

Concert I - Lilya Zilberstein

Friday, November 18, 2011 8 PM, at Magee



"She has an iron-clad technique, and puts her immense power at the service of a wonderfully natural musicality; there are no frills to her playing, with nothing done for show, yet the impression it leaves is indelible." The Guardian, 2009

Since winning First Prize in the 1987 Busoni

International Piano Competition, **Lilya Zilberstein** has established herself as one of the finest pianists in the world. A captivating recitalist, **Ms. Zilberstein** appears regularly in music centres throughout the United States, Europe, and Japan. Recent performances have taken her to Madrid, Berlin, Budapest, Frankfurt, Hamburg, Innsbruck, Luxembourg, Stuttgart and Liverpool. Also a sought-after collaborator, **Ms. Zilberstein** has been performing duos with Martha Argerich for many years. In addition to show-stopping performances in Norway, France, Italy and Germany, a CD of the Brahms Sonata for Two Pianos played by **Ms. Zilberstein** and Ms. Argerich was released in 2003. Recent collaborations include extensive tours in the United States, Canada and Europe with Russian violinist Maxim Vengerov. Featured on the EMI recording *Martha Argerich and Friends: Live from the Lugano Festival*, Mr. Vengerov's and **Ms. Zilberstein's** performance of the Brahms Sonata No. 3 for Violin and Piano won a Grammy nomination for best classical album as well as best chamber music performance.

Lilya Zilberstein has also made numerous recordings for Deutsche Grammophon; these include the Rachmaninoff Concerti Nos. 2 and 3 with Claudio Abbado and the Berlin Philharmonic, the Grieg Concerto with Neeme Järvi and the Göteborg Symphony, as well as solo works of Rachmaninoff, Shostakovich, Mussorgsky, Liszt, Schubert, Brahms, Debussy, Ravel and Chopin. A native of Moscow, **Ms. Zilberstein** is a graduate of the Gnessin Pedagogical Institute.

Programme: Chopin, Beethoven

A reception for all will follow the concert

Concert II - Janina Fialkowska

Sunday, March 18, 2012 at 7:30 PM, at Magee



"... Fialkowska was always one of those "best-kept secret" pianists, loved by connoisseurs for her tonal refinement and exquisite musical taste, but her ordeal seems to have released a new lease of life in her music-making... the playing is sheer bliss. If you buy one Chopin selection this year, make it Fialkowska's."

The Sunday Times (London), 2010

Beloved the world over for her exquisite pianism, Canadian artist **Janina Fialkowska** has enchanted audiences for over thirty years with her glorious lyrical sound, her sterling musicianship and her profound sense of musical integrity. Blending her vast experience with her refreshingly natural approach "Fialkowska has become an artist of rare distinction as well as retaining all the virtuosity of her youth" (La Presse, Montreal, February 13, 2009)

In 1969, her career was greatly advanced by two events: winning the first prize in the CBC Radio Canada National Talent Festival and travelling to Paris to study with Yvonne Lefebure. One year later, she entered the Juilliard School of Music in New York, where she first studied with Sascha Gorodnitzki and later became his assistant for five years. In 1974 her career was launched by Arthur Rubinstein after her prize-winning performance at his inaugural Master Piano Competition in Israel.

During the 2010 Chopin anniversary year, three of Ms Fialkowska's CDs were released. The CDs were devoted to the music of Chopin and all three received stellar reviews from the most distinguished critics around the world. The "Chopin Recital" CD made it into the Gramophone classic charts as well as among the London's Sunday Times Top 10 "Best classical recordings of the year". It also received a nomination for the "International Classical Music Award 2011". Bryce Morrison raved in Gramophone Magazine about her double album "Chopin: Etudes, Impromptus, Sonatas": "Indeed, lesser mortals may well weep with envy at such unflinching authority."

Programme: Schubert, Liszt, Chopin

A reception for all will follow the concert

Concert III - Lukas Geniusas

Sunday, April 15, 2012 at 7:30 PM, at Playhouse



Lukas Geniušas won Second equal prize in the 16th International Fryderyk Chopin Piano Competition in Warsaw in 2010, and also the special award of the Fryderyk Chopin Society for the best performance of a polonaise in Stage II.

He was born in 1990 in Moscow. Being born into a family of musicians

played a major role in Mr. Geniusas's swift musical development at an early age. His grandmother, Vera Gornostaeva, a prominent teacher and a professor at the Moscow Conservatory, became his first mentor.

Since before his twelfth birthday Mr. Geniusas began taking part in international competitions and festivals: First prize at the 2002 International Young Pianist Competition "A Step to Mastery" in St. Petersburg; First prize in the 2003 First Open CMS Competition; Second prize at the 2004 Moscow International Chopin Youth Piano Competition; Second prize at the 2005 Gina Bachauer Youth Piano Competition in Salt Lake City; Second prize at the 2007 Scottish International Piano Competition; First prize at the 2008 7th Youth Delphic Games Russia; Second prize at the "Musica Viva" 2008 III Piano Competition in San Marino Italy; and First prize at the 2009 International Piano Competition "Musica della Val Tidone" in Pianello, Italy.

Mr. Geniusas has appeared with numerous orchestras including the Symphonies of Hamburg and Duisburg in Germany, BBC Scottish Symphony, Lithuanian State Orchestra, The Capella of St. Petersburg and he has collaborated with such conductors as Vladimir Ziva, Andrey Boreyko, Saulus Sondeckis, Dmitry Liss, Jonathan Darlington, Roman Kofman, Tadeusz Wojciechowski and others.

Mr. Geniusas has been a recipient of grants from both Vladimir Spivakov Foundation and Mstislav Rostropovich Foundation, and has been a regular participant of The New Names Foundation Concerts. He has been awarded The Russian Federation "Young Talents" (2005) and "The Gifted Youth of XXI century" (2007) federal grants.

Programme: Liszt, Chopin

Concert IV - Yulianna Avdeeva

Friday, May 11, 2012 at 8 PM, at the Chan Centre



"Her pacing is born of intelligent feeling and clarity of thought, and her ability to finesse Chopin's inner voices puts many to shame." —The Guardian, November 8, 2010

Twenty-five year old Yulianna Avdeeva won First Prize in the 16th International Frédéric Chopin Competition in Warsaw on October 20, 2010. The first woman to

win this competition in 45 years, she was also awarded the Krystian Zimerman Prize for the best performance of a sonata. In addition to her subscription debut with the New York Philharmonic, she will also appear for the first time with the NHK Symphony Orchestra in Tokyo, led by Charles Dutoit. Ms. Avdeeva has won many other prizes including the Bremen Piano Contest 2003 and the Concours de Genève 2006. At the age of 12 she received the First Prize of the International Carl Czerny Young Pianists Competition in Prague. Her honors also include First Prize in the Arthur Rubinstein in Memoriam Competition.

Born 1985 in Moscow, Ms. Avdeeva began her piano studies at age five with Elena Ivanova at the Gnessin Special School of Music for highly gifted young musicians. In 2003 she entered the Zurich University of the Arts to study with Konstantin Scherbakov, for whom she also served as assistant from 2006 to 2009. At the same time, she worked with Vladimir Tropp at the Gnessin Music Academy. In 2008 she graduated in both Zurich and Moscow with top grades and was accepted at the renowned International Piano Academy Lake Como.

Yulianna Avdeeva's repertoire spans a wide range of music, from Bach to composers of the 20th century. In addition to her work as a soloist she enjoys playing chamber music, and recorded Beethoven's Hammerklavier Sonata on a historic fortepiano.

From an early age Ms. Avdeeva has performed around the globe, with appearances at London's Barbican Centre, the Great Hall of the Tchaikovsky Conservatory, Paris's Salle Cortot, Vienna's Bösendorfer-Saal, and Zurich's Tonhalle, as well as at the Festival de Menton, Festival Chopin and His Europe in Warsaw, and at Musical Olympus in St. Petersburg.

Programme: Bach, Chopin, Ravel, Prokofiev

MISSION STATEMENT

The society aims to promote cultural interaction among the people of Vancouver, who come from a rich variety of ethnic backgrounds, and to emphasize the importance of music in our lives. We have chosen CHOPIN to name the Society because of the universal appeal of Frederick Chopin's music and his world-wide recognition as one of the greatest composers.

AFFILIATIONS

The VCS is a member of the International Federation of Chopin Societies, based in Vienna. This connection puts us in touch with some fifty other Chopin Societies worldwide, creating exciting possibilities for inviting international musicians to Vancouver.

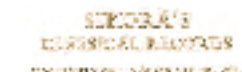
STRUCTURE

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Special Event - Liszt's 200th Birthday JOURNEY INTO THE UNKNOWN

The dialogues of Franz Liszt and
his daughter Cosima Wagner
by Don Mowatt

Sunday, November 27, 2011 at 7:00 PM
Vancouver Academy of Music

Franz Liszt was a virtuoso pianist, composer, conductor, teacher and promoter without parallel in Europe for much of the Romantic Century. Flamboyant, reclusive, brooding and innovative, his influence on music in general and piano performance in particular was legendary and provocative.

His daughter Cosima, by Marie D'Agout, grew up with absent parents. Yet the emotional and artistic line between father and daughter remained strong through Cosima's first marriage to conductor Hans von Bulow and her second to composer Richard Wagner. And, like her father, Cosima wielded unusual musical influence in Europe, especially in her case, in the period between the reign of King Ludwig II of Bavaria and the Weimar Republic.

Letters, diaries, memories and observations by friends and enemies form the basis of these powerful dialogues between Liszt and his daughter, with Liszt's own dramatic piano music linking it all.

This is a sequel, marking Liszt's 200th birthday, to Mowatt's play "Weeping Muse, Broken Lyre", an account of the relationship of Chopin and George Sand performed by the same artists at last year's Chopin Festival in Vancouver and in Poland, where the play has been translated into Polish.

Franz Liszt: Don Mowatt
Cosima Wagner: Carolyn Finlay
Piano soloist: Krystyna Tucka

YOUTH PROGRAMS

The future of classical music lies with the young generation, and in recognition of that we offer the following programs and activities.

Every year, the VCS presents at least one by-donation concert featuring an outstanding young pianist, working towards a career in music. Proceeds from these concerts go to young musicians and help advance the career of young talents.

The VCS also offers scholarships for outstanding young musicians in the province of British Columbia.

The VCS provides master class programs with some of the artists performing in our regular series.



THE VANCOUVER CHOPIN SOCIETY

2011-2012

Lee Kum-Sing
Artistic Director



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Purchase through Ticketmaster outlets, charge-by-phone 604.280.3311 or on-line at www.ticketmaster.ca.

For special event tickets call 604.871.4450 (\$15 each)

VENUES

CONCERT 1 and 2: Magee Theatre, 6360 Maple Street (at West 49th Ave), Vancouver.

CONCERT 3: The Vancouver Playhouse, Hamilton at Dunsmuir, downtown Vancouver.

CONCERT 4: The Chan Centre, 6265 Crescent Road, Vancouver.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Address: The Vancouver Chopin Society,
#400-601 West Broadway,
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Tel: 604.871.4450

E-mail: info@chopinsociety.org

Website: www.chopinsociety.org

Membership: all subscribers are members of the Society. Membership for non-subscribers: \$35 per person, \$50 per family

Artist and programmes are subject to change without notice

OUR POLICY IN CHOOSING THE ARTISTS

The Vancouver Chopin Society is distinctive in its approach to featuring artists of the keyboard not by their famous names, but for their specialty in Chopin's music and exceptional performances of classical repertoire. And with our unique international connections, particularly in the European countries, the Chopin Society has been able to bring to Vancouver audiences top Chopin interpreters such as Nelson Freire, Rafal Blechacz, Ingrid Fliter, Dinna Yoffe, Juana Zayas, Wojciech Switala, Zbigniew Raubo, Janne Mertanen, Ingolf Wunder and Daniil Trifonov. These former Chopin Competition laureates and judges have won the highest possible critical acclaim worldwide for their recitals and recordings of the music of Chopin and other composers, though some are generally not so well-known in North America. In many cases the Chopin Society has introduced them first to Vancouver.

Consequently, the Vancouver Chopin Society, which incidentally is the only Chopin Society in Canada, has been able to bring the highest caliber of artists to Vancouver audiences of music lovers, teachers and music students at very affordable ticket prices.

Thanks to the support of our donors and audiences, we look forward to continuing this tradition in seasons to come.

Lee Kum-Sing is a noted international competition jurist, as well as a celebrated pianist and teacher of some of this city's finest pianists, past and present. Under his artistic direction, the Vancouver Chopin Society will continue to introduce the most exciting Chopin interpreters to Vancouver audiences.

FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

It is our pleasure to welcome you here, and sincerely thank you, our supporters, as we enter an exciting 14th season. It would not be possible without you!

We have established a great history of a yearly four-concert series that includes established artists, as well as rising talents.

We are adamant on continuing to provide you with high-calibre artists, while maintaining the lowest possible price for subscriptions. We are able to do this because our society is entirely run by wonderful and dedicated volunteers.