

PRESS RELEASE July 24, 2024

Rhapsody in Blue at 100: A Gershwin Celebration Featuring Pianist Richard Dowling

The concert at Woodfords Congregational Church benefits the Special Music Fund.



PORTLAND—New York concert pianist Richard Dowling will present an all-Gershwin program that will include *Rialto Ripples Rag* (1916), *Seven Original Preludes* (1926), several popular Gershwin music melody piano transcriptions, and the well-known *Rhapsody in Blue* (1924) at a benefit concert at 4 p.m. on August 18 at Woodfords Congregational Church, 202 Woodford St., Portland.

The concert is in support of the church's Special Music Fund, which brings engaging concerts and musical events to the neighborhood and local community. The event is open to the public and admission is \$15.

Dowling appears regularly in solo recitals, music festivals and as guest soloist in concerto engagements with symphony orchestras. He has presented solo recitals in Asia, South America, Australia, Africa and Europe, and has appeared at numerous music festivals, including the Newport Music Festival, Sun Valley Music Festival and the Scott Joplin Ragtime Festival.

The National Federation of Music Clubs of the United States has honored him with a special award for his outstanding performances of American music. Works of Chopin, Debussy, Gershwin, Gottschalk, Joplin, Ravel, ragtime and early jazz figure prominently in his extensive repertoire, which also includes more than 30 piano concertos.

In reviews, Dowling has been called "*a master of creating beautiful sounds with impeccable control of colors and textures*" and "*a musician with something to say, the skill to say it and the magnetic power to make you want to listen.*" He has also been praised for providing "*a superb recital that left the audience craving for more at the end.*" Dowling is a versatile recording artist with more than a dozen CDs of classical, chamber, ragtime, jazz and popular music.

The program is supported by anonymous gifts, the Woodfords Special Music Fund and the Woodfords Creating Community Committee.

For more information, contact Paul Schnell, Director of Music, at 207-774-8243 or music@woodfordschurch.org.

For more information about Woodfords Church, contact info@woodfordschurch.org or visit www.woodfordschurch.org.