



from a sketch by
Willy Dreifuss

Annie Fischer

Piano

Tuesday, October 19th, 1982, 8 p.m.
Recital Hall, Music Department, U.B.C.

Vancouver Recital Society
in cooperation with the
Department of Music, U.B.C.

Tonight's recital would not have been possible without significant financial assistance from Dr. Eva Bene of Vancouver.

To mark their appreciation of Dr. Bene's constant and extraordinarily generous support of the activities of the Vancouver Recital Society, the Directors have decided to establish from part of the proceeds of this evening's performance, a special fund to be known as the Elizabeth Gessler Fund in honour of Dr. Bene's late mother, herself a pianist and a student at the Liszt Academy of Music where Mme. Fischer was also a student.

The fund will be used to enable the Society to present a special annual recital by a young British Columbian musician.

Annie Fischer

Annie Fischer made her début in Budapest as an eight-year-old child prodigy, impressing the critics and public alike with her performance of Beethoven's Piano Concerto in C Major. Four years later in Zurich she gained the attention of the international musical community through her interpretations of concerti by Mozart and Schumann, winning universal acclaim for her technical mastery and the depth of her interpretations.

Annie Fischer received her musical training at the Ferenc Liszt Academy of Music in Budapest under the tutorship of Professor Arnold Székely and the eminent pianist-composer, Ernst von Dohnányi, both of whom were students of István Thomán, a pupil of Liszt and one-time teacher of Bela Bartók. She was thus trained in the authentic Liszt tradition. She was by far the best pupil in the Academy and received her Diploma as a select member of Dohnány's master class.

1933 was a landmark in Annie Fischer's brilliant career. The youngest of the hundred contestants in the Liszt International Piano Competition in Budapest, she was awarded first prize, gaining immediate international recognition. Her extensive concert tours have taken her to most European countries. She made her New York début under George Szell and has regularly toured the major cities of the United States and Canada. She has also been most warmly received in Australia and New Zealand. Mme Fischer has performed with such eminent conductors as Mengelberg, Busch, Klemperer, Ansermet and von Karajan. She has also appeared at many international festivals, including those at Salzburg, Edinburgh, Budapest, Berlin, Lucerne, Prague, Athens and Amsterdam. In recognition of her magnificent achievements, Annie Fischer has been made an honorary professor of the Ferenc Liszt Academy and three times has received Hungary's highest award, the Kossuth Prize.

The Vancouver Recital Society and the Music Department of the University of British Columbia share the honour of presenting a distinguished pianist in her Vancouver début.

Programme

- | | |
|--|-------------|
| Sonata in c minor, K. 457 | Mozart |
| Allegro | (1756—1791) |
| Adagio | |
| Molto allegro | |
| Sonata No. 19 in g minor, Op. 49 no. 1 | Beethoven |
| Andante | (1770—1827) |
| Rondo. Allegro | |
| Sonata No. 21 in C, Op. 53 “Waldstein” | Beethoven |
| Allegro con brio | (1770—1827) |
| Introduzione. Adagio molto | |
| Rondo. Allegretto moderato | |

Intermission

- | | |
|--|-------------|
| Kinderscenen, Op. 15 | Schumann |
| Of strange countries and people | (1810—1856) |
| A strange story | |
| Catch me if you can | |
| The entreating child | |
| Quite happy | |
| An important event | |
| Dreaming | |
| At the fireside | |
| The knight of the hobby-horse | |
| Almost too serious | |
| Frightening | |
| Child falling asleep | |
| The poet speaks | |
| Barcarolle in F Sharp Major, Op. 60 | Chopin |
| | (1810—1849) |
| Fantaisie-Impromptu in c sharp minor, Op. 66 | Chopin |
| (Posthumous) | |
| Nocturne in c sharp minor, Op. 27 no. 1 | Chopin |
| Scherzo in c sharp minor, Op. 39 | Chopin |

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As the music of Mozart and Beethoven flows through the hall this evening, those of us privileged to have known Elizabeth Gessler will remember that this, too, was her music. When Dr. Eva Bene chose to honour the memory of her mother through a recital by the distinguished Hungarian pianist, Annie Fischer, she set before us a heart-warming example of how the past and present can be joined to ensure the future. And there could be no more appropriate memorial to that slight figure, great spirit and superb musician than a fund bearing the name of Elizabeth Gessler. (Ian Docherty)



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If you have enjoyed tonight's recital and are not already a member of the Vancouver Recital Society, why don't you consider joining us for our outstanding 82/83 series of six Sunday evening recitals at the Arts Club Theatre, Granville Island. The season commences next **Sunday, October 24th** with the distinguished pianist, **CHARLES ROSEN** performing Beethoven and Schumann. **Tickets** and information are available from the Arts Club Theatre Box Office at **687-1644**.