

# **UT Tyler Friends of the Arts**

Presents

**Michael Gurt**

**Piano Recital**

**Monday, November 9**

**7:30 p.m.**

**Braithwaite Recital Hall**

**Master Class**

**Tuesday, November 10**

**9:00 – 12:00**

**Don't miss an exciting aural and visual experience!**

## **QUOTES FROM REVIEWS**

"Throughout the evening there was never a blurred or awkward phrase, and Mr. Gurt displayed an almost superhuman command of the keyboard."

-New York Times

"Michael Gurt is one of the finest young pianists heard in Cape Town and his performance of Rachmaninov's 'other' concerto was nothing short of a triumph. Gurt is possessed of a seemingly infallible technique. Certainly, not even in the most torrid of Rachmaninov's passages does he give the impression of being stretched. His tone remains crystal clear and beautifully graded, balances between melodic and accompanimental elements of the solo writing are cautiously maintained and ensemble with the orchestra remains taut. His tone ranges from a booming bass register to a brilliantly percussive upper extreme in forte dynamics. But, in quieter episodes, it has the beguiling liquidity of the Chopin exponent. Pedaling is discreet and to the point-extending, never blurring. Best of all, he knows just when to use which effect. He made of this performance a highlight of the symphonic season."

-Cape Times, Cape Town, South Africa

**Michael Gurt** received his early musical training from his father, Joseph Gurt, and from Dorothy Taubman. He obtained his BM degree from the University of Michigan School of Music, where his teacher was Louis Nagel. Upon graduation he received the coveted Stanley Medal. Gurt did his graduate work with Martin Canin at the Juilliard School in New York. While a student there, he performed the Rachmaninoff Third Concerto at Lincoln Center with the Juilliard Orchestra. In 1982, Mr. Gurt won First Prize in the Gina Bachauer International Piano Competition, and he has been a prizewinner in international competitions held in Sydney, Australia, and Pretoria, South Africa.

Professor Gurt has appeared as soloist with the Chicago Symphony, the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Utah Symphony, the Baltimore Symphony, the Memphis Symphony, the Capetown Symphony, and the Natal Philharmonic Orchestra in Durban, South Africa, among others. He has performed solo recitals in Alice Tully Hall in New York, Ambassador Auditorium in Los Angeles, Orchestra Hall in Detroit, City Hall in Hong Kong, the Victorian Arts Center in Melbourne, Australia, Baxter Hall in Capetown, South Africa, and the Attatürk Cultural Center in Istanbul, Turkey. He has appeared as guest artist with the Takács String Quartet and he recently performed at the Australian Festival of Chamber Music. Mr. Gurt has served on the juries of the New Orleans International Piano Competition and the Gina Bachauer International Piano Competition. He has been featured on a nationwide PBS broadcast, performing the Rachmaninoff Third Concerto with the Utah Symphony. Gurt has recorded on the Naxos, Centaur and Redwood labels.

Mr. Gurt is Professor and Keyboard Division Chairman at Louisiana State University. He is also the head of the piano department at the Sewanee Summer Music Center, and has served as Piano Chairman of the Louisiana Music Teachers Association. He has also taught at two summer music seminars held at Tunghai University in Taichung, Taiwan.