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**Watch "A Holiday Celebration: Best of the Baroque," recorded
live
on December 6, 2014 at The Mahaiwe**



Jennifer Rivera sings "Mentre Dormi" from L'Olimpiade by Pergolesi

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"The Mid-Winter
Fireside Concert: An
Intimate Encounter
with Pianist Roman
Rabinovich"

Saturday February 28, 6PM
Kindly RSVP

Roman Rabinovich, piano

An RSVP for the Saturday, February 28 concert is requested.

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CLOSE ENCOUNTERS WITH MUSIC
presents
Sergei Rachmaninoff
& Russian Orientalia
Vassily Primakov & Yehuda Hanani
piano cello
saturday March 21, 6 PM
THE MAHAWE
Great Barrington, MA

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS
WITH MUSIC

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets: \$45 (Orchestra and Mezzanine) and \$25 (Balcony), are available at [The Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center box office](#), 413.528.0100.

Last Chance To Subscribe: \$130 for for a series of 4 concerts PLUS one subscriber-only concert. Visit our website, www.cewm.org or call us at 800.843.0778 to subscribe.

Music Mystical, Meditative and Sensual à la Russe to Be Performed by Renowned Interpreters: Vassily Primakov, piano and Yehuda Hanani, cello

For many in classical music, Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873-1943) was one of the last links between 19th century romanticism and modern times. As pianist or conductor, his grand presence on stage (he was 6 foot 6!) embodied bygone artistic values and a style of expression missed greatly by the

public. The oceanic, enveloping sound Rachmaninoff's music generates and his ability to stun audiences with performances of his fiendishly difficult pieces helped make him one of the highest paid performers of his time, one of the most influential pianists of the 20th century, and a veritable "rock star" of classical music.

No doubt one of the secrets of his immense popularity is the power of nostalgia. His grip on us relates to a universal wish to rescue an irretrievable past. Although he worked in the West and was a fan of the Jack Benny show from his Hollywood home, he remained an exile, staunchly steeped in nostalgia and continuing the great Romantic Russian tradition of his teacher Tchaikovsky.

The mesmeric Russian pianist VASSILY PRIMAKOV joins distinguished cellist YEHUDA HANANI in a program that explores the many facets of this enigmatic and prodigious figure. The magnetic appeal of the mysterious East attracted Rachmaninoff's artistic predecessors (Rimsky-Korsakov's *Scheherazade* became the best-known example of Russian musical Orientalism), and he followed suit beginning with some of his earliest compositions. The sumptuousness and ecstatic expressivity of the Sonata for Piano and Cello and the early Prelude and Orientale organically entwined Orientalism around his thoroughly European palette. His *Variations on a Theme of Corelli*, miniature character pieces, is a pianistic tour de force, requiring the highest levels of piano performance.

Rachmaninoff's reputation has skyrocketed since the years when he was dismissed as a "Hollywood composer" (he never wrote a note for a movie though his music was appropriated for 50 films!). Vassily Primakov has made the music of Scriabin and Rachmaninoff a specialty. Yehuda Hanani was the first Western artist to record the cello/piano sonatas of Nicolai Miaskovsky, another great Russian melodist. Timothy Sergay, professor of Russian Studies at SUNY Albany, will lead a discussion on the subject of Russian Orientalia at the Afterglow reception, onstage at the Mahaiwe, following the performance, over wine and local reception fare.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS:

In recent years, VASSILY PRIMAKOV has been hailed as a pianist of world class importance. Born in Moscow in 1979, his initial piano studies were with his mother, Marina Primakova. He entered Moscow's Central Special Music School at the age of eleven and at seventeen came to New York to pursue studies at Juilliard with the noted pianist, Jerome Lowenthal. At Juilliard Mr. Primakov won the William Petschek Piano Recital Award, which presented his debut recital at Alice Tully Hall, and while still at Juilliard, aided by a Susan W. Rose Career Grant, he won both the Silver Medal and the Audience Prize in the 2002 Gina Bachauer International Artists Piano Competition. He took First Prize in the 2002 Young Concert Artists International Auditions. In 2009, Mr. Primakov's Chopin Mazurkas recording was named "Best of the Year" by National Public Radio and that same year he began recording the 27 Mozart piano concertos in Denmark. BBC Music Magazine praised the first volume of Primakov's Mozart concertos: "The piano

playing is of exceptional quality: refined, multi-coloured, elegant of phrase and immaculately balanced.....By almost every objective criterion, Vassily Primakov is a Mozartian to the manner born, fit to stand as a role model to a new generation." His extensive discography includes Beethoven Sonatas, Chopin Concertos, and music of Tchaikovsky, Schumann, and Scriabin for Bridge Records. Recent engagements have been with the Johannesburg Philharmonic Orchestra, the Cape Philharmonic, and the KZN Philharmonic in Durban, South Africa; at the Newport, Manchester and Woodstock Mozart festivals in the US.

YEHUDA HANANI's charismatic playing and profound interpretations bring him acclaim and



Vassily Primakov and Anton Dvořák III in Prague



Yehuda Hanani, cellist and
artistic director

reengagements across the globe. An extraordinary recitalist, he is equally renowned for performances with orchestras such as the Chicago Symphony, Philadelphia Orchestra, Baltimore Symphony, St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, Berlin Radio Orchestra, Israel Philharmonic, BBC Welsh Symphony, Irish National Symphony, Buenos Aires Philharmonic, Honolulu Symphony, Orquestra Sinfonica del Estado de Mexico, Belgrade Philharmonic, Jerusalem Symphony, Lithuanian Chamber Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra Kremlin, and Taipei and Seoul symphonies, among many others. He has been a guest at Aspen, Chautauqua, Marlboro, Yale at Norfolk, Round Top (TX), Blue Hill, Bowdoin, Great Lakes, and Grand Canyon festivals, Prades Festival (France), Finland Festival, Leicester (England), Ottawa, Oslo, and Australia Chamber Music festivals, and has collaborated in performances with preeminent fellow musicians, including Leon Fleisher, Aaron Copland, Christoph Eschenbach, David Robertson, Vladimir Fedoseyev, Itzhak Perlman, Vadim Repin, Dawn Upshaw, Yefim Bronfman, Eliot Fisk, the Tokyo, Vermeer, Muir, Lark, Avalon, Colorado, and Manhattan quartets. In New York City, Yehuda Hanani has appeared as soloist at Carnegie Hall, the 92nd Street Y, Alice Tully, and the Metropolitan



How music conveys messages | Yehuda Hanani |
TEDxFultonStreet

Museum's Grace Rainey Rodger Auditorium. His pioneering recording of the monumental Alkan Cello Sonata received a Grand Prix du Disque nomination, and his other discs have won wide recognition. On CD and in live performances, he has premiered works of Nicolai Miaskovsky, Lukas Foss, Leo Ornstein, Joan Tower, Paul Schoenfield, Osvaldo Golijov, Robert Beaser, Pulitzer Prize winners Bernard Rands and Zhou Long, among other composers. His engaging chamber music with commentary series, *Close Encounters With Music*, has captivated audiences from Miami to Kansas City, Omaha, Calgary, Scottsdale, the Berkshires, and at the Frick

Collection in New York City. A three-time recipient of the Martha Baird Rockefeller grant, Mr. Hanani's studies were with Leonard Rose at the Juilliard School and with Pablo Casals. Aimed at outreach for classical music, his weekly program on NPR affiliate station WAMC Northeast Radio, "Classical Music According to Yehuda," has gained thousands of fans for the direct broadcast and podcast. His recent TEDx talk is available on YouTube. An addition to his concert activities and educational mission is the founding of the Catskill High Peaks Festival, a teaching and chamber music festival in Rensselaerville, New York.



ANNUAL LUNCHEON BLANTYRE



MUSICALE BENEFIT

Sunday, April 26 at 12:30 PM

Celebrate the Salon in the incomparable elegance of Blantyre. Savor a superb lunch and support Close Encounters With Music Commissioning Project.

This year our event will honor our good friend and CEWM board member of 22 years, Aso O. Tavitian.

Seating is limited. Call for information and reservations.

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS WITH MUSIC 2014-15 EVENTS CALENDAR

THE MAHAIWE

Saturday March 21, 6 PM

SERGEI RACHMANINOFF AND
RUSSIAN ORIENTALIA

Saturday April 18, 6 PM

Surveying the Centuries

THE NEW YORK WIND QUINTET

Saturday May 16, 6 PM

The Avalon String Quartet

DEBUSSY AND SCHUBERT

Saturday June 13, 6PM

INVITATION TO THE DANCE

with David Parsons Dancers

COMING TO
CLOSE ENCOUNTERS WITH MUSIC



The New York Wind Quintet

LENOX CLUB

Saturday February 28, 6 PM

MIDWINTER FIRESIDE
SUBSCRIBERS-ONLY CONCERT

BLANTYRE

Sunday April 26, 12:30 PM

BLANTYRE LUNCHEON AND
MUSICALE

CONVERSATIONS WITH...

UNSILENT COMPOSER PHIL
KLINE

THE STABLES AT THE MOUNT

Home of Edith Wharton

Sunday May 3, 2 PM

**Tune into the weekly
broadcasts of**

***Classical Music
According
to Yehuda***

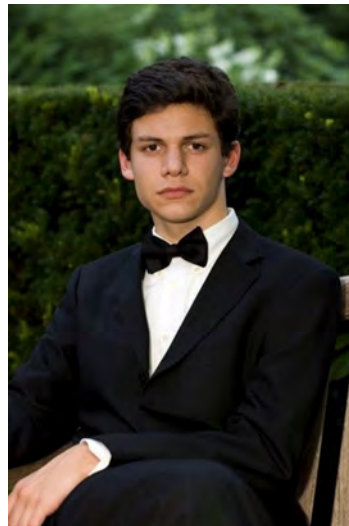
**on WAMC Northeast
Radio, Friday mornings
at 11:30.**



The Avalon String Quartet



Bella Hristova, violin



David Aladashvili, piano



YEHUDA HANANI AND ELIOT FISK:
FROM BACH TO BACHIANAS:
Songs Without Words

Written by Jerry Dubins,
Fanfare Magazine
Thursday, 22 January 2015

"Highly recommended"

Regular readers of this publication are bound to know that I'm not generally receptive to programs of works transcribed for settings other than those for which they were intended, much less to programs made up of excerpts from complete works thrown together in a seemingly hodgepodge compilation. I make an exception, however, for this particular album for two reasons: First, a number of these transcriptions aren't that far removed from their originals; it's not hard to imagine, for example, that a piece originally for cello and piano, such as Fauré's *Sicilienne*, op. 78, would be quite effective with the piano part transcribed for guitar. And second, two internationally acclaimed artists, cellist Yehuda Hanani and guitarist Eliot Fisk, have come together here to make well over an hour's worth of gloriously beautiful music.

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