

Michael Messer, D.M.A.

Pianist Michael Messer performs music in a wide spectrum of styles and enjoys presenting audiences with less familiar works while bringing fresh interpretations to classic repertoire. Derrick Robinson, Seattle-based music, film, and book critic, called Messer's rendition of American composer Frederic Rzewski's North American Ballads "a thrilling interpretation of Rzewski's extraordinary work". As a soloist, he has collaborated with the Seattle Festival Orchestra, the Wheaton College Symphony Orchestra, the Wheaton College Symphonic Band, and the Illinois Valley Symphony Orchestra. His recent concerto performance with the Illinois Valley Symphony Orchestra was described as "incredible, mesmerizing, and exciting!"

Messer's musical activities have taken him throughout the United States and Europe, performing chamber and solo works. His private teachers have included pianists Karin Redekopp Edwards, Winston Choi, and Christopher Taylor. In 2021, Messer completed a doctorate in music at the University of Wisconsin–Madison. His unique projects include a critical edition of composer Hanns Eisler's Piano Sonata No. 3, an expansive compilation of music written for organ and piano duo, and a solo piano program highlighting music written for the left hand alone. Messer teaches piano and piano-related courses at the Wheaton College Conservatory of Music.