

"A GENIUS"

LE DEVOIR



"The beauty of the music was overwhelming, the piano works alive with sonority and complexity. The countenance of Babayan was suffused with naked emotion, the eyes often closed. His hands hovered and flew over the keys with masterful fluency. Watching him at the brilliantly polished Steinway, against the enormous clear transected windows, several stories high, Lake Michigan visible but a short distance away, was in itself a tableau of human transcendence." SPLASH MAGAZINE

"Never has "Romeo and Juliet" sounded quite as electric as it did Monday. Babayan's transcriptions and his performance with Argerich contained all the brute intensity and dashing lyricism of the original but little of its tragic sentiment. Time and again, the two pianists easily conjured a full orchestra with ferocious, pounding chords and rich textures, only to turn around and spin out some charming dance or radiant, achingly beautiful melody. One clear highlight was the tinkling "Aubade," which in their hands sounded divine. Another was the slippery "Folk Dance" and autumnal "Romeo and Juliet Before Departure," whose emotional aura and sense of foreboding came as the only suggestion of tragedy before the violent finale: "Death of Tybalt." THE CLEVELAND PLAIN DEALER



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He is one of the leading pianists of our time. Hailed for his emotional intensity, bold energy and remarkable levels of color, Sergei Babayan brings a deep understanding and insight to a stylistically diverse repertoire, which includes a performance history of 60 concertos. *Le Figaro* has praised his "unequaled touch, perfectly harmonious phrasing and breathtaking virtuosity." Sergei Babayan is a Deutsche Grammophon exclusive artist. His latest release, *Prokofiev for Two* with Martha Argerich, of his own transcriptions for two pianos of works by Sergei Prokofiev was praised by reviewers as "an electrifying duo that leaves the listener in consternation" (*Pianiste*). Mr. Babayan's performances have been broadcast by WQXR, WCLV, Radio France, Polish Radio and Television, BBC-TV, NHK Satellite Television and Medici TV.