

Music at the Museum

Russian Spectacular:
A Concert of Piano Duets



www.tmora.org

5500 Stevens Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55419

(612) 821-9045

Denis Evstuhin, Series Artistic Director

FEBRUARY 19, 2011

Tonight's concert is supported by:



Consulate General of Russia in Seattle



RUSSIAN AMERICAN BUSINESS AND CULTURAL ASSOCIATION

Willow Grove Center 8 Nathan Lane North Plymouth MN 55441
Phone: 763-595-9595 www.rabca.org



Heartland Adult Day Care (Inessa Marinov)

Arkady and Nelly Vainshtein

Dr. Elena Polukhin



1330 Grand Avenue, Saint Paul, MN 55105 651-695-1000

TMORA is grateful to Wells Pianos for the use of two rare Sauter Delta pianos for this concert. Only about 20 of these hand-made models are produced annually.

Promotional Partner:

Immigrant Media, Inc. and *Деньги* (*Money News*) Magazine

Saturday, February 19, 2011

RUSSIAN SPECTACULAR
A CONCERT OF PIANO DUETS

Alexander Braginsky, piano

Denis Evstuhin, piano

Ivan Konev, piano

Anton Melnichenko, piano

PROGRAM

Concertino for two pianos, op. 94 **Dmitri Shostakovich**
Denis Evstuhin & Anton Melnichenko (1906-1975)

Suite No. 1 for two pianos in G minor, op. 5 **Sergei Rachmaninoff**
I. Barcarolle (1873-1943)
II. The Night...The Love...
III. The Tears
IV. Easter

Ivan Konev & Denis Evstuhin

- INTERMISSION -

Symphonic Dances, op. 45 **Sergei Rachmaninoff**
I. Non allegro
II. Andante con moto (Tempo di valse)
Denis Evstuhin & Anton Melnichenko

Suite No. 1 for two pianos in F major, Op. 15 **Anton Arensky**
II. Waltz (1861-1906)
Denis Evstuhin & Alexander Braginsky

Plus an additional surprise to be announced from the stage...

ALEXANDER BRAGINSKY

PIANO



Alexander Braginsky was born and educated in Moscow. At the age of six he began his study of the piano with Alexander Goldenweiser, a classmate of Rachmaninoff and Scriabin. After Goldenweiser's death, he continued his studies with Theodore Gutman, another illustrious representative of the "Golden Age" of Russian piano in the first half of the 20th century.

Professor Braginsky's repertoire extends from Baroque to avant-garde. He has performed over twenty world premieres, many of which were commissioned and written for him, including Paul

Fetler's Piano Concerto commissioned by the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra. Braginsky has performed extensively in the former USSR, Israel, England, Belgium, Italy, Germany, Taiwan, China, Spain, France, Cuba and the United States. He has appeared on stage in collaboration with Yefim Bronfman, Oleg Kagan and other renowned artists. The London Times characterized Braginsky's playing as "splendid" and the Chicago Sun-Times called him "... a pianist with a fine, commanding sound that he can also use with great delicacy and expression."

Braginsky has recorded for the DDF, Sound StarTone and d'Note labels. He has appeared frequently on the BBC, National Public Radio, Radio-Television Belgium and other stations around the world.

Braginsky has given numerous master classes in Europe, Asia and North America. Currently, he teaches at the University of Minnesota School of Music where he is Professor of Piano. He is also the Director of the International Piano Institute at Hamline University in St. Paul. Many of his students have competed successfully in national and international competitions.

Professor Braginsky frequently judges international and national piano competitions. He is the Artistic Director of Musicians in Debut International (MIDI) as well as the Founding President and Artistic Director of the Minnesota International Piano-e-Competition.

"Music at the Museum" is an ongoing concert series at The Museum of Russian Art (TMORA) highlighting the exceptional tradition of Russian classical music composition and performance. Works by Rachmaninoff, Tchaikovsky, Rimsky-Korsakov, Prokofiev, Glinka and others have been performed to sold-out audiences in the Museum's sumptuous but intimate main gallery. The performers—many themselves Russian natives—are some of the finest musicians who call the Twin Cities home.



"Music at the Museum" was inaugurated with three concerts in 2010 organized jointly by the Museum and series Artistic Director Denis Evstuhin. A renowned pianist and native of St. Petersburg, Mr. Evstuhin first performed at TMORA to an enthusiastic full house in July 2009 and has performed on some of the world's most prestigious concert stages. We hope you enjoy this remarkable cultural and artistic endeavor.

Upcoming Concert:

SATURDAY, APRIL 9 5:00 PM

SOLO PIANO RECITAL

Chopin, Liszt, Prokofiev, Rimsky-Korsakov

Denis Evstuhin, piano

We are pleased to bring you this concert sponsored in part by TMORA member Mary Farquhar and family in honor of her father John Farquhar's 80th birthday.

*TMORA will begin promoting this event officially in several weeks.
We will not be taking reservations until that time.*

PROGRAM NOTES

Concertino for two pianos, op. 94

Dmitri Shostakovich

Shostakovich composed his Concertino in 1954 for himself and his son Maxim, who was then a student at the Moscow Conservatory. It is an uncharacteristically cheerful piece; much more so than most of Shostakovich's works. The brief concertino begins with tremolos and huge descending lines in the minor mode. The music soon switches to a faster tempo for the main body of the work; a lyrical tune in minor alternates with a playful tune in major. After a dramatic development and a mournful episode, the concertino ends with a racing passage—challenging work for both pianists. *Approximately 10 minutes.*

Suite No. 1, op. 5

Sergei Rachmaninoff

Suite No. 1 (or *Fantaisie-Tableaux* for two pianos) was composed in 1893. The suite illustrates four extracts of poems written by Mikhail Lermontov, Lord Byron, Fyodor Tyutchev and Aleksey Khomyakov. This work was first performed on November 30, 1893 by Rachmaninoff and Pavel Pabst in Moscow, and is dedicated to Tchaikovsky. *Approximately 23 minutes.*

Symphonic Dances, op. 45

Sergei Rachmaninoff

Completed in 1940, *The Symphonic Dances* was Rachmaninoff's last composition. An arrangement for two pianos was written concurrently with the orchestral version. The work is fully representative of the composer's late style with its curious shifting harmonies and the grotesquerie of the outer movements. Its original name was *Fantastic Dances*, with movements entitled "Noon," "Twilight," and "Midnight." The Dances allowed Rachmaninoff to indulge in nostalgia for the Russia he had known as a younger man and to effectively sum up his fascination with ecclesiastical chants. *Approximately 20 minutes.*

Waltz from Suite No. 1, op. 15

Anton Arensky

The Waltz for two pianos from the first suite is probably Arensky's most famous piece. It's a glittering salon trifle, related in thematic material and mood to Glazunov's two concert waltzes. The structure is fairly simple; the full tune is repeated a couple of times, louder and with greater ornamentation, then breaks apart into its highly decorated components, and then is reconstituted and broken apart again. Here, Arensky makes extensive use of glissandos and ornamental figures. *Approximately 5 minutes.*

DENIS EVSTUHIN

PIANO; MUSIC AT THE MUSEUM ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Russian pianist Denis Evstuhin was born in St. Petersburg and began his musical training at the age of five. He has performed in major cities and venues throughout Germany, Austria, Spain, Russia, France, Switzerland, Finland, Poland, Estonia, and the US. Mr. Evstuhin has been presented on some of the world's most prestigious concert stages, including the Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles, Orchestra Hall in Minneapolis, the Great Tchaikovsky and Rachmaninoff Halls in Moscow, the Mariinsky Theater and the Philharmonic Hall in St. Petersburg, and the Warsaw Philharmonic in Poland.



He has appeared on radio and television in Russia, Europe and the US, including Russian National Television and Minnesota Public Radio, performing works by Haydn, Beethoven, Schubert, Schumann, Chopin, Liszt, Tchaikovsky, Rachmaninoff, Prokofiev and Shostakovich. In 2010, he appeared twice on Public Radio's "A Prairie Home Companion" and "Performance Today."

Denis Evstuhin is a laureate of numerous prestigious international piano competitions, including the Paderewski International Piano Competition, the Andorra International Competition, the Minnesota International Piano-e-Competition, the Rachmaninoff International Piano Competition in Los Angeles, the Iowa Piano Competition, and others.

Mr. Evstuhin holds Bachelor's and Master's of Music degrees from the St. Petersburg Conservatory. Like Anton Melnichenko, he earned an Artist Diploma from Hamline University in St. Paul. He continues to work with Professor Alexander Braginsky and is currently pursuing a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Piano Performance at the University of Minnesota.

IVAN KONEV

PIANO



Ivan Konev was born in Ukraine and educated in Moscow, where he received Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Piano Performance from the Music College affiliated with the Moscow Conservatory and the Gnessin Academy of Music. Upon graduation, he continued his piano and liberal arts education at Hamline University, completing a Master of Arts degree in Liberal Studies in 2006. In 2010, Ivan completed his Doctoral degree in Piano Performance at the University of Minnesota, where he studied under professor Alexander Braginsky.

As a soloist, Mr. Konev has won prizes in a number of local and international piano competitions, including the Andorra International Piano Competition, the Corpus Christi International Piano Competition, the Schubert Club Scholarship Competition, the University of Minnesota School of Music Concerto Competition, and the Bell Scholarship Competition.

An active performer in the United States and abroad, Konev has appeared in solo and chamber music concerts showcasing not only a standard repertoire, but also newly composed or rarely played masterpieces in such venues as the United States Embassy in Moscow, Orchestra Hall and Ted Mann Concert Hall in Minneapolis and numerous others. As a chamber music collaborator, Konev performs regularly with faculty members of University of Minnesota School of Music and members of the Minnesota Orchestra.

Although Ivan Konev has built a professional life in the United States, he returns frequently to Russia and Ukraine to present concerts and educational programs. This season, together with his wife—a professional violinist and long time member of the Russian State Symphony—he will perform Mendelssohn's Concerto in D minor for violin and piano with the Kharkov Philharmonic Orchestra and Rachmaninoff's Rhapsody on the theme of Paganini with the Crimea Philharmonic Orchestra.

ANTON MELNICHENKO

PIANO

Anton Melnichenko was born in Ufa, Russia. He started piano lessons at the age of six and gave his first public solo recital at age twelve. Since then he has performed annually in recitals across the Russian Federation and abroad with great success.



From 2003-08, Anton studied at the Moscow Conservatory with professor S. Dorensky and his assistant A. Pisarev. After completing his studies at the Conservatory in 2008, Anton moved to the United States. Last year Anton received a post-graduate Artist Diploma from the Hamline International Piano Institute and currently studies at the University of Minnesota School of Music with professor Alexander Braginsky.

Anton Melnichenko is a multiple prizewinner of both international and regional piano competitions and festivals. He won first prizes at the Art of the XXI Century Competition (Kiev, Ukraine 1998), the Gavrilin International Piano Competition (Vologda, Russia 2001), "Citta di Fasano" (Fasano, Italy 2008), as well as The Schubert Club Competition (St. Paul, MN 2009). He has also received high honors at many regional Russian competitions.

Aside from competitions, Anton Melnichenko has performed in concert halls across Russia and Ukraine, in Andorra, Italy and the United States. Since 2000, Anton has collaborated with the National Symphonic Orchestra of his native Republic of Bashkortostan, Russia.

Anton has also made several guest appearances on radio and television in both Russia and the US, most recently on Minnesota Public Radio in April 2009, where he was interviewed and performed works by Bach and Shostakovich.
