

(Program Notes, continued from p. 2)

Pyotr Illych Tchaikovsky wrote three ballets: *Swan Lake*, *Sleeping Beauty*, and *The Nutcracker*. Russian pianist, conductor, and composer **Mikhail Pletnev**, whose discography includes many of Tchaikovsky's orchestral works performed by the Russian National Orchestra under his baton, transcribed music from the first two ballets into suites for solo piano (and later into orchestral versions). Victor Carr, Jr., in a review of the orchestral suite version of *Sleeping Beauty*, said it is "the greatest of Tchaikovsky's three ballets, containing all of the composer's stylistic hallmarks: exquisite melodies, colorful orchestration, rhythm, drama, and passion, along with an uncanny ability to build powerful climaxes."

Sources: AllMusic.com, TheListenersClub.com, ClassicsToday.com, Wikipedia

The Visual Artists for November

Christopher Miller, oil painting
Meg Leonard, oil and pastel
Allen Bourne, photography
Maria Baca, photography
Carol Allen, jewelry

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Quarter Note: **Patt and George Cain**
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November 14, 2021

3 p.m.

Las Placitas Presbyterian Church

Tetiana Shafran

Gold Medalist

2019 Olga Kern International Piano Competition

Solo Piano

Concert Generously Sponsored by

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Program Notes

Frédéric Chopin's most familiar solo piano works are probably his nocturnes and polonaises, but his first published work, from 1825, was a rondo. This Op. 16 rondo, also known as "Introduction and Rondo," was written in 1833 and is the last of only three he composed for solo piano. The piece begins with a passionate introduction in c minor, followed by the joyful main theme in E-flat Major. The second theme is still lively, but somewhat more subdued than the first. To conclude, the main theme returns, followed by the coda.

Chopin wrote at least 59 mazurkas for piano, starting in 1825 and continuing until 1849, the year of his death. He based his mazurkas on the traditional Polish folk dance ("mazur" in Polish). Chopin employed classical technique in his mazurkas while retaining rhythms and extensive repetition that characterized their traditional counterparts. The four mazurkas of Op. 17 were composed in 1832-33 and published in 1834. No. 4 was used by composer John Williams in the 1987 Steven Spielberg motion picture, *Empire of the Sun*.

There are three versions of **Sergei Rachmaninoff's** second piano sonata. The original was composed in 1913 in Rome and Berlin and at his family estate in southern Russia. The composer performed it during a tour of his native Russia late that year. Although it was well-received, Rachmaninoff was dissatisfied with it and revised it in 1931, making significant cuts. Then in 1940, with the composer's consent, pianist Vladimir Horowitz created his own edition, which combined elements of both the original and revised versions. Although the piece has three movements, it gives the impression of being a single movement due to the interrelatedness of the themes.

Maurice Ravel's *Gaspard de la Nuit* is a suite of piano pieces written in 1908. It has three movements, each based on a poem or *fantaisie* by French poet Aloysius Bertrand. Bertrand, who published his collection of poems and drawings of the same title in 1842, claimed that it had actually been created by Satan. After the strenuous process of composing the piano suite, Ravel apparently said, "Gaspard has been a devil in coming, but that is only logical since it was he who is the author of the poems." Because of its technical challenges and profound musical structure, particularly in the third movement, it is considered one of the most difficult solo piano pieces in the standard repertoire.

(Program Notes continued on back cover)

Musical Program

Frédéric Chopin (1810-1849)

Rondo in E-flat Major, Op. 16

Mazurka in a minor, Op. 17, No. 4

Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873-1943)

Sonata No. 2 in b-flat minor, Op. 36, 1st Edition

Allegro agitato

Non allegro: Lento

Allegro molto

******Intermission******

Maurice Ravel (1875-1937)

"Gaspard de la Nuit," M. 55

Ondine

Le Gibet

Scarbo

Pyotr Illych Tchaikovsky (1840-1893)

"The Sleeping Beauty" Concert Suite, Op. 66

Arr. Mikhail Pletnev (b. 1957)

Prologue

Dance of Pages

Vision

Andante

Fairy of Silver

The Booted Tom-Cat and the White Cat

Gavotte

The Singing Canary

Little Red Riding Hood and Wolf

Adagio

Finale