

Central welcomes pianist Mark Valenti Oct. 13

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PELLA — Pianist Mark Valenti will perform at Central College Saturday at 5 p.m. in Douwstra Auditorium as part of Central's annual Keyfest. The event is free and open to the public.

Valenti will perform various pieces, including "Sonata in A Major Op. 120" by Franz Schubert, "Three Pieces" by Jon Fisher, "Sonata no. 5, op. 53" by Alexander Scriabin and portions of "Twelve Etudes" by Claude Debussy. During the day, Valenti also will hold two master classes for teachers and students in the areas of memory, rhythm and aural understanding.

Valenti received a bachelor's degree from the Philadelphia Musical Academy and a master's degree from Northwestern University. In addition to giving solo recitals in cities throughout the country, Valenti has performed in France, Belgium, Hungary and Luxembourg as well as for former First Lady Barbara Bush in Washington, D.C. He also has worked extensively in the jazz field including performances with Gregory Hines, Frank Foster and Al Grey, and he appeared on television with singer and actor Christopher Durham.

Formerly professor of music at the University of the Arts in Philadelphia, Xavier University in Chicago and the Loire Valley Music Institute in France, Valenti currently teaches at his studio in Chicago, Ill.

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