



The German Society of Pennsylvania

presents

American Virtuosi



Sunday, May 13, 2012 at 3:00pm

The German Society of Pennsylvania
www.germansociety.org

611 Spring Garden Street
Philadelphia, PA 19123

Calendar of Events

May 2012

- Sat. May 5 *Kindervorlesestunde*, Library, 10:00am
Sat. May 5 Women's Auxiliary 112th Anniversary Luncheon, noon
Sun. May 13 American Virtuosi, 3pm (see below)
Fri. May 18 Friday FilmFest presents "*Der rote Baron*", 6:30pm (*English*)
The story of World War One's deadliest air race
Sun. May 20 Annual Meeting Membership, 3pm
followed by GSP Board Meeting
Thurs. May 24 *Sommerfest* by "German Society Philly Kinder", Playground Merry Place/
Haverford Township, 4:30pm to 7pm (potluck buffet)
Wed. May 30 *Konversationsabend*, Topic: *Ein Heine-Brunnen in New York*, 7pm

June 2012

- Sat. June 2 Women's Auxiliary Monthly Meeting in the Ratskeller, 10am
Sat. June 2 Buchclub, Library, 1:30pm
Sat. June 2 *Kindervorlesestunde*, Library, 10:00am
Fri. June 15 Friday FilmFest presents "*Keinohrhasen*" 6:30pm (*German with English subtitles*)
Tues. June 19 **"Summer of Riesling" wine tasting event**
Sat. June 23 Wandertag of the *Konversationsabend*, most likely with the Philadelphia Trail Club

... Our 2012/13 Season will start in September 2012:

- Sunday, Sept. 30: The Wister Quartet, 3:00pm
Griffes - Two Sketches Based on Indian Themes
Haydn - **"Sunrise" String Quartet**
Debussy - String Quartet, Op. 10
- Sunday, Oct. 28: Maksim Shtrykov, clarinet & Alina Kiryayeva, piano, 3:00pm
Brahms - Sonata in F minor for Clarinet and Piano, Op.120, no.1
Beethoven - Piano Sonata No. 14 in C-sharp minor "Quasi una fantasia", Op. 27, No. 2
"Moonlight"
Schumann - **Fantasiestücke, Op.12**
Weber - Grand Duo Concertant Op.48 for Clarinet and Piano
- Wednesday, Nov. 21: **A Saxon's Thanksgiving: Chamber Music and Lieder Recitals**
From Bach to Auenmueller, 3:00pm
Presented by American Virtuosi, Philmore Ensemble and others.

American Virtuosi

PROGRAM

Sonata for Violin and Piano in G minor, L140

Allegro vivo

Intermède: Fantasque et léger

Finale: Très animé

Claude Debussy
(1862-1918)

Polichinelle, Op. 3 No. 4

Sergei Rachmaninoff
(1873-1943)

Five Pieces on Folk Themes for Cello and Piano

Peasant's Song on a Cart

Chonguri

Sachidao

Nana

Dance Tune

Sulkhan Tsintsadze
(1925-1991)

::INTERMISSION::

Sonata for Piano and Cello, Op. 102, No. 1

Andante — Allegro vivace

Adagio — Tempo d'Andante — Allegro vivace

Ludwig van Beethoven
(1770-1827)

Trio No. 3 (2012)

Elizabeth, Emmanuel,
and Frances Borowsky

There will be one 15-minute intermission. We offer refreshments from our bar during that time.

*Your ticket to our concert also invites you to a complimentary reception with the artist
in the Ratskeller (downstairs) following the performance.*

American Virtuosi — Biography

The *American Virtuosi* is a trio of Borowsky siblings, which has gained considerable notoriety, both in the United States and abroad, for their youth, infectious enthusiasm and, most importantly, for their artistic skills. **Hailed by the international press as “American Virtuosi,” the Borowsky family has been praised world-wide for their outstanding musicianship.**

The musical talents of Elizabeth, Emmanuel, and Frances Grace have been nurtured and encouraged under the guidance of Charles Borowsky and Cecylia Barczyk-Borowsky.

Charles is a noted social scientist who has utilized the arts to build bridges among people and nations. He has organized many international conferences and festivals dedicated to the promotion of music as a vital tool for cultural, social, and economic progress. He also plays the harmonica and occasionally performs together with his family.

Cecylia is an internationally renowned cellist who has performed in over 80 countries, received many international and national awards, and won prizes in international competitions including the Tchaikovsky Competition in Moscow, J.S. Bach Competition of Leipzig, and the Cassado Competition in Florence.

Elizabeth, Emmanuel, and Frances Grace began performing at an early age and have since accrued an impressive list of professional achievements and awards. In 2004, they jointly received the Erick Friedman Prize for Outstanding Young Musicians and performed their New York debut at Carnegie Hall.

Recent performances include a Pre-Olympic concert tour of China, a three-month residency at the Dilsberg Castle in Germany (as recipients of a grant from the Rhein-Neckar Kulturstiftung), performances as soloists in the Beethoven Triple Concerto and Barber Cello Concerto with the Young German Symphony Orchestra during their U.S. Concert Tour, and a concert tour of Ukraine, Poland, and Germany.

The members of this extraordinary family have won their way into the hearts of millions of people through their concerts in Americas, Asia, Middle East, and Europe; radio and television performances; and CD recordings.



EMMANUEL BOROWSKY is a remarkable talent of immense sensitivity, wonderfully flowing chants and pliant tone . . . [He] brought forth a **celebration of fire and temperament.**" (*Heidelberg Rhein-Neckar Zeitung, Germany*). Since a young age, Emmanuel has thrilled crowds around the world. **At age ten, he performed Vivaldi's A-minor concerto** before a sold-out audience of over 9,000 people in Washington D.C.'s National Shrine and was rewarded with a massive standing ovation and the Antonio Vivaldi Medal. At age thirteen, Emmanuel represented North America at the UNESCO World Child Prodigies Concert in Amman (Jordan). At fifteen, he was selected to perform on the International Public Radio Show **"From the Top."** **At eighteen, he performed for an audience of over 100,000 people** at the World Youth Day in Cologne, Germany. Emmanuel has received numerous awards. He is the winner of the Maryland Young Talent Competition and the Montpelier Performing Arts Center Classical Recital Competition. Emmanuel has studied at the Icelandic Academy of the Arts and Indiana University Bloomington. He is currently pursuing a Master of Music degree at IUB, where he studies with Mark Kaplan.



Heralded by the press as **"a brilliant young musician with a great personality,"** **ELIZABETH BOROWSKY** enjoys a versatile musical career as a solo and collaborative pianist, composer, educator, speaker, and recording artist. **"Elizabeth's performance and personality dismiss any preconceptions of classical music as elite, or being a music of the past.** She is a vibrant and engaging performer and can draw even the most reluctant audience member into her spell." She has been a featured performer at such distinguished venues as Carnegie Hall and The Kennedy Center, and has performed recitals in over thirty countries and concerts as soloist with orchestras in the United States, Europe, and Asia.



Elizabeth has earned a reputation as an outstanding teacher for young pianists. She has been a member of the piano faculty of the International Music Institute and Festival USA since 2003 and was appointed Executive Director in 2010. She is Director of Piano Prodigies, LLC.

FRANCES BOROWSKY first drew the attention of great cello masters as a highly gifted and expressive young musician at the age of seven at the World Cello Congress III (2000). Since then, she has performed throughout the USA as well as Canada, Iceland, Israel, Jordan, Indonesia, Japan, China, Vietnam, Singapore, Germany, Poland, Norway, Denmark, Sweden, and Ukraine. Frances has performed as a soloist with orchestras including the Tianjin Symphony Orchestra, Young German Symphony Orchestra, and Towson University Orchestra. Frances studied cello with her mother (cellist Cecylia Barczyk) since the age of four, including during her studies at Towson University. In May 2011, she graduated from Towson University as a member of the Honor's College and recipient of academic and music scholarships. At age 18, she was the youngest graduate in the class of 2011. **Frances is currently pursuing a Master's of Music degree at the Johns Hopkins Peabody Institute** under the guidance of cellist Amit Peled.



PROGRAM NOTES

Sonata for Violin and Piano in G minor, L140

Claude Debussy (1862-1918)

Composed between 1916-1917 when Debussy was around 54-55 years old, he referred to the Violin Sonata, with typical ironic self-deprecation, as **“an example of what may be produced by a sick man in time of war.”** While it is true that this music is rather more austere and pared-down than some earlier works, it overflows with characteristic invention, lyricism and color, and its remarkably compact structure reveals that the composer’s powers remained undiminished to the last.

Polichinelle, Op. 3 No. 4

Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873-1943)

Written as the second of the five-piece set *Morceaux de fantaisie* Op.3, it has bell-like tolls as its main thematic idea; in it can be heard the young formative strides of Rachmaninov's distinctively nostalgic style. Polichinelle Op.3 no.4 depicts the comic capers of a Punch-and-Judy clown puppet **across the stage. Rachmaninoff's own performance is preserved on an Ampico reproducing piano roll.**

Five Pieces on Folk Themes for Cello and Piano

Sulkhan Tsintsadze (1925-1991)

Tsintsadze was born August 23, 1925 in Gori, Russia and died September 15, 1991 in Tbilisi. He was one of Georgia's foremost composers and the cellist of the Georgian State String Quartet. Georgian folklore is ever present in his music. This piece was composed when he was 25 years old.

Sonata for Piano and Cello, Op. 102, No. 1

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)

The sonatas for cello and piano op. 102 composed in 1815, realize the transition towards the great string quartets, bringing great change in the field of structure, even though apparently it only looks like a return to the baroque. Through the title given by Beethoven to the Sonata in C major op. 102, no. 1, *Freie Sonate* (the Free Sonata) he declares the freedom of expression in a deeply romantic sense.

Trio No. 3 (2012)

Elizabeth, Emmanuel, and Frances Borowsky

Explanations and background by the young artists.

History of the German Society of Pennsylvania

In 1683 thirteen families from Krefeld under the leadership of Frankfurt lawyer, Franz Daniel Pastorius, founded the first German colony in America: Germantown — today part of Philadelphia. Many of these immigrants formed clubs that enabled them to preserve their cultural heritage. They also formed clubs that emphasized a specific geographic area, such as the Swabians, Bavarians, Saxons, Danube Swabians, Plattdeutsche, Tyroleans, and many others.

The German Society of Pennsylvania, founded in 1764, is the oldest German organization in the United States. It was founded to protect German immigrants from unscrupulous shipping agents and to ensure just treatment on their arrival here.

Since that time, the German Society has dedicated its efforts to preserving German heritage. This it does, for instance, by offering a full-fledged German language program as well as scholarships and prizes to students of German. In addition, the Society is a source of cultural programs, lectures, film series, and seminars. These events build bridges and strengthens relations among individuals, organizations, businesses, and governments.

The fine arts program also includes presentations that feature European music and literature as well as access to the *Joseph P. Horner Memorial Library* for education and research. The newly restored Library, holding over 70,000 volumes, is the largest private German library outside the Federal Republic of Germany.

In serving its members and the community, and in all its undertakings, the Society strives to benefit anyone in need of its resources.

Since the time of Pastorius, more than 8,000,000 Germans reached these shores. Today, 29% of the total population in the United States claims Germany ancestry.

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We also wish to acknowledge with thanks the generous support received from the *Arcadia Foundation* to our music program for this and next year's season.