

Sunday, October 31, 2010, 7pm
Hertz Hall

Strictly Speaking

Alfred Brendel



Benjamin Enlow/Getty

Does Classical Music Have to Be Entirely Serious?

Cal Performances' 2010–2011 season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.

FOR 60 YEARS, pianist **Alfred Brendel** has enjoyed a distinguished international career, concentrating on the works of central European composers from Bach to Schoenberg with particular recognition for his landmark performances and recordings of the complete piano works of Beethoven, Mozart and Schubert. He has performed regularly at the world's major music centers and festivals and with virtually all of the leading orchestras and conductors. His extensive discography for Philips Classics has made him one of the most respected artists of our time. Mr. Brendel performed his final concert December 18, 2008, with the Vienna Philharmonic.

This season, Mr. Brendel tours North America, lecturing at Harvard University, New York University, the University of Southern California's Brain and Creativity Institute, the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto and Cal Performances at UC Berkeley, and gives master classes at the New England Conservatory and the Juilliard School. In Europe, he has lectured at the Klavier Festival Ruhr, at the Schubertiade in Schwarzenberg, in Dusseldorf and Weimar, at the Wigmore Hall in London, and at universities and festivals in Dresden, Dublin, Vienna, Istanbul and Berlin.

Mr. Brendel has received honorary degrees from many universities, including Oxford and Yale, and was appointed an honorary Knight Commander of the British Empire in 1989 for

his "Outstanding Services to Music in Britain," where he has made his home since 1972. In 1992, he received the Hans von Bülow Medal from the Berlin Philharmonic and was granted Honorary Membership in the Vienna Philharmonic in 1998. In 2001, he was presented with Lifetime Achievement awards at both the MIDEM Cannes Classical Awards and the Edison Awards in Holland, and was given the prestigious "Beethoven Ring" in Vienna. He has received the Leonie Sonning Prize, the Furtwängler Prize for Musical Interpretation and the Robert Schumann Prize, as well as the 2004 Ernst von Siemens Prize, the 2007 Artur Schnabel Prize in Venice and the 2008 Karajan Prize. He was named Præmium Imperiale Laureate by the Japan Art Association in 2009.

Besides music, literature is Alfred Brendel's foremost interest and second occupation. He has published two books of essays, *Musical Thoughts and Afterthoughts* and *Music Sounded Out*, and a volume of collected essays, *Alfred Brendel on Music*, was published in January 2001 to mark his 70th birthday. His many published collections of poetry have been translated into French, Italian and Dutch. Two collections, *One Finger Too Many* (Random House) and *Cursing Bagels* (Faber & Faber), are available in English. A book of conversations with Martin Meyer, *Ausgerechnet ich*, was published in 2001, with the English version, *Me, of All People*, released in 2002.