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PRESS RELEASE

ALBANY RECORDS ANNOUNCES RELEASE OF WORLD PREMIERE RECORDINGS OF VARIATIONS MUSIC FOR PIANO BY LUCAS RICHMAN

Albany Records is proud to announce the release of *Lucas Richman: Variations*. Repertoire includes *Reindeer Variations*, *Umbrellaphant Variations*, *Variations for Giora*, *Music Can Make Your Life Complete*, *Variations at the Barre*, and *Zapped Taps* performed by Vijay Venkatesh, piano.

Lucas Richman has always considered the piano an integral part of his life. He considers his music for solo piano a creative extension of himself as an individual. The works here are piano adaptations of orchestral or chamber works but they all share the common genesis point of having evolved from sketches made originally at the piano. The other common thread between the works is that each piece has been conceived as a set of variations based upon original themes or motives.

In addition to composing, Richman is a Grammy award-winning conductor and currently serves as music director of the Bangor Symphony and was formerly music director of the Knoxville Symphony. Over the course of nearly four decades on the podium, he has garnered an international reputation for his graceful musical leadership in a diverse field of media. His music has been performed by more than 200 orchestras across the U.S. including the New York Philharmonic, the Boston Pops, and the symphonies of Detroit, Atlanta, New Jersey, and Houston. He has received numerous commissions from orchestras and chamber ensembles including the Pittsburgh Symphony, the Debussy Trio, and the Seattle Chamber Music Society, among many others. His first recording for Albany Records (*In Truth*) was released in 2015.

Hailed by the *Herald-Tribune* for his “dazzling pianism verging on the impossible, effortless technical command and authority with a sense of poetry and refinement that belies his years,” pianist Vijay Venkatesh has been recognized on three continents as a pianist with profound musicianship and has been a top prizewinner in numerous competitions. He is a graduate of the Colburn School, USC Thornton, and Indiana University.

Lucas Richman: Variations is available online at www.albanyrecords.com; www.amazon.com; and for digital download at all major sites including iTunes, and Spotify.

www.albanyrecords.com