



“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 Glinka, Shostakovich, Rachmaninoff, Tchaikovsky, Prokofiev, Rimsky-Korsakov, Mussorgsky, and others have been performed to sold-out audiences in the Museum’s sumptuous but intimate main gallery. The series’

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.

Tonight’s concert is supported by:



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Saturday, October 15, 2011

PIANO GALA at The Museum of Russian Art

Denis Evstuhin, Anna Keiserman, Ivan Konev, Anton Melnichenko

PROGRAM

“Mother Goose” suite (version for piano with four hands) **Maurice Ravel**
I. Sleeping Beauty's Pavane (1875-1937)

II. Little Tom Thumb

III. Empress of the Pagodas ("Little Ugly Girl")

IV. The Conversations of Beauty and the Beast

V. The Fairy Garden

Denis Evstuhin & Anna Keiserman

Sonatine

Maurice Ravel

I. Modéré

II. Mouvement de menuet

III. Animé

Denis Evstuhin

La valse (version for solo piano)

Maurice Ravel

Ivan Konev

- INTERMISSION -

Valse-Fantaisie (arr. for four-handed piano by S. Liapunov) **Mikhail Glinka**
Denis Evstuhin & Anton Melnichenko (1804-1857)

Andante Maestoso from the “Nutcracker” Suite, op. 71a **Pyotr Tchaikovsky**
Anton Melnichenko (1840-1893)

Prelude in B minor, Op. 32 No. 10 **Sergei Rachmaninoff**
Anna Keiserman (1873-1943)

Six Duets for piano with four hands, op. 11 **Sergei Rachmaninoff**

I. Barcarolle

II. Scherzo

III. Russian Song

IV. Waltz

V. Romance

VI. Slava (Gloria)

Ivan Konev & Denis Evstuhin

ANNA KEISERMAN

PIANO



Anna Keiserman was born in Ekaterinburg, Russia and began her piano studies at the age of five at the Volgograd Music School. At the age of fifteen, she made her debut with the Volgograd Symphony National Orchestra.

She continued her professional education at Volgograd Serebriakov College in 1997. Ms. Keiserman is a prize-winner at several national and international competitions, including the National Chamber music competition (Volgograd, 2001), the International Piano Competition of Young Musicians (Volgograd, 2002), and the International Piano Competition (Saratov, 1999).

Last year, she was a semifinalist at the International Russian Music Competition in San Jose.

Anna holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees from the Gnessin Academy of Music in Moscow, where she studied with Prof. Vladimir Tropp. During her studies, she participated in numerous concerts at the Gnessin Academy, performing as a soloist and in chamber music ensembles. In 2011, Anna was invited to study at the University of Minnesota School of Music with Professor Alexander Braginsky.

From 2004-2009, she worked as an accompanist at the Russian Academy of Theatre Arts on the faculty of Musical Theatre and Opera. There she acquired experience in accompanying vocalists and vocal ensembles with a substantial repertoire of styles—from baroque to contemporary.

During her education in Moscow, Ms. Keiserman also taught as an assistant of Professor Tropp and worked at the Nikolai Petrov Music School.

She has toured as a soloist and in chamber music ensembles throughout Russia and Italy. Anna has participated in numerous festivals including the International Keyboard Institute & Festival (New York, 2008-2010).

Valse-Fantaisie

Mikhail Glinka

This waltz was written in the summer of 1839 as a solo piano piece. In 1845, Glinka created an orchestral version of this work, but neither still exist. This final version was completed a few months before his death. In this composition Glinka transforms a short piece of applied music into an expansive symphonic poem that contains an incredibly rich range of emotions. It is a documented fact that Leo Tolstoy had Glinka's waltz in mind when writing Natasha Rostova's famous ball scene in *War and Peace*.

Nutcracker Suite, op. 71a

Pyotr Tchaikovsky

The Nutcracker Suite should not be mistaken for the complete ballet. In 1892 Tchaikovsky selected eight of the numbers from the ballet to comprise The Nutcracker Suite, Op. 71a, intended for concert performance. The suite became very popular on the concert stage, and was arranged for solo piano by Russian pianist and conductor Mikhail Pletnev in 1978.

Prelude in B minor, op. 32 No. 10

Sergei Rachmaninoff

The Prelude in B minor, Op. 32, No. 10, was written in 1910 along with thirteen other pieces. Rachmaninoff was inspired by Arnold Böcklin's painting "The Return."

Six Duets for piano with four hands, op. 11

Sergei Rachmaninoff

The rarely heard Suite for piano with four hands op. 11 was created in 1894. In 'Barcarolle,' swaying rhythms accompany a lyric melody that incorporates a typical swirling figuration to build to a climax. A brilliant and virtuoso 'Scherzo' is full of wit and rhythmic excitement. 'Russian Song' is a set of connected variations on an unidentified folk theme. It grows in intensity and volume up to the quiet reprise of the theme, which ends the piece. 'Waltz' is actually a suite of several continuous Waltzes in the traditional Chopin-esque style. The 'Romance' is a melodious and lyrical composition in a late Romantic style; it is beautiful, simple and unaffected. 'Slava' ("Gloria") is an impressive work based on the same Old Russian liturgical chant used by Mussorgsky in 'Boris Godunov.' The chant is subjected to continuing variations as it builds in intensity to a thunderous climax; an imposing and epic conclusion to the set.

PROGRAM NOTES

Mother Goose (*Ma mere l'oye*)

Maurice Ravel

This suite is well-known today as an orchestral composition. However, Ravel originally wrote *Ma mere l'oye* as a piano duet, based on fairytales. 'Sleeping Beauty' and 'Little Tom Thumb' were based on tales by Charles Perrault, while 'Little Ugly Girl, Empress of the Pagodas' was inspired by the tale 'The Green Serpent' by Madame d'Aulnoy. In this movement, Ravel takes advantage of the pentatonic scale. 'Beauty and the Beast' is based upon the version by Jeanne-Marie Le Prince de Beaumont. The origin of 'The Fairy Garden' is unknown.

Sonatine

Maurice Ravel

Ravel wrote the first movement of the Sonatine for a competition. Although Ravel was the only entrant, his composition was disqualified for being a few bars too long. Two years later, Ravel completed the second and third movements and the complete Sonatine was published shortly after. The opening theme of the first movement is subject to variations and transformations in the second and third movements, especially the opening 'falling fourth' motif, which is reversed into a series of ascending fourth 'horn calls' at the start of the third movement. The first movement is in sonata-allegro form and echoes of the following transformations can be heard in the final bars. The second minuet movement lacks the traditional trio section, in keeping with the shortened form of the Sonatine. The third movement is a toccata baroque of French composers Rameau and Couperin.

La valse

Maurice Ravel

The idea of La valse began first with the title "Vienna," as a tribute to the waltz form and to Johann Strauss II. Ravel completely reworked his idea of Vienna into what became La valse, which was to have been produced as a ballet under commission from Russian impresario Sergei Diaghilev. However, Diaghilev rejected Ravel's work. Ravel, hurt by the rebuff, ended their relationship. When the two men met again during 1925, Ravel refused to shake Diaghilev's hand. Diaghilev challenged Ravel to a duel, but friends persuaded Diaghilev to recant. The men never met again. Ravel described La valse with the following preface to the score: "Through whirling clouds, waltzing couples may be faintly distinguished. The clouds gradually scatter: one sees at letter A an immense hall peopled with a whirling crowd. The scene is gradually illuminated. The light of the chandeliers bursts forth at the fortissimo letter B. Set in an imperial court, about 1855."

DENIS EVSTUHHIN

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. In 2011 Denis made his New York debut at the International Keyboard Institute &

Festival.

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 on Public Radio's "A Prairie Home Companion" and "Performance Today." Later this year he will be featured on Twin Cities Public Television's "Minnesota Originals."

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-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, as well as a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Piano Performance from the University of Minnesota, where he studied with Professor Alexander Braginsky.

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 in St. Paul, 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 performed 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, Anton moved to the United States. Last year he received a post-graduate Artist's 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 21st 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.
