



## Richard Goode at Tanglewood: A Gem Delivered on a Perfect Summer Night

Reviewed by: Adrian Hill



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The best gifts come in small packages.

On Friday night, pianist Richard Goode, with the assistance of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, gave the audience at Tanglewood a **pitch-perfect performance of Mozart’s jewel-like Piano Concerto No. 14 in E-Flat, K-449**. The piece for full orchestra sounds more like a chamber music work, probably because of Mozart’s precise, minute-like composition. Like Bach, there’s often a mathematical like precision to Mozart’s music. It’s as if Mozart presents a mathematical problem, then goes about solving it throughout the piece. Or rather, he first turns the problem inside out and examines it from every angle. He could probably explain the solution very quickly. But being a true genius, Mozart seems to revel in showing us all the variations and alternatives to the logical conclusion to the piece.

This piano concerto written by Mozart fits perfectly into this category. Like many great pieces of music, there’s almost an inevitability to the composition. It’s almost as if Mozart was channelling music rather than creating it. **On Friday night, Goode tuned into the same frequency and delivered an utterly delightful performance of the concerto**. The piece requires a lighter-than-air touch. Like a soufflé or one of the dozens of delightful desserts you’ll find in Vienna, where Mozart wrote this concerto, a heavy-handed approach to this piece would have had a disastrous effect. Fortunately, **Goode is an old pro who knows how to whip up just the right amount of playfulness in the piece without going over the top**.

The co-director of New England’s other great summer music festival, the Marlboro Music Festival in Marlboro, Vermont, Goode wisely put the music first for the benefit of the audience. Some pianists want to dazzle audiences with their virtuosity or their over-the-top thrashing about, as if shaking your head or shoulders around while playing the piano brings drama to dramatic music. Please! **Goode understands that great music speaks for itself. All he simply needs to do is deliver a great performance and everyone wins.**

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