



Michael Chertock fashioned a successful career as a piano soloist, collaborating with conductors such as Keith Lockhart, Jack Everly, Robert Bernhardt, John Morris Russell, Thomas Wilkins, Carmon DeLeone, and the late Erich Kunzel. His many orchestral appearances include solo performances with the Philadelphia Orchestra, l'Orchestre Symphonique du Montreal, the Toronto Symphony, the Dallas Symphony, the Atlanta Symphony, the Baltimore Symphony, the Naples Philharmonic, the Detroit Symphony, the Chattanooga Symphony, the Utah Symphony, the Oregon Symphony, the Indianapolis Symphony, the Louisville Orchestra and the Dayton Philharmonic.

Chertock has recorded the John Alden Carpenter's Concertino for Piano and Orchestra with the BBC Concert Orchestra, Abbey Road Studio; the Roger Davis Piano Concerto in F, with the Sofia Philharmonic; and the Rhapsodies of Piano and Orchestra of William Perry with the RTE Orchestra of Dublin, Ireland.

Chertock made his debut at the age of 17, performing the Rachmaninoff Piano Concerto No. 3 with Andrew Litton conducting. He made his Carnegie Hall debut in 1999 with the Cincinnati Pops Orchestra, performing Duke Ellington's New World A'Comin'. Chertock has toured Asia with the Boston Pops, and the Cincinnati Pops Orchestra. His 2003 performance on the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra's recording of Petrouchka with Paavo Järvi turned in rave reviews in Gramophone and American Record Guide. In 2005, Chertock performed Gershwin's Concerto in F Major with Maestro Lockhart and the National Youth Orchestra of London. Later that year, Chertock performed the world premiere of "Jeux Deux" for hyper-piano and orchestra by Todd Machover, commissioned by the Boston Pops expressly for Mr. Chertock.

Claude Gingras of La Presse, Montreal, said of pianist Michael Chertock: "Chertock revealed himself as a first-rate pianist and an interpreter of noticeable interest through the freshness that he brought to these familiar scores....(he) displayed the sensitivity of a Chopin interpreter." The Boston Globe, with guest critic Anthony Tommasini (currently chief music critic of the NY Times), called his playing "unmannered, zestful, and lovely." The Cincinnati Enquirer has described Chertock's playing as "intelligent and disciplined...noble...finely finished...expressive and well-controlled." The Salt Lake City Deseret News said "Chertock... is a musical performer with an immense technical command of the piano."

Chertock began conducting in 2001 when he stepped in for Maestro Carmon De Leone in performances of Cincinnati Ballet's The Nutcracker. Chertock is the conductor of the Blue Ash-Montgomery Symphony Orchestra, located in suburban Cincinnati, Ohio, and he frequently composes and arranges music for the orchestra's concerts. He has conducted the Columbus Symphony (Ohio) and the Cincinnati Symphony in performances of The Nutcracker. In 2015, 2016, and 2017, Chertock conducted the State Symphony Orchestra of Moscow and the Moscow Conservatory Orchestra in programs devoted to the music of George Gershwin.

He has garnered numerous awards at major competitions, among them the top prize in the 1989 Joanna Hodges International Piano Competition (Brahms Division,) and the grand prize in the 1993 St. Charles International Piano Competition. He also shared the silver medal in the 1991 World Piano Competition of the American Music Scholarship Association. He received the Rildia B. O'Bryon Cliburn Scholarship in 1986.

In 1994, Chertock released his first CD on the Telarc label, a collection of his original arrangements of music from movies entitled Cinematic Piano. American Record Guide said "(Chertock) plays beautifully, and Telarc's lush sonics bathe the listener in an intoxicating wash of piano sonorities." Cincinnati Enquirer critic Janelle Gelfand called it "one of the most gorgeous discs of the summer," citing his "elegant techniques...just the right poetic tone." The recording has sold more than 30,000 units worldwide. Since then, he has recorded three more discs with Telarc: Palace of the Winds, Christmas at the Movies and Love At the Movies, which have been praised for their lush, original arrangements and exquisite technical facility.

In 2004 Chertock joined the faculty of the University of Cincinnati, College-Conservatory of Music, where he is currently chair of the Piano Department. Chertock makes his home in Mason, Ohio with his wife Maaike, son Joshua and daughters Maria and Janneke.

REPERTOIRE HIGHLIGHTS: Messiaen's Turangalila-Symphony; Bernstein's Age of Anxiety; Daugherty's Tombeau de Liberace; Machover's Jeux Deux; Rachmaninoff concertos 1, 2 and 3; Tchaikovsky Piano Concerto #1 in b flat minor; Stravinsky Capriccio; Prokofiev concertos 1, 2 and 3; Gershwin Rhapsody in Blue, Rhapsody #2, Concerto in F; and Roger Davis' Piano Concerto in F.

OUTREACH: Michael Chertock is the Artistic Director of Cincinnati's Peanut Butter and Jam Series performing programs for young children ages 2 to 5. He also performs benefit concerts for Habitat for Humanity and Cincinnati Respite Care.

EDUCATION: Michael Chertock received his Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in music from the University of Cincinnati-College Conservatory of Music where he studied with Frank Weinstock. His other teachers have included Thomas Schumacher, Robert Weirich, and James Sempeles.

Chertock was commanding from the opening notes with impressive fluency and a deft but sparkling touch. His tone was powerfully projected....He seemed to own this work (Rachmaninoff's Variations on a Theme of Paganini). ~ Mel Wilhoit, Chattanooga Times

Chertock played magnificently. He is a musical performer with an immense technical command of the piano. ~ Edward Reichel, Deseret News

Michael Chertock revealed himself as a first-rate pianist and an interpreter of noticeable interest through the freshness that he brought to these familiar scores... the 30-year-old pianist displayed the sensitivity of a Chopin interpreter. ~ Claude Gingras, La Presse Montreal.