

The Chopin Club  
Sunday, Sept. 26, 2010, 2pm  
The Music Mansion, Providence, RI

Celebrating Chopin's Bicentennial:  
Featuring The Four Ballades

Barbara Speer, piano

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Frederic Chopin: (Feb. 22, 1810 – Oct. 17, 1849)

Etude in A-flat Major, Op. 25, No. 1  
Etude in C minor, Op. 25, No. 12  
Ballade No. 2 in F Major, Op. 38

Prelude in F-sharp Major, Op. 28, No. 13  
Prelude in D minor, Op. 28, No. 24  
Ballade No. 1 in G minor, Op. 23

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Mazurka in B-flat minor, Op. 24, No. 4  
Ballade No. 3 in A-flat Major, Op. 47

Nocturne in C minor, Op. 48, No. 1  
Ballade No. 4 in F minor, Op. 52

## Barbara Speer, *piano*

Pianist Barbara Speer has been a major contributor to the advancement of piano and chamber music in the New York metropolitan area. Of her debut, *New York Times* music critic Donal Henahan praised her "*technical finesse, excellent taste, genuine involvement, poetic understanding and strong structural sense.*" She has appeared extensively as recitalist and chamber musician at major colleges and universities and in New York at Lincoln Center, Alice Tully Hall, Town Hall, Carnegie Recital Hall, and Merkin Concert Hall, where she last presented the World Premiere of Stefan Wolpe's "*Blues and Tango*" , a newly-discovered piano piece, as part of the Wolpe Centennial Concerts.

In 1996, Ms. Speer was the recipient of the Eleanor Roosevelt Award "in recognition of the extraordinary contributions of Women in the Arts," awarded by The Commission for Women's Equality of the American Jewish Congress.

Winner of the Young Artist Award in her native state of Connecticut at fifteen, Ms. Speer made solo appearances at the Governor's Mansion, on TV, and with the Hartt College Orchestra. She went on to obtain degrees at the Oberlin Conservatory and the Juilliard School, performing as soloist with orchestras in the U.S. and abroad.

Ms. Speer has enjoyed a distinguished concert career as a chamber musician, collaborating with many of the musical world's most distinguished artists: the Emerson and Orion String Quartets, Julius Baker, Yefim Bronfman, Gilbert Kalish, Kim Kashkashian, Jaime Laredo, Cho-Liang Lin, Charles Neidich, Christopher O'Riley, Nathaniel Rosen and Michael Tree. She performed with the late great sopranos Jan deGaetani and Judith Raskin as well as actors Claire Bloom, Eli Wallach, Jerry Stiller and Anne Meara, and Len Cariou.

With her late husband, clarinetist/composer Herbert Sucoff, she founded The Sea Cliff Chamber Players, a chamber ensemble and conductorless chamber orchestra that was hailed as a "national treasure" and was the recipient of numerous national and state awards over its 28-year history. Their L.I. Mozart Festival was a major outdoor event in the northeast each May and June. Ms. Speer appeared on NPR in 13 live concerts and interviews, broadcast nationally and over the European Broadcast Union. She has presented and recorded numerous world premieres, including Gerry Mulligan's first chamber music composition. Her upcoming solo recording features music by Ravel and Rachmaninoff. She founded and co-directed, with Herbert Sucoff, the Nassau County Chamber Music Workshop. She has taught at Adelphi University and SUNY/Empire State College, where she conducted master classes and "Listening to Chamber Music" seminars.

Since her move to Providence, she has performed at Brown University, the RI Philharmonic Music School, at Bell Street Chapel with members of the Providence String Quartet, and as guest with the Aurea Ensemble and Musica Dolce. In 2010-11, she is celebrating the Chopin and Schumann Bicentennials with several solo programs. Ms. Speer serves as accompanist for Brown University music faculty and students, coaches, and has a class of private students. Currently, she is Vice-President of the Chopin Club.