

## A New York debut

# 'I've been saving up everything for this'



Lance Wiseman, in his stocking feet, plays at home.

(Staff photo by E. Stace Leichter)

By Terri Higgins  
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When Lance Wiseman makes his New York debut at Weill (Carnegie) Recital Hall, he will abandon his somewhat boyish mannerisms and he *will* be wearing shoes.

"I force myself to wear shoes in concert," he said on a recent morning in his Wyncote home. "It would look a little ridiculous with tails."

But during a recent private performance in his 200-year-old home, which in prior lives was first a barn and then a carriage house, Wiseman played his Bosendorfer piano in his socks.

The Bosendorfer, he said, "is the finest piano made, without a doubt." No other piano maker would argue about the quality of the Austrian handmade piano, he said.

The piano is so delicate that it is possible to damage the pedals with shoes so, "I always practice in my socks."

Wiseman, 37, has been playing the piano since he was 5 and started performing in hotel lobbies around the world when he was a child. He has performed in London, Paris, Berlin, Zurich, Athens, Salonika and Tokyo, but he has known for some time the most important place to play in

order to "make it anywhere" is New York.

"I've been saving up everything for this," Wiseman said of his Dec. 11 concert.

At the time of his interview, he said he had just finished an 11-hour practice session that started at 4 a.m.

"I've worked out every single note of every passage of every little phrase," he said of the Chopin, Mozart and Schubert selections he will perform at his debut. "That's why I hear it in my head when I'm away from the piano. Some of my best practice is spent away from the piano. The fingers just come naturally."

Wiseman knew of his talent shortly after he began his first piano lessons, attributing the ease with which it came to his natural artistic abilities.

Growing up in Northeast Philadelphia with his parents, Anita and Dan Wiseman, he was often the host to his neighborhood friends when his expression came out in the form of puppeteering.

"We had a stage, a backdrop, a script, refreshments," he said.

When he was 5, he heard his first piano performances. Now he suspects he might have started playing earlier if his interest had

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