

Musical Program

Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873-1943)

“Zdes’ khorosho” (“How Fair This Spot”)
from Twelve Romances, Op. 21 No.7, (1902)
(arr. Mindaugas Piečaitis)

David Önaç (b. 1984)

Five Études for Solo Piano (2005)

Alexander Scriabin (1872-1915)

Piano Sonata No. 4 in F-sharp Major,
Op. 30 (1903)
1. Andante
11. Prestissimo volando

Lowell Liebermann (b. 1961)

Piano Sonata No. 3, Op. 82 (2002)

INTERMISSION

Enrique Granados (1867-1916)

“Quejas, o la Maja y el Ruiseñor”
 (“The Maiden and the Nightingale”)
from Goyescas, Op. 11 (1911)

Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873-1943)

Piano Sonata No. 1 in d minor, Op. 28 (1908)
1. Allegro moderato
11. Lento
111. Allegro molto

**CONGRATULATIONS
TO THE WINNERS OF THE
2022 COMPETITION!**

Jonathan Mamora
FIRST PRIZE

Anthony Ratnov
SECOND PRIZE

Yanfeng Bai
THIRD PRIZE

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The Placitas Artists Series

Presents

Jonathan Mamora

Solo Piano

Olga Kern Gold Medalist

Sunday, November 10, 2024



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Notes On Today's Concert

Works by Russian composer, piano virtuoso, and conductor **Sergei Rachmaninoff** bookend today's concert of solo piano pieces. The composer was born into a musical family and studied piano and composition at the Moscow Conservatory. He is perhaps most famous for his four piano concertos, but he composed many works for solo piano, as well as several symphonic pieces, a bit of chamber music, and numerous choral works.

Among Rachmaninoff's choral works was a 1902 set of 12 Romances with lyrics supplied by various authors. According to SheetMusicPlus.com, the songs were composed "in a sweet moment in the composer's life: he had overcome a creative block and had just married his cousin Natalia Sarina." The site goes on to describe the seventh romance, "Zdes' khorosho," as "a beautiful song that talks about the bond between man, nature, and God. It's also a love song." It was one of 21 pieces that cellist Yo-Yo Ma and pianist Kathryn Stott included on their 2020 CD, "Songs of Comfort and Hope."

Rachmaninoff completed his Piano Sonata No. 1 in 1908, while he and his family were staying in Dresden, Germany and he was working on his second symphony. AllMusic.com, discussing Vladimir Ashkenazy's 2011 recording of this sonata, states that "[it] has often been overshadowed by the more famous Piano Sonata No. 2 in B flat minor, and its fairly loose structure, long displays of virtuosity, and meandering thematic material have made it a difficult piece to pull off convincingly." The writer of the FugueForThought podcast says, "I feel like this is one of the most intensely serious, powerful, handsome works for piano that Rachmaninoff (or anyone else I can think of) wrote."

According to SoundCloud.com, **David Önaç** "is a composer, pianist, director, and educator based in Manchester (UK). He is an award-winning composer of notation-based music for the concert hall, and an accomplished pianist who has premiered many of his own virtuosic works for and featuring piano. He is a versatile musician equally comfortable playing jazz and gospel styles as well as established classical repertoire."

Önaç Five Études for Solo Piano were used as the compulsory piece for the Scottish International Piano Competition in 2023. (Jonathan Mamora competed and won first prize that year.) According to the competition's website, Önaç's "virtuosic piano études were written while he was only 20 years old and studying for an MPhil in Composition at the University of Cambridge."

Alexander Scriabin was a contemporary – and friend – of Rachmaninoff's. They both studied with acclaimed teacher Nikolai Zverev and later were fellow students at the Moscow Conservatory. Scriabin had been composing for about a decade before completing his first of 10 numbered piano sonatas and he returned to the form periodically over the following 20 years.

Pianist Ruth Laredo recorded the entire set, along with a dozen of Scriabin's other piano works, in 1970. In her introduction to the 1996 Nonesuch re-release of the recordings, she states that during the period he was writing the Piano Sonata No. 4, "The texture of his piano playing was undergoing a tremendous transformation and he began to develop mystical ideas within the music itself."

Notes (Continued)

Scriabin scholar Faubion Bowers, in his notes for these recordings, says it was with this sonata that the composer "...took his first step in the direction that all his music would ultimately follow," emphasizing the importance of "the [mystical] concepts of svet (light) and vziyet (flight).

American composer, pianist, and conductor **Lowell Liebermann** studied with David Diamond and Vincent Persichetti at the Juilliard School. According to Wikipedia, Liebermann's music "combines elements of traditional tonality and structure with more adventurous harmonies." According to Liebermann's own website (lowellliebermann.com), he has written "more than 140 works in all genres, several of which have gone on to become standard repertoire for their instruments." He is on the composition faculty at the Mannes School of Music of the New School. His one-movement Piano Sonata No. 3 was written in 2002, commissioned by the American Pianists Association for pianist James Giles.

Enrique Granados was a Spanish composer and pianist who was among the leaders of the movement to develop a Spanish national style in classical music. Inspired by the paintings of Spanish artist Francisco Goya, Granados composed the famous suite of pieces popularly known as Goyescas. Music critic Harris Goldsmith, in his notes for Alicia de Larrocha's Grammy-winning recording featuring the suite, calls the movements "eloquent vignettes." Of the piece we will hear today, he says, "In this hauntingly lyric nocturne, a maiden sings to her nightingale and the bird answers in a rhapsodic, cadenza-like style." Perhaps the main theme will remind some in today's audience of a familiar song written in 1932 by Mexican songwriter Consuelo Velázquez.

[Notes compiled by Jay Rodman]

About Jonathan Mamora

Jonathan Mamora debuted with La Sierra University Orchestra at age 13 and has since performed with esteemed orchestras like the Royal Scottish National Orchestra and the New Mexico Philharmonic. He was recently a featured artist for the Los Angeles Philharmonic Affiliates of the Desert. His mentors include renowned pianists such as Jerome Lowenthal, Robert Levin, and Olga Kern. He has upcoming solo and concerto engagements across the U.S., Europe, and Africa, along with recording projects. An Indonesian-American pianist and educator from Southern California, Mamora uses music as a tool for service and upliftment. Initially trained as a church musician, he has expanded his reach, performing in homes, schools, community centers, and concert halls globally. His playing has been praised for its "poetic" and "assured pianism." In addition to performing, Mamora is an active educator and currently serves as the Music Director and Organist at St. John's Episcopal Church in Clifton Springs, NY. He holds a graduate assistantship in accompanying at the Eastman School of Music and has received the Eastman Excellence in Accompanying Award. A multi-talented musician, Mamora has also performed as a percussionist, vocalist, and conductor. He is a Doctor of Musical Arts candidate at Eastman, studying under Douglas Humpherys, with prior degrees from La Sierra University and Juilliard.

Exhibit Two Artists

Michelle D'Amour

"My oil paintings are mostly florals and fauna but in recent years I have painted waters from various sources, landscapes and desert cactus and vegetation. I like to get up close and personal with subjects."

Virginia Primozik

"Paper is my paint. I layer the unique textures, weights, and colors from an array of options - sheer lace paper from Japan, heavy bark paper from Mexico, and varieties in between. The process makes each canvas an experiment in technique and method."

Katie Thomas

"I have always had an interest in a wide variety of art forms. I have made quilts, spirit women, shaman and most recently, I have been creating mixed media pieces using beads and recycled jewelry."

LWren Walraven

"The wildlife that I portray are filtered through my own life experience in choice of color, expression, texture, and experimentation. Although the work is playful, I am laser focused on the fragility of wildlife and wild lands."

Art On Exhibit
11/1/2024 - 12/12/2024



Michelle D'Amour
Oil on Canvas



Virginia Primozik
Paper on Canvas



Katie Thomas
Mixed Media Art



LWren Walraven
Mixed Media Art