

**Sony BMG Masterworks and Zenph® Studios:  
Art Tatum's *Piano Starts Here* in Re-Performance**

Session Biographies

**The Album Producer**

**Steven Epstein**

Steve Epstein, a seven-time Grammy winner (including Classical Producer of the Year in 1984, 1995, 1997, 1998 and 2001), has produced sixteen albums that won Grammy Awards. He has also been honored with the Edison and Grand Prix du Disque awards.

Over the past 25 years, he has worked with the major artists and ensembles on the CBS Masterworks and Sony Classical labels. He served as Senior Executive Producer for SONY BMG Classical. His portfolio includes albums with Isaac Stern, Yo-Yo Ma, Wynton Marsalis (both classical and jazz), Midori, Lorin Maazel, Claudio Abbado, Itzhak Perlman, Murray Perahia, Emanuel Ax, Plácido Domingo, Andre Previn, Bobby McFerrin, the Vienna Orchestra, the Berlin Orchestra and the New York Philharmonic, along with the Chicago, Cleveland, London, Concertgebouw, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and Los Angeles Symphony orchestras.

Epstein was the producer of the Zenph re-performance of Gould's 1955 *Goldberg Variations*, which has been acclaimed as *Stereophile's* "Recording of the Month" in September 2007, as well as a top rating of "Music:10, Sonics: 10" in the August 2007 issue of *The Absolute Sound*.

**The Recording Engineer**

**Richard King**

Richard King, senior recording engineer for Sony Music Studios in New York, records orchestras, jazz ensembles, soloists and film scores in the world's top studios and concert halls. He won three Grammy® awards for his work on Joshua Bell's *West Side Story Suite*, *Appalachian Journey* (a collaboration between Yo-Yo Ma, Edgar Meyer, and Mark O'Connor) and the soundtrack of *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*.

King has worked with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the Philadelphia Orchestra and many revered classical pianists, including Yefim Bronfman, Emanuel Ax, Murray Perahia and Andre Previn. As both producer and engineer, he has remastered over 60 analog recordings for CD reissue. He is an acknowledged expert on immersive surround-sound recording. His surround-sound innovations were demonstrated on the 2006 recording of the Zenph re-performance of Gould's 1955 *Goldberg Variations*.

# Sony BMG Masterworks and Zenph® Studios: Art Tatum's *Piano Starts Here* in Re-Performance

## Session Biographies

### The Zenph Studios Project Team

#### **John Q. Walker**

John Q. Walker is president of Zenph Studios, a software company located in Raleigh, North Carolina that builds advanced software to understand – and recreate – how musicians play. Dr. Walker co-founded Ganymede Software in Research Triangle Park, N.C. in 1995. He led the intellectual property efforts at Ganymede and was involved in the preparation of twelve patents there. Personally, he holds four patents in measuring computer network performance. During his five years as vice president of product development, Ganymede products consistently won major awards.

He co-authored *Taking Charge of your VoIP Project* for Cisco Press. He also authored a software engineering book with Zenph co-founder Peter Schwaller for McGraw-Hill. He is frequently an invited speaker on networking, software technology and music topics.

Prior to forming Ganymede, Walker was influential in the creation of the IEEE 802 local-area network (LAN) and the 802.11 wireless LAN (“Wi-Fi”) standards at IBM. There, Walker managed emerging R&D projects and headed up pioneering teams developing high-speed networking software. Walker holds Bachelor degrees in piano and mathematics, a Master’s in computer science from Southern Illinois University and a Ph.D. in software engineering from the University of North Carolina. His thesis focused on natural-behavior algorithms and computer graphics.

#### **Mikhail Krishtal**

Born in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, Mikhail Krishtal studied at the Moscow Conservatory with Albert Lehmann and Edison Denisov, receiving his Doctorate of Musical Arts (D.M.A.) in 1994. He also studied with Leonid Hoffman, Iegor Reznikoff, and Alfred Schnittke. From 1994, he taught music theory at the Department of Composition of the Moscow Conservatory and conducted research at the Theremin Center for Electro-Acoustic Music.

Dr. Krishtal has been working as a composer in both acoustic and electronic music domains. His primary interests in music theory are in music and theoretical writings of Arnold Schoenberg. His research in the electro-acoustic field has been focused on integration of the genuine qualities of acoustical instrumental performance with the utmost flexibility and precision of electronic music. From 1999, he continued his research in the United States, including the Duke University Musical Instrument Collection and Zenph Studios.

#### **Anatoly Larkin**

Anatoly Larkin was born near Moscow, Russia. He started studying music at the age of four. At the age of 13, he and his family moved to Great Britain, where he attended Guildhall School of Music and Drama from 1996, studying composition with Robert Saxton and piano with Paul Roberts and Alexandra Andrievsky. During that time he was active in promoting new music, including premieres of his own works. He also pursued his

**Sony BMG Masterworks and Zenph® Studios:  
Art Tatum's *Piano Starts Here* in Re-Performance**  
Session Biographies

passion for computers by getting familiar with the then-current computer technology used in electronic composition.

After earning his Bachelor of Music degree with honors, he moved to Minneapolis to begin graduate studies in Piano Performance at the University of Minnesota as a student of Alexander Braginsky, a co-founder of the Piano-e-Competition. Anatoly continued to be active in performance of new works, presenting concert programs in multiple venues across the United States as part of the new music ensemble, Zeitgeist, while also performing a more traditional solo and chamber repertoire. He received a Master's degree from the University of Minnesota in 2004 and completed his Doctorate of Musical Arts in summer 2007.

In 2005, Anatoly moved to Raleigh, N.C. to join Zenph Studios, where his work combines his expertise as a professional pianist and his knowledge of computer-controlled music performance. This collaboration resulted in the creation of a process that literally lets audiences hear great piano masters from the past play live again. Anatoly continues to compose and support new music and has several concert appearances scheduled for 2007.

### **The Piano Team**

#### **Marc Wienert**

Marc Wienert is a piano voicing specialist located in New York City, where he serves as the Director of Piano Technical Services at the Manhattan School of Music, as well as president of Action Direct Piano. Marc's fascination with sound began long before he became a tuner. Fluent in French and English, he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in languages from Florida State University, where he also studied string bass and played guitar in several rock bands. Moving to Boston to study film scoring at the Berklee College of Music, he discovered the world-renowned piano technical training program at the North Bennett Street School, where he received his diploma.

He then moved to Paris, serving as a piano technician for many of the city's most prestigious performance spaces. Upon his return to New York in 1987, he worked at Steinway Hall. Today, Marc has an international clientele, where he specializes in bringing a unique voice to each piano. His work with the New York Piano Competition brought him to the attention of filmmaker Jarred Alterman, who used Marc as the subject of the award-winning documentary *Mott Music*, which looks at piano remanufacturing in the Bronx.

Wienert approached the voicing of the two Yamaha Disklavier Pro concert grand pianos for Zenph Studios' re-performances of Tatum's playing of the *Piano Starts Here* tracks by thoroughly researching Tatum's playing and by listening to the original recordings hundreds of times. He carefully matched the character of the pianos from the 1933 and 1949 recordings.