

The Percy Grainger Home

7 Cromwell Place, White Plains, New York 10601

This historic home is an exceptionally significant local landmark because of its association with the life and work of Percy Grainger (1882-1961), composer, pianist, collector of folk songs, and writer. For forty years, from 1921 until his death in 1961, Grainger occupied the house at 7 Cromwell Place, White Plains, using it for his residence, practice studio, and laboratory for his avant-garde musical compositions and experimental music machines. After service in World War I, Grainger purchased the single-family residence in White Plains that became his home and studio for the rest of his life; the building is the resource most significantly associated with Grainger in America.

Grainger was a man of many seasons — not only a composer and pianist but a musical folklorist, wind band arranger, polyglot, watercolorist, early music expert, clothing designer, prodigious letter writer, essayist, and philosophical thinker. His popular works like “Country Gardens” and “Molly on the Shore” were best-sellers of the early twentieth century music world, while his experiments in avant-garde music anticipated many artistic developments in the later twentieth century and beyond. Today his music is performed even more widely than during his lifetime.

This historic house, built in 1893, and added to the National Register of Historic Places on April 8, 1993, was originally part of the land of David Cromwell, banker and prominent local citizen. Cromwell served as Westchester County Treasurer and Chief Officer of the then Village of White Plains. He was president of several local banks, most notably the Home Savings Bank. Cromwell built the two streets which connect Maple Avenue and East Post Road. Chester Avenue, parallel and to the east of Cromwell Place, built and deeded to White Plains in 1891, was named after his son John Chester Cromwell. Chester died in 1907, age 30, while fighting a fire on Main Street, only days after he was married.

While some of the Cromwells’ household items are stored on the third floor, the Grainger House remains today furnished as it was during Grainger’s lifetime, a dramatic living testimony to the life and times of a multi-faceted genius. It is one of the cultural gems of Westchester County and a site visited by a steady stream of musicians, historians and students from all over the world.

Program

Percy & Friends

Bach-Busoni: Chaconne (from *Partita no. 2 in D Minor*, BWV 1004)

Roger Quilter: Summer Evening (from *Three Pieces*, op. 16)

Henry Balfour Gardiner: Con Brio (from *Shenadoah and other Pieces*)
Adagio (from *Five Pieces*)
Gavotte (from *Five Pieces*)

Cyril Scott: Cherry Ripe (dedicated to Grainger)
Rainbow Trout (dedicated to Grainger)

Frederick Delius: In a Summer Garden
(trans. Phillip Heseltine and Alan Rowlands)

INTERMISSION

Ian Venables: Folk Tune (from *Three Short Pieces*, op. 5)

Percy Grainger: Country Gardens
Bridal Lullaby
Shepherd’s Hey
Colonial Song
Spoon River
The Nightingale and the Two Sisters
Scotch Strathspey and Reel



Richard Masters is a soloist, opera coach, chamber musician and orchestral pianist based in Blacksburg, VA, where he is an assistant professor of piano and collaborative piano on the music faculty at Virginia Tech's School of Performing Arts.

Significant collaborations include concerts with baritone Donnie Ray Albert, mezzo-soprano Marta Senn, the late mezzo-soprano Barbara Conrad, and many others. He has appeared with former Boston Symphony principal trombonist Norman Bolter, former Juilliard String Quartet violinist

Earl Carlyss, saxophonist Harvey Pittel, and under the baton of the late Lorin Maazel. Masters has performed solo, chamber and vocal recitals throughout the U.S. and in Europe.

As a solo pianist, Masters plays a wide variety of standard and non-traditional repertoire, including contemporary pieces written for or commissioned by him. A strong proponent of contemporary American composers, he has performed world premieres of pieces by Kenneth Frazelle, Charles Nichols, Kent Holliday, and many others. He is an enthusiastic performer of British music from the early 20th century, focusing in particular on the solo piano music of John Ireland. The critic John France wrote on MusicWeb International "Richard Masters approaches [John Ireland's Piano Sonata] with great style and understanding: all the facets of Ireland's art are present here: '...the lyrical, the dramatic, the extrovert and the melancholy – the intense self-questioning and the open, almost naïve, avowals.'"

Recent appearances include performances at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum's "Music at the Gardner" series, the National Flute Convention in Washington D.C., the San Francisco Conservatory, the Schola Cantorum in Paris, and concerts in Toronto and Trinidad/Tobago. In the 2018-2019 season, he will tour Texas, performing the complete songs of Henri Duparc with Ariana Wyatt, soprano, and Marc Callahan, baritone. Solo appearances will include performances in Alabama, Mississippi, Virginia, and on the concert series at the Richard Nixon Presidential Library in Yorba Linda, California.

In addition to his performances as a pianist, Masters is active in the world of opera and musical theatre as a coach and conductor. He recently conducted performances of *Carousel*, *Fiorello!*, *Oh, Kay!*, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *Le Nozze di Figaro*, *Babes in Arms*, and in Summer 2018 served as associate head coach with the Pittsburgh Festival Opera, working on Wagner's *Das Rheingold* and Strauss's *Arabella*. Prior to joining the faculty at Virginia Tech, he was principal opera coach at the University of Texas at Austin.

Richard Masters holds degrees from the Eastman School of Music (DMA), the Juilliard School (MM) and the University of Colorado at Boulder (BM). For more information, please visit www.richard-masters.com.

Percy Grainger



Piano Recital

Sunday, May 5, 2019

4:00 pm