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Concert: 2010 Chopin Festival: Chopin the Poet

Charis Dimaras

Nathan Hess

Erik Correll

Gina Fortunato

Scott Gentile

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Authors

Charis Dimaras, Nathan Hess, Erik Correll, Gina Fortunato, Scott Gentile, and Natalie Khatibzadeh

2010 CHOPIN FESTIVAL
Chopin the Poet

Hockett Family Recital Hall
Tuesday, November 30, 2010
8:15 p.m.

Faculty Pianists:

Charis Dimaras
Nathan Hess

Student Pianists:

Erik Correll
Gina Fortunato
Scott Gentile
Natalie Khatibzadeh

Program

Prelude in C-Sharp Minor, Op. 45

Frederic Chopin
(1810-1849)

Nathan Hess

Impromptu in A-Flat Major, Op. 29

Natalie Khatibzadeh

Impromptu in F-Sharp major, Op. 36

Impromptu in G-Flat Major, Op. 51

Erik Correll

Ballade in A-Flat Major, Op. 47

Nathan Hess

Intermission

Ballade in F Major, Op. 38

Scott Gentile

Fantasia-Impromptu in C-Sharp Minor, Op. 66 (posth.)

Gina Fortunato

Selected Preludes, Op. 28

Charis Dimaras

Biographies

Charis Dimaras

As a soloist or with symphonies, award-winning pianist Charis Dimaras has charmed audiences from England to Hungary, Athens to New York, and many places in between. Greek concert pianist and conductor Charis Dimaras has presented numerous solo recitals, has collaborated in chamber music concerts, and has been featured as soloist with orchestras throughout Europe, Turkey, Russia, Brazil, Canada, and the USA. He has been the recipient of numerous awards and prizes (among them the British Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music Award, the Alexandros S. Onasis Beneficiary Foundation Scholarship, and the International Richard-Wagner-Foundation Scholarship), has been featured on NY's WQXR, on several Dutch, Italian, and Greek radio stations, and on Greek national TV. Dr. Dimaras has recorded works by Franck, Bartok, Prokofiev, and Stravinsky, and he has recently released a CD featuring piano works by contemporary Greek composers D. Mitropoulos and Y. Sicilianos. Dr. Dimaras, who holds degrees in piano performance from the Royal College of Music in London, from New York's Juilliard School, and Manhattan School of Music, is currently Associate Professor of Piano and Collaborative Studies at Ithaca College. In 2008, he was the Artistic Director of an international summer festival of Classical Music in Sparti, Greece, as well as the Artistic Director of the Renaissance Academy Chamber Music Concerts in Naples, Florida. During a recent sabbatical leave from Ithaca College, Dr. Dimaras completed an additional Master's Degree in orchestral conducting at Bard College. Since then he has appeared as guest conductor on both sides of the Atlantic, with such orchestras such as the St. Petersburg Philharmonic Chamber Orchestra and the Symphony Orchestra of the Greek National Opera.

Nathan Hess

Dr. Nathan Hess has appeared in concert to critical acclaim throughout the United States and Europe in solo, chamber, and concerto settings. Hess has performed concerti with the Erie Chamber Orchestra, Western New York Chamber Orchestra, and York Symphony Orchestra (PA), among others. Recent guest appearances and masterclasses have included East Carolina University, Oberlin College-Conservatory, Penn State University, and Buffalo State College.

Hess holds the Doctor of Musical Arts and Master of Music degrees from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, and the Bachelor of Music degree, summa cum laude, from James Madison University, where he was named a Presser Scholar. His major teachers have included Elizabeth Pridonoff, Eugene Pridonoff, and Eric Ruple, and he has performed in masterclasses for such luminaries as John Browning, James Tocco, and Emanuele Arciuli.

In demand as a chamber musician, he has performed with members of the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra,

Cleveland Orchestra, Syracuse Symphony Orchestra, and Buffalo Philharmonic. His chamber music coaches have included Sandra Rivers, Jane Coop, Ronald Copes, Seymour Lipkin, Marian Hahn, Jan Vogler, Charles Neidich, Kenneth Griffiths, Lee Fiser, and eighth blackbird. Hess has also acted as orchestral pianist with the Erie Philharmonic and Binghamton Philharmonic.

Hess performed in and produced a set of recordings for the textbook *Harmony in Context*, published by McGraw-Hill. For five years he chaired the piano program at the Pennsylvania Governor's School for the Arts (PGSA) in Erie, teaching piano, chamber music, theory, and history. His piano students from PGSA have attended institutions such as Manhattan School of Music, Oberlin College Conservatory, Eastman School of Music, Ithaca College, Temple University, University of Cincinnati, and Carnegie Mellon University. In addition to teaching and performing, Dr. Hess is active in MTNA and also adjudicates frequently throughout the region and East Coast. He has adjudicated the NYSMTA Young Artist Piano, Senior Piano, and Junior Piano Competitions, as well as the Empire Collegiate Competition. Prior to his appointment at Ithaca College, Dr. Hess taught on the piano faculties at Mercyhurst College and SUNY Fredonia. His former undergraduate students have gone on to graduate schools such as NYU, U. of Missouri Kansas City, East Carolina University, University of Cincinnati, and The Peabody Conservatory. He can be heard on the Centaur label in a recording with flutist Susan Royal.

Student Pianists

Sophomore Erik Correll is from Nazareth, PA. He is pursuing his Piano Performance degree with Dr. Jennifer Hayghe.

Gina Fortunato studies with Dr. Charis Dimaras. She is a sophomore Piano Performance/Music Education major from Syracuse, NY.

Hailing from Brooklyn, NY, senior Scott Gentile is completing his Piano Performance degree. He studies with Dr. Jennifer Hayghe.

In her sophomore year of the Piano performance degree, Natalie Khatibzadeh is from Hampton, NJ. She is from the studio of Phiroze Mehta.