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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Benjamin Hochman in Coastal Concerts Debut November 16**

The exciting young pianist Benjamin Hochman, an Avery Fisher Career Grant recipient, will make his Coastal Concerts debut November 16 at 2 p.m. in Bethel UMC Fellowship Hall, 4<sup>th</sup> & Market Streets in Lewes. Winner of the prestigious Avery Fisher Career Grant in 2011, Benjamin Hochman's eloquent and virtuosic performances blend colorful artistry with poetic interpretation to the delight of audiences and critics alike.

Possessed of an intellectual and heartfelt musical inquisitiveness, Benjamin Hochman's playing was described by the Vancouver Sun as "stylish and lucid, with patrician authority and touches of elegant wit." After hearing Hochman in a 2014 recital at the 92<sup>nd</sup> Street Y that included variations by contemporary composers Luciano Berio, Oliver Knussen, Frederic Rzewski and the world premiere of Tamar Muskal's *Frédéric Variations*, New York Times music critic Anthony Tommasini observed, "...as I listened to pianist Benjamin Hochman's sensitive, exciting renditions of four contemporary works that explore the form of theme and variation (including one premiere), I kept thinking that classical music doesn't get better than this."

Born in Jerusalem, Mr. Hochman began his piano studies with Esther Narkiss at the Conservatory of the Rubin Academy, and with Emanuel Krasovsky in Tel Aviv. He is a graduate of the Curtis Institute of Music, where he studied with Claude Frank, and the Mannes College of Music, where he studied with Richard Goode. He made his New York recital debut in 2006 at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and in the relatively short span since then he has established a vibrant worldwide musical presence as a soloist with the world's most prominent orchestras and musicians in the world's pre-eminent concert venues.

In recent years, Mr. Hochman's admiration for the rich orchestral repertoire has led him to seriously pursue conducting. A graduate of the prestigious Juilliard conducting program, where he trained under Alan Gilbert and James Ross and received the Bruno Walter Scholarship and the Charles Schiff Award, Hochman has served as musical assistant to Louis Langrée; to guest conductors at the 2016 Mostly Mozart Festival, including Thierry Fischer, Paavo Järvi and Jeffrey Kahane; to Leon Botstein for American Symphony Orchestra's concerts at Carnegie and Alice Tully Halls; and to Emmanuel Villaume at Juilliard. Recent conducting engagements include Santa Fe Pro Musica, Orlando Philharmonic, and The Orchestra Now.

Hochman is founder and music director of the Roosevelt Island Symphony, an ensemble consisting of New York's top orchestral and chamber musicians which presents its fourth season in 2019-2020. And in October's release of his latest album on Avie Records, Hochman demonstrates his triple threat capabilities as conductor, concerto soloist and collaborator with the English Chamber Orchestra on Mozart Piano Concerti No. 17 and No. 24.

The program for Hochman's 2 p.m. November 16 Coastal Concert is themed "Words and Music", works inspired by literature, and will include *Four Ballades, Op. 10* by Johannes Brahms, *Darkness Visible*, by Thomas Adès, *Ballade No. 4 in F Minor, Op. 52* by Frédéric Chopin, and *Kreisleriana, Op. 16* by Robert Schumann. At 1:00 p.m., preceding the concert, Coastal Concerts board member, professional musician and master Audio Engineer, Lani Spahr, will bring his wealth of musical knowledge and experience to the proceedings with the inaugural presentation of Performance Insights, a half-hour talk designed to enhance the audience experience as well as to entertain and educate. Mr. Spahr, employing audio and visual elements, will offer insights into various facets of the concert focusing on the composers, the works being presented, and the historical context, to provide the audience with a broadened musical perspective. Admission to Performance Insights is included with purchased tickets. All in all, an afternoon's experience that is not to be missed.

Benjamin Hochman is a Steinway Artist and lives in New York City. His website is [www.benjaminhochman.com](http://www.benjaminhochman.com).

General Seating tickets are still available for \$35 and can be purchased online at [www.coastalconcerts.org](http://www.coastalconcerts.org) or at the door the night of the concert. Coastal Concerts offers free admission to youth ages 18 and under and for one accompanying adult. Reservations are required and may be obtained by calling 888-212-6458. Discounted \$10 admission is available at the door for students 19 and older and for active duty military, military veterans, and first responders. Valid IDs are required.

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