

FRIENDS of the BARNES FOUNDATION

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Artists' Campaign to Save the Barnes Foundation to Feature Pianist Beth Levin

(MERION – January 4, 2008) Pianist Beth Levin will perform J.S. Bach's "Goldberg Variations" on Sunday, January 27, 2008 in the first performance of the **Artists' Campaign to Save the Barnes Foundation**. The concert will take place at 3 o'clock at the Settlement Music School at 416 Queen Street in Philadelphia. The program is being sponsored by **Friends of the Barnes Foundation**, an organization dedicated to preservation of the Barnes Foundation in Merion, Pennsylvania.

Ms. Levin made her debut at age 12 with the Philadelphia Orchestra and studied with Rudolf Serkin at the Curtis Institute of Music. She has toured throughout the country and across Europe, receiving the acclaim of colleagues and critics. Speaking about her upcoming performance of the "Goldberg Variations" in Philadelphia to benefit the Artists' Campaign, Beth Levin said, "Opening the pages of the Goldberg Variations has been a sublime experience for me and now to present this music in the cause of the highest ideals of art is an honor." Oliver Sacks, author of the recently published book, Musicophilia, wrote of Beth Levin's compact disc recording of the Bach work, "I was 'hooked' as soon as I heard the first notes of the Aria in your beautiful rendering..." Centaur Records will release the recording this spring.

Tickets for the event cost \$50 for general admission with sponsor level tickets at \$100 each. They are available through the Friends of the Barnes Foundation website at <http://www.barnesfriends.org>, by e-mail to barnesfriends@comcast.net and telephone to 610-667-0281.

Visual artists who have contributed to the Artists' Campaign to Save the Barnes Foundation include **B. J. Adams, Hope Broker, Philip Cohn, Lynn Blackwell Denton, Marilyn Henrion; Nancy Herman, Albo Jeavons, the late Francis McCarthy** (donated by his widow, Thelma McCarthy), **Allilson McElroy, Filip Noterdaeme; Barbara B. Rosin, Stuart Shils, Jock Sturges, Bill Ternay, and Austin Tremellen.**

Artist Nancy Herman is the organizer of the Artists' Campaign. She said, "It is rare indeed that art lovers, collectors, students, citizens, musicians, and artists can together work to save what they value. We are very grateful to Beth Levin for her wonderful, generous gift of music." Information about the Campaign is available at <http://www.barnesfriends.org/files/art.shtml>

The special benefit performance is being held to support the group's efforts to seek new hearings in Court on the planned removal of the art collection that Albert Barnes bequeathed as part of the world-renowned Merion complex. The current Barnes Foundation Board of Trustees has created international condemnation with its plan to remove the art collection for installation at a site five miles away in Philadelphia. Seeking to prevent the move, Friends of the Barnes Foundation filed a petition in Montgomery County Orphans' Court, followed by orders by Judge Stanley Ott for briefs from the Barnes Board of Trustees and the Pennsylvania Attorney General. Those briefs have been filed and will be responded to by Friends of the Barnes Foundation by February 29, 2008, after which Judge Ott will decide whether to re-open hearings.

Additional information is available at the Friends of the Barnes Foundation website at <http://www.barnesfriends.org>

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