

**XAVIER UNIVERSITY
CLASSICAL PIANO SERIES**

Miceál O'Rourke

**Sunday, October 19, 2008 at 2:30 P.M., in the Gallagher Student Center Theatre
Tickets \$19.00 (keyboard side), \$17.00 (right side); Senior Citizens (60 years old) \$16.00 & \$14.00
Students (with ID) \$3.00 - PLEASE NOTE PRICES**

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While internationally regarded as the leading interpreter of Dublin-born composer, John Field (1782-1837), leading Irish pianist Miceál O'Rourke is equally at home with the music of Beethoven, Schumann, Chopin among others.

O'Rourke graduated from University College, Dublin and pursued his musical studies in Antwerp and Paris, where he now lives. He studied piano under Marcel Ciampi, a pupil of Debussy.

In 1976, he gave his first public recital in France, playing an all-Chopin programme to great acclaim. This led to his career as a highly respected performer internationally. Miceál O'Rourke has performed at major venues such as Boston Symphony Hall, Washington Kennedy Centre, Amsterdam Concertgebouw, the Royal Festival Hall and Queen Elizabeth Hall in London, Moscow Conservatory Great Hall, Saint Petersburg Philharmonia, Salle Pleyel in Paris and the National Concert Hall in Dublin. Most recent performances with orchestra include concertos by Ravel and Mozart with Saint Petersburg Philharmonic concertos by Field with Moscow Symphony and Rachmaninov's third concerto with the National Symphony Orchestra in Dublin. O'Rourke has regularly appeared with French orchestras playing concertos by Beethoven, Schumann, Chopin, Field, and Shostakovich. His televised recordings of Chopin's complete nocturnes have been screened throughout Europe, Australia and in the United States. Recent tours have taken him to Moscow and St. Petersburg, as well as to Ireland, France, Turkey and USA. O'Rourke has increased the availability of John Field's works considerably through his recordings of all the piano concerti, sonatas, and nocturnes.

In 1994, O'Rourke was awarded the prestigious Chopin Medal by the Warsaw Frederic Chopin Society in recognition of his "outstanding Chopin playing" – the first and only pianist to be so honoured. In the opinion of many, Miceál O'Rourke is the finest living Irish pianist.

Mr O'Rourke will be performing the following selections:

Sonata No. 1 in E flat, Opus 1, No. 1 John Field
Nocturne No. 1 in E flat John Field
Sonata in D minor, Op. 31 No. 2 "Tempest" Claude Debussy
Carnaval Op. 9 Robert Schumann