

GUEST ARTIST

ERIN HALES, piano



A fourth-generation native of Arizona, Erin Hales began her formal pianistic studies at the age of five with Zhu Hong, under whose tutelage she quickly gained local notoriety. Professional study of the instrument began for Hales at seventeen, when she received a full scholarship to join the studio of Stanislav Ioudenitch, 2001 gold medalist of the Van Cliburn competition and founder of the International Center for Music at Park University, Kansas City, U.S.A. She subsequently embarked on postgraduate work with venerable pedagogue William Grant Naboré at the Conservatorio della Svizzera italiana in Lugano, Switzerland. Hales also holds the honor of being the first American woman ever accepted to the legendary International Piano Academy Lake Como.

Through extensive research and adoption of antique performance techniques, Hales has earned particular esteem for her renditions of the music of J.S. Bach and the French Baroque keyboard masters. Her distinctive style and commanding presence have garnered her performances across the United States, as well as in France, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, and the Russian Federation.

Hales' debut album, comprising Book I of J.S. Bach's Well-Tempered Clavier, was released worldwide in September 2015 as part of a collaboration between Artalinna and Academy Productions. Widespread critical acclaim of the work led London's International Piano magazine to include her in a feature of ten noteworthy female pianists under the age of thirty. Her recording of Book II is in preparation. She continues her studies with Naboré as an inaugural Fellow of the Oberlin-Lake Como Academy partnership.