

Anthony Newman to perform an all Bach organ concert

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Anthony Newman, whose unorthodox approach to playing the Bach music he adores has enthralled, mystified and disconcerted critics and fans, will present an all Bach organ concert Thursday, January 15, at 8 p.m. in the Mandeville Auditorium to benefit gifted young musicians studying at the University of California, San Diego.

Newman, a new member of the UC San Diego music faculty, is the second artist to appear in the scholarship concert series. The first program, a sonata recital performed by violinist Rafael Druian and pianist Ilse von Alpenheim, took place in November. Plans are to expand the series to three concerts on a subscription basis next year. Newman's is the final concert of this year's series.

"You have to start from the beginning in training a musician," says Newman. "This happens in Europe. It doesn't happen here at all. A student comes to college out of high school and wants to go into music and there's 15 years of background that isn't there. There isn't the capacity to understand all the peculiar sensations that are in music."

Young audiences have changed the way people listen to music today, Newman comments.

"Bach has become a figurehead name for music which is very communicable to young audiences who have moved in and changed entirely the way classical performers should react to an audience. They've changed the classical concert into the way they feel the rock and roll concert should be, very free and unabashed and open and talkative and if you want to repeat a piece, you just go ahead and everybody says how they feel. That's different."

Newman has been called "the high priest of the harpsichord, a turtlenecked Bachian missionary not seen since the days of Wanda Landowska and Albert Schweitzer."

Though he loves and is best known as an exponent of the harpsichord, Newman finds it unsatisfactory for performing in large concert halls.

"It's like listening to someone whisper," he says of its frail sound. "After a while you stop listening."

Tickets for the January 15 concert and further information may be obtained by telephoning the UC San Diego Music Department at 452-3229.

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