

## Pianist sets sights on Chopin's complete works

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**Brian Ganz prepares for multiyear exploration** at the National Philharmonic. Buy Tickets. December 09, 2010 | By Tim Smith, The Baltimore Sun

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Brian Ganz is preparing to climb a musical Mt. Everest. He wants to perform all 250 keyboard-based works of Frederic Chopin. He's in no hurry, though. "This will probably take the better part of a decade," he said.

Ganz will give a preview of the venture Saturday in Annapolis. The Chopin project will then be launched with a recital next month at the [Music Center at Strathmore](#) in North Bethesda, where Ganz will eventually perform Chopin's piano/orchestra works with the

National Philharmonic.

"I play a lot of Chopin's music, but there is plenty left I have to learn," said the pianist, who is on the piano faculties of the Peabody Institute, where he studied with Leon Fleisher, and St. Mary's College of Maryland. "I won't do more than two recitals a year at Strathmore. But at the end of the project, I would like to do all of the music in a series of performances within a few weeks."

The Polish-born Chopin has long fascinated Ganz. "Often when I play music by other composers, as much as I love it, it can feel like a slightly foreign language," he said. "When I play his music, I feel I am hearing it in my own native language."

Last January, Ganz performed in Chopin's homeland for the first time. "I felt honored to be there," he said. "I visited the church in Warsaw where Chopin's heart is encased. He's the spirit of his country."

The pianist's preview concert, covering work from Chopin's youth and mature years, will include a Q&A session. "I will also take a few requests," Ganz said.

*The preview is at 7:30 p.m. Saturday at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Annapolis, 333 Dubois Road. Admission is free. For more information, call 301-904-3690. For more information on the pianist's Jan. 22 Strathmore recital, call 301-581-5100.*

— *Tim Smith*