

Steinback plays to full house

Written by Holyoke Enterprise

Sterling native and 1975 graduate of Northeastern Junior College, Dr. Richard Steinbach, a world-renown pianist, returned to his hometown and alma mater to do one performance as part of the debut of his latest CD release this past Sunday, Nov. 18.

He performed before a full house in the Corsberg Theatre on campus. Following the concert, he autographed pictures and CDs and reconnected with many old friends and new fans during a reception hosted by Chris and Joy Dinsdale and the Bank of Colorado.

During the show, he made comments from the microphone on stage, not only describing what he was going to play on the grand piano next, but also recalling some of his memories of roaming the halls of NJC back when he studied there.

Steinbach now travels the world, performing at various venues, many of them famous music festivals and astute locations. Just in time for Christmas, he released a special "Christmas Spirit" CD and is giving several concerts across the United States between now and Christmas to promote its debut.

Sunday's concert was a fundraiser for the growing music department at NJC, with a portion of the proceeds from the ticket sales going to the program.

When he is not traveling to perform, Steinbach is a professor of music at Briar Cliff University, a private catholic school in Sioux City, Iowa, where he teaches applied piano, classical piano and courses in music theory, piano pedagogy and American music.

Dr. Steinbach has performed extensively as both soloist and collaborative artist in concerts throughout the U.S., Canada, South America, France, Italy, Great Britain, New Zealand, Japan and China.

Dr. Steinbach holds degrees in piano performance from the University of Colorado and Eastman School of Music and a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Iowa.

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Post-doctoral work includes study and master classes with Dominique Merlet, Noel Lee, Roy Howat, Pascal Devoyon, Dorothy Taubman and John Bloomfield.

He has released two solo recordings on the Towerhill label, a piano duo recording with Howard Helvey and a CD of new American works for voice and piano with soprano Diana Guhin Wooley.

This hometown success story began his piano career under the careful guidance of Gene Evans who taught and mentored him for two years at St. Anthony's and then two years at NJC. Evans was among the many people at the weekend concert.

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