



DAKOTA PIANIST

DAKOTA PIANIST is the stage name of international pianist **EUGENE GIENGER**, native of Dakota, who has returned to settle in the Dakotas after an absence of 39 years. He is the only classical pianist from the Dakotas to have achieved an international reputation as a performer and master teacher. He has recently been awarded a **Touring Artist's Grant** from the **South Dakota Arts Council** (which will enable him to be heard in concert across South Dakota over the coming two years) as well as being designated a **YAMAHA** artist by the Yamaha corporation. Since being named a Touring Artist with the SDAC, he has given acclaimed concerts, lectures and master classes across a wide area of South Dakota, including Rapid City, Hot Springs, Custer, Marvin, Chamberlain, Wessington Springs, Aberdeen and Sioux Falls, including presenting Beethoven's Emperor Concerto with the Black Hills Symphony Orchestra. He will join the staff of the International Music Camp during the summer of 2011, on the border of North Dakota and Canada, of which camp he is an alumnus.

Since accepting a piano position in Australia in 1978, **DAKOTA PIANIST** has lectured in piano at both The University of Queensland (with tenure), and later in 1997 and following years at the Queensland Conservatorium Griffith University in Brisbane. He has found greatest renown as a teacher, however, in working with gifted young children in an independent practice in Toowoomba, Queensland, where he developed a unique method of teaching piano technique and ear-training to the very young. His teaching activities have produced **first prize-winners** of many local, state, national and international piano competitions, as well as producing important piano teachers in Australia, the United States, England, Taiwan and Germany. Mr Gienger is the author of *The Mechanics of Piano Technique* (1980), which he uses in his work with students.

Highlights of his highly acclaimed piano concerts include performances and lectures on all **32 Piano Sonatas of Beethoven**, many first performances and recordings for the Australian Broadcasting Commission

His orchestral performances include the *Minnesota Orchestra*, the *Bismarck/Mandan Symphony Orchestra*, the *Queensland University Musical Society*, and the *Queensland University Symphony Orchestra*, performances with prominent instrumentalists and singers, and performances at the **International Piano Competitions** of Sydney and Moscow (Tchaikovsky Competition).

DAKOTA PIANIST holds honors degrees in piano performance from the **University of Minnesota** and **Indiana University**, where he was named personal teaching assistant to Menahem Pressler of the world-renowned *Beaux-Arts Trio*. His recordings include "**Virtuoso Praise**" on the Salt of the Earth label, "**Home Recital I**," "**Bach to Penberthy**," and "**A Bit of Bach and Lots of Liszt**" (with "**Even More Liszt**").