

Earl Wild (1915-2010), three movements from *Seven Virtuoso Études on Gershwin Songs* (1989)

Fascinatin' Rhythm (from *Lady, Be Good!*, 1924)

Liza (from *Show Girl*, 1929)

I Got Rhythm (from *Girl Crazy*, 1930)

A native of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, the musically precocious Earl Wild (1915-2010) earned musical accolades from the most diverse imaginable sources. Invited by six consecutive presidents to perform at the White House, Wild was also the first pianist to perform a recital on U.S. Television, and purportedly the first to stream a live performance over the internet. He performed worldwide as a virtuoso pianist, and also created a large number of transcriptions and arrangements for the piano of musical works from many genres, including a set of *Seven Virtuoso Études on Gershwin Songs* (1989), based on favorite songs from the Broadway musicals of George and Ira Gershwin. Three of these études will be heard this evening, arranged for wind quintet by David Jolley. Wild's arrangements of Gershwin's songs are not merely transcriptions, but elaborate, virtuosic recompositions of the original, fairly conventional song forms employed by George Gershwin. They are full of a delightful spontaneity, and hew unaffectedly to the jazz idiom and style Gershwin captured so well in his writing. What we hear this evening, then, is David Jolley's transcriptions for a virtuoso wind quintet of Wild's virtuosic arrangements of Gershwin's contagiously attractive and exuberant songs.

Program notes © copyright 2014 by Richard Festinger