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John Kenneth Adams Presents His Piano Portraits on Sept. 14 at Winthrop

Winthrop University

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Quick Facts

- Now a Distinguished Professor Emeritus at USC, Adams adheres to the philosophy that for classical music to thrive, one must try to reach the broadest possible audience.
- He created a series of "Piano Portraits" of Bach, Mozart, Debussy and others combining piano performance and visual arts which he has presented more than 200 times.



John Adams

ROCK HILL, SOUTH CAROLINA - **Pianist John Kenneth Adams**, known for his **Piano Portraits programs**, will present a lecture recital of piano music by Claude Debussy on Sept. 14 at Winthrop University.

The recital will be held at 4 p.m. in **Frances May Barnes Recital Hall**. As part of the program, Adams' program will also feature a visual presentation of art works by the **French impressionist painters**. Admission is free and open to the public.

Adams is celebrating his **50th year in South Carolina** in 2014.

Now a **Distinguished Professor Emeritus at USC**, Adams adheres to the philosophy that for classical music to thrive, one must try to reach the broadest possible audience. To that end, he created the **September Concerts at USC** in 1976, which are still held there annually.

He also created his series of "**Piano Portraits**" of **Bach, Mozart, Debussy and others combining piano performance and visual arts** which he has presented more than 200 times. Adams has also been at the forefront of new music, giving the first South Carolina performances of Frederic Rzewski's "The People United Will Never be Defeated," "Phrygian Gates" by John Adams and Mario Davidovsky's "Synchronisms No. 6" for piano and electronic sounds. He still regularly performs in the United States and abroad.

His students hold positions in colleges and schools in the United States, South Korea and Europe. In 2012 he was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation from the State of South Carolina by Governor Nikki Haley.

Adams began his piano studies at age 11 in Birmingham, Alabama, although he had played the piano by ear since age 3. After his family moved to Kansas City, Missouri, he studied piano at the University of Kansas City, and spent his summers at the Aspen Music School. He then studied as a Victor Wilson Scholar at Yale School of Music and as a Fulbright Scholar at the Royal Academy of Music, London.

For more information, contact **Music Professor Matthew Manwarren** at manwarrenm@winthrop.edu or at 803/323-4639.

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