3-7-2013

President's Piano Series

Sergei Babayan

Chapman University

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President’s Piano Series
Sergei Babyan, piano
March 7, 2013
Grace Fong, Artistic Director
SPRING 2013 calendar highlights

February
February 1
University Singers Post-Tour Concert
Stephen Coker, Conductor
February 7
President's Piano Series
Grace Fong & Louise Thomas, duo piano concert
February 14-16, 21-23
Twelfth Night by William Shakespeare
Directed by Thomas Bradac

March
March 7
President's Piano Series
Sergei Babayan
March 8
Chapman Chamber Orchestra & University Singers
Daniel Alfred Wachs, Music Director and Conductor
Stephen Coker, Conductor
March 14-16
Concert Intime
Directed by Alicia Guy

April
April 4
President's Piano Series
John Perry
April 4-6, 11-13
Stage Door
by George S. Kaufman & Edna Ferber
Directed by Nina LeNoir
April 19-21
Opera Chapman presents
The Merry Widow by Franz Lehar
Peter Atherton, Artistic Director
Carol Neblet, Associate Director
April 24-27
Student Produced One Acts

May
May 8-11
Spring Dance Concert
Directed by Jennifer Backhaus
May 11
Sholund Scholarship Concert
Daniel Alfred Wachs, Conductor

CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY
College of Performing Arts
presents the
President's Piano Series
Sergei Babayan, piano

Grace Fong, artistic director

The College of Performing Arts would like to thank the Rhea Black family for its generous financial support of the President's Piano Series.

As a Kawai EPIC Institution, Chapman University College of Performing Arts proudly features Kawai pianos in all performances.

March 7, 2013  •  7:30 P.M.
Salmon Recital Hall
Program

Ballade No. 2 in b minor
From the Cello Sonata in G minor, Op. 19
Melodia, Op. 21, No. 9
Sonata in b minor

~INTERMISSION~

From Vingt Regards sur l’Enfant-Jésus:

Franz Liszt
(1811–1886)

Sergei Rachmaninov
(1873–1943)

trans. A. Volodos

Olivier Messiaen
(1908–1992)

From the WTK and Klavierbüchlein for Wilhelm Friedemann Bach

J.S. Bach
(1685-1750)

Dedication

The concert is dedicated to the memory of Van Cliburn (1934-2013)

As a three-year-old child I was drawn to classical music listening to his magnificent recordings. I fell in love with the music of Tchaykovsky and Rachmaninov because of his unforgettable performances of Russian music.

I was privileged to dedicate to Van Cliburn my performance of Rachmaninov pieces last May at the Cleveland Institute of Music. He was present in the audience after a ceremony during which he received the CIM Honorary Doctorate. That was just weeks before we found out the terrible news about his health. I am so grateful to my life that I had the chance to tell him in person what he means to me.

"Dearest Maestro. You are irreplaceable. I am forever grateful for the inspiration brought to my life. I love you."

~Sergei Babayan

Text

Melodia

I would like to die on wings of ecstasy,
In a languorous slumber, evoked by a dream,
Without the agony of regrets or the torture of reflection,
Without faint-hearted tears of parting with the earth.

I would like to die in fragrant spring,
In an overgrown garden, on a balmy day,
So that heaps of dark lime-trees slumber above me
And flowering lilacs flutter.

There would be a brook nearby, with mysterious murmuring
Disturbing and awakening the mute tranquillity,
And the blue sky with solemn silence
Would clearly speak to me of heavenly eternity...

So I don't pray and cry, dying,
But fall into sweet slumber, and dream
That I drift... drift away, and that a mute wave
Silently carries me to another wave...
Artists

Hailed for unequalled emotional intensity, bold energy and phenomenal levels of color and imagination, **Sergei Babayan** brings new dimensions and insight to stylistically diverse repertoire. His artistic personality is a rare combination of emotional explosiveness and sensitivity, staggering virtuosity and immediacy.

A student of such legendary teachers and musicians as Gornostayeva, Naumov, Pletnev and Vlasenko in the Moscow Conservatory, Sergei Babayan was one of the first pianists from the former USSR who was able to compete without government sponsorship after the collapse of the system.

Immediately after his first trip outside of the USSR, he won consecutive first prizes in several major international competitions including the Robert Casadesus International Piano Competition (formerly the Cleveland International Piano Competition) (1989), The Palm Beach International Piano Competition (1990), The Hamamatsu Piano Competition (1991) and The Scottish International Piano Competition (1992).

Since that time he has had major engagements and concert tours throughout Europe, Japan, New Zealand, Australia, South Africa, South America and the USA. His New York recitals at Carnegie Hall and Alice Tully Hall, performances with the Cleveland Orchestra, Baltimore Symphony, and Detroit Symphony met with huge critical acclaim, as have his many subsequent recital and concerto performances throughout all the major cities in the US. His concert schedule has included performances and broadcasts throughout major European cities and extensive tours of Japan. He appeared with recitals in such important venues as Salle Gaveau in Paris, Wigmore Hall in London, Carnegie Hall in New York, the Warsaw Philharmonic, Severance Hall in Cleveland, Mariinsky Theatre in St. Petersburg, Herkulessaal in Munich, Liederhalle in Stuttgart, Meistersingerhalle in Nurnberg, Konzerthaus in Berlin, Brahms-Saal in Karlsruhe, Beethovenhalle in Bonn, Rudolfimun-Dvorak Hall in Prague and many others.

Sergei Babayan appeared in numerous major music festivals in France, Germany, UK, Poland, Spain, and the US. His concerts have been broadcast by WQXR, WCLV, Radio France, Polish Radio and Television, BBC-TV and NHK Satellite Television.

He has made several highly praised recordings for EMC, Connoisseur and New World Symphony. His performances with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra and the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra were received with great enthusiasm by audiences and critics alike.

He has collaborated with such conductors as Valery Gergiev, Yuri Temirkanov, Neeme Jarvi, Hans Graf, David Robertson, Tugan Sokhiev, Kazimierz Kord and Michael Christie, and has invited many orchestras to perform his concerto repertoire. He has recently invited by Gergiev to perform Prokofiev's 3rd piano concerto in his Easter Festival, and returned to London in 2010 to perform at the Barbican with the London Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Gergiev to much critical acclaim.

Other recent highlights include recital in Mariinsky Theatre and at the 92nd Y in New York, the Prague Spring Festival with the Janacek Chamber Orchestra, performance of Rachmaninoff's Third Piano Concerto in Berlin which was broadcast by the BBC.

The season 2011-12 Sergei Babayan made a number of appearances with Valery Gergiev in St. Petersburg's Mariinsky Theatre, Bolshoi Hall of the Moscow Conservatory and Théatre des Champs-Élysées in Paris, performing Beethoven's Concerto No. 1, the Rachmaninoff 3rd Concerto and Prokofiev's Concerto No. 5, which was broadcast live on Medici TV.

This season (2012-2013) brought piano duo performances with his famous student Daniil Trifonov and with legendary Martha Argerich, invitation to Salzburg Festival with Valery Gergiev and Prokofiev/Stravinsky Festival in Rotterdam to perform Prokofiev concerti with Valery Gergiev.

"Mr. Babayan belongs to an elite breed of new pianists. This is elegant playing, intelligent yet colorful, rational yet never wanting for passion and tenderness, irreproachable on every level."

American Record Guide

"One would be hard put to name a Bach interpreter of his standing today. The only comparison that springs to mind is the famous recording of Dinu Lipatti... His performance has tonal spectrum many orchestras would envy. Babayan is no mere pianist. He is a master-musician for whom the piano is his voice, his orchestra."

~ The Scotsman

Artists
Dear Alumni, Parents and Friends:

Performances like the one you are about to see are vital components of our students’ academic and artistic curriculum, helping them develop practical skills and artistic sensibilities. We are proud to showcase our visiting artists, giving our students access to live performance experiences that take them outside the traditional classroom.

As a lover of the arts, you have a crucial role to play to ensure our success and the success of the students who are at the heart of all we do. Your financial support helps to provide educational and performing opportunities necessary for our students’ growth into artists.

Please join our community of loyal alumni, parents and community partners who are devoted to developing the talents of the next generation of artists with a gift to the Fund for Excellence. The Fund for Excellence supports College of Performing Arts initiatives that directly benefit our students’ experience. Your gift impacts our programs by:

• Providing our students with opportunities to work with professional artists;
• Ensuring top notch community productions of classic and contemporary art;
• Strengthening our programs by maintaining our ability to attract the brightest and most talented students from across the country.

With your gift, you will be a part of a family of individuals who demonstrate, year after year, they are fully committed to developing the talents of young artists. I hope you join us not only because you value the arts, but because you want to invest in our next generation of artists.

Enjoy the performance, and I look forward to seeing you again throughout the season.

Sincerely,

Dale A. Merrill, Dean
Invest in our next generation of artists.

The College of Performing Arts brings you the most vital and powerful part of our curriculum – live performances of dance, music and theatre. This extraordinary hands-on training for our next generation of artists is possible only through your generosity.

By helping to maintain the resources essential to our curriculum, you allow the College to offer a dynamic learning environment that nurtures the creativity of our students with one-on-one training, ensuring they master their craft. We can produce exceptional performances like those you are about to see only with support from people committed to excellence in performing arts. People just like you.

Help support the College of Performing Arts’ talented young students as they transform into tomorrow’s professional artists. To learn more about giving to the College of Performing Arts, please contact Liz Crozer, Director of Development, at (714) 289-2085 or crozer@chapman.edu.

*Members of the Opera Chapman Guild

To inquire about giving opportunities, contact Liz Crozer, Director of Development, at 714-289-2085 or crozer@chapman.edu.