieces (1959)
Betsy Jolas (b. 1926) – B for Sonata (1971)

Program 2 (c.60')

Donald Martino (1931-2005) – Fantasies and Impromptus (1981)
Claude Debussy (1862-1918) – Images I and II (1901/1905)

Program 3 (c.60')

Elisabeth Lutyens (1906-1983) – Plenum I (1973)
Jenny Beck – Stand Still Here
Claude Debussy (1862-1918) – Images I & II (1901/1905)

Program 4 (c.90')

Morton Feldman (1926-1987) – For Bunita Marcus (1985)

Alternate works available upon negotiation:

Pierre Boulez (1925-2018) – Troisième Sonate (1955-57)
Talib Rasul Hakim (1940-1988) – Sound-Gone (1967)
Beat Furrer (b. 1954) – drei klavierstücke (2004)
John Corigliano (b. 1938) – Fantasia on an Ostinato (1985)
Rebecca Saunder (b. 1967) – Shadow (2013)

For a complete list of repertoire visit: jameswiman.net