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Music: Debuts

Daniel Berman, Pianist, Plays Bach to Earl Wild

Daniel Berman, a young pianist who has studied in New York and West Germany, played Bach, Schumann, Beethoven and some Earl Wild arrangements of Gershwin songs at Carnegie Recital Hall on May 1.

Mr. Berman's playing seemed to echo the Germanic side of his training, especially in its unswerving steadiness of movement and earnest musical correctness. His technique was strong enough to negotiate the difficulties of both Schumann's "Carnaval" and the Beethoven Sonata in E (Op. 109), but there was never really a sense of pianistic coloring — Mr. Berman's touch usually ranging from the dully loud to the oppressively loud. There was also an admirable orderliness in Mr. Berman's uniformity of phrase. The variations movement of the Beethoven, however, often lapsed into the ponderous and the plodding because of it.

Mr. Berman loosened considerably in Mr. Wild's virtuoso versions of "Liza," "Embraceable You" and the like. These ornate arrangements cried out for more variety of sound than Mr. Berman could manage, but Gershwin's marvelous music still came across.

Bernard Holland