

A PIANO WITH 3 TALES

*A three-part production featuring the acclaimed
A Kite's Tale alongside two world premieres*

for audiences age 4 - 12
duration 1 hour

Blair
Thomas
& Co.
PUPPET THEATER

Contact: Blair Thomas
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Production credits

Pianist

Mary Rose Norell

Puppeteers

Lizi Breit
Sam Deutsch
Sarah Fornace
Dan Kerr-Hobert
Julia Miller

Puppet Design

Blair Thomas
Jesse Mooney-Bullock
Andrea Everman

Created and directed by
Blair Thomas

In this production, a **classical piano recital masquerading as puppet show**, young audiences experience masterworks by monumental composers for the instrument, not to mention an enthralling tune for toy piano (yes, toy piano!) by living composer Stephen Montague.

Three pieces for piano are collected in this hour-long spectacle for children and children-at-heart, all performed in their entirety, live, by acclaimed pianist Mary Rose Norell. Modest Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition*, Frederic Chopin's *Scherzo in b minor* and Montague's *Mirabella a Tarantella* (for toy piano) are each realized by a cast of Blair Thomas' handmade puppets of all kinds, from bunraku dolls to larger-than-life human-sized costumes. Featuring brand-new characters and narratives, this delightful family show exercises the imagination and reveals the magical power of wordless music.

COMING SPRING 2014

Performance History

Detroit Institute of Arts
Music Institute of Chicago, Evanston
National Puppetry Festival
New Jersey Symphony Orchestra
Reek School
Millennium Park Chicago
Chicago Cultural Center
Chicago Symphony Orchestra
University of Maryland
Sherwood Conservatory of Music
Chicago Park District
Rhino Theater Festival

“Very few cities have a native theater company such as Blair Thomas and Company, where **visual delicacy and an open heart** are at the core of the art.” – Chris Jones, *Chicago Tribune*

“The audience audibly gasped, and I saw many of the younger kids in the audience clinging tightly to their mothers. It was an electric moment, and just one of many throughout the show. The handcrafted and hand-painted puppets and dynamic performances transformed the event beyond the traditional concept of puppet show, and into **an in-motion work of highly-refined folk art.**” – *KnightArts*



SPONSORSHIP

Slated to reach an audience of 3,000 spanning a range of cultural and economic backgrounds, *A Piano with 3 Tales* provides a sound opportunity for investment. Corporate sponsors of *A Piano with 3 Tales* enjoy high-profile acknowledgment and exclusive access to the artists while demonstrating support for innovative and family-friendly art to civic leaders and Blair Thomas & Co.'s most prominent patrons and donors.

ABOUT BLAIR THOMAS & CO.

Blair Thomas co-founded Red-moon Theater in 1989 and has been honored by the Illinois Arts Council and the Jim Henson Foundation. Thomas currently teaches at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

Blair Thomas & Co. is a national and international touring puppet theater company that was founded in 2002 in Chicago by puppeteer and director/designer Blair Thomas. They have made over a dozen original puppet theater pieces including: *Cabaret of Desire*, a staging of short works by Federico Garcia Lorca; *The Ox-herder's Tale*, an interpretive staging of the Buddhist parable of 10 painting of enlightenment; *A Kite's Tale*, a collection of piano pieces staged with silent narratives including Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition*; and a stage production of *Pierrot Lunaire*, Arnold Schoenberg's song cycle with the Grammy award-winning chamber music ensemble eighth blackbird. Twice Blair Thomas & Co. has received the international UNIMA awards for excellence in the art of puppetry. They are currently working an adaptation of Edgar Allen Poe as well as a production of *Moby-Dick*.