



American Liszt Society

AN OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE AMERICAN LISZT SOCIETY, INC.

“Highways and Byways” The 2007 Great Romantics Festival

Three days packed with performances, lectures ... and fun!

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The 13th annual Great Romantics Festival will take place Thursday, October 4 through Saturday, October 6, 2007 in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. Dr. Alan Walker once again hosts this marvelous event, which is presented by the City of Hamilton in association with the American Liszt Society and McMaster University’s School of the Arts. This year’s Festival has as its theme “Highways and Biways” and will feature piano and organ recitals, lieder recitals, chamber music concerts, and an orchestra concert interspersed with presentations, all topped off with a fabulous reception. Here is a daily schedule for the GRF. For further details and updates, go to www.artset.net/greatromantics.html.

THURSDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 4 CONVOCATION HALL

9:30am - OPENING REMARKS: Dr. Alan Walker

10:00am - Ross Alley: “In Praise of Virtuosity”

11:00am - PIANO RECITAL: Gergely Szokolay
“Moonlight, Flowers and Birds” - Piano Transcriptions of Romantic Vocal Music

Schubert-Liszt: Ständchen (Serenade); Trockne Blumen (Dry Flowers);

Sei mir gegrüsst (Greetings)

Strauss-Gieseking: Ständchen (Serenade); Heimkehr (Homeward);

Freundliches Vision (Friendly Vision); Schlechtes Wetter (Dreadful Weather)

Glinka-Balakirev: Zhavoronok (The Lark) 1840

Alabiéff-Liszt: Le Rossignol (The Nightingale) 1842

Rachmaninov: Daisies; Lilacs

Lunch Break

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2007 Great Romantics Festival

(continued from page 1)

CHRIST'S CHURCH CATHEDRAL

2:00pm - ORGAN RECITAL: Christopher Teeuwssen

Reger: Toccata in D minor

Brahms: Organ Chorales - Herzliebster Jesu (Ah, Dearest Jesus);

Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen (Lo, a rose e'er blooming); O Welt, ich muss dich
lassen (O World, I now must leave Thee)

Franck: Cantabile

Reger: Monologue; Introduction and Passacaglia in F minor

3:00pm - LIEDER RECITAL: Lita Klassen (soprano) and Allan Behan (piano)

Mahler: Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen - Wenn mein Schatz Hochzeit macht;

Ging heut' morgen übers Feld; Ich hab' ein glühend Messer;

Die zwei blauen Augen von meinem Schatz

Hahn: A Chloris; Quand je fus pris au pavillon; Trois jours de vendage;

Le Printemps

Mussorgsky: Nursery Songs - With Nurse; In the Corner; The Beetle; Lullaby to a

Rag Doll; Evening Prayer; The Hobby Horse; The Naughty Cat

4:00pm - RECEPTION in Myler Hall, hosted by the Dante Alighieri Society

HAMILTON PLACE

8:00pm - HAMILTON PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA CONCERT:

Horst Foerster (conductor) with Valerie Tryon (piano)

Brahms: Variations on a Theme of Haydn, Op. 56a

Beethoven: Piano Concerto No. 3 in C minor, Op. 37

Dvorak: Symphony No. 8 in G major, Op. 88

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5

CONVOCATION HALL

10:00 am - PIANO RECITAL: Lisa Yui

Franck: Prelude, Fugue and Variations

Beach: Transcription of Richard Strauss' "Ständchen", Op. 17, No. 2.

Gottschalk: Souvenirs de Puerto Rico

Chopin: Scherzo No. 2, in B flat minor, Op. 31

11:00am - Donald Manildi: "Preserving the Past: the International Piano Archives
at Maryland."

Lunch Break

President's Announcement

The theme of the 2008 Festival of the American Liszt Society will be "Liszt, Literature and Painting." The event will be held in Washington, DC May 30 - June 1, 2008. The Festival will be hosted by The Catholic University of America, The National Gallery of Art, and other institutions in the nation's capitol. The Choral Arts Society will be presented by the National Gallery of Art in the final concert of the Festival. A large committee of workers from the Baltimore/Washington Chapter is actively arranging the details that will contribute to your enjoyment of this event. Further details will appear in the next *Newsletter* and on the web site. I will serve as Festival director and fund raiser. Please contact me at mastroianni68@aol.com if you would like contribute your talent or financial resources to the Festival. Washington is beautiful in May, so do plan to be with us!

Letter from the Editor

Edward Rath

Soon, the Great Romantics Festival will be upon us. Read about the fascinating events that Dr. Alan Walker has planned for all in attendance. There's a wealth of piano literature to be heard, some of which is seldom played any more. Plus, lieder recitals, an organ recital by the fabulous Canadian organist, Christopher Teeuwesen, the Beethoven Third with Valerie Tryon, chamber music . . . the list goes on! Do try to be in Hamilton in early October, and also start your plans for the May-June meeting of ALS in Washington. As Tom Mastroianni points out, that's a beautiful time in Washington, and the crowds of tourists haven't become as large as they will later in the summer.

Tons of thanks are due to Bill Wellborn for organizing a fabulous festival at the new San Francisco Conservatory this past spring. As I walked into the recital hall, I could understand how excited Bill and his colleagues must be to have such beautiful surroundings. They have been waiting many years for the new facility to become a reality, and I am sure it was worth the wait! Unfortunately, as some of you know, a family matter required that I leave San Francisco only 18 hours after arriving, so I did not have the privilege and musical pleasure of hearing the many fine concerts and lectures - and to miss playing on the Gala Concert and the champagne reception was indeed a loss for me. Rest assured that life has a way of taking in stride those sudden changes of plans that we all face here and there, and all is well!

I was, however, able to attend the Board of Directors meeting on Wednesday evening before the start of the Festival. There was spirited discussion on many topics. I raised a point for consideration and, at the suggestion of the Board, I would like to share it with you: Should we phase out the printed *Newsletter* of ALS and go to an entirely web-based system of communications via the Internet?

There are definitely pros and cons to such a move. In terms of time, efficiency, and expense, eliminating the mailing of approximately 600 printed newsletters twice a year would be an improvement. Focusing on the website will allow the membership to have current news of importance at the press of a button - or perhaps a few more keystrokes might be necessary! At the same time, not all of our membership uses the Internet: some, like I, use it all the time as part of our daily work responsibilities, but I know that others are reluctant to use web-based services, and that's certainly OK. There may be some who do not even have a computer in their home or office, although I am confident that those numbers will be lower and lower as we end the current decade.

So, on the recommendation of those members of the Board in attendance at the San Francisco meeting, I would like to ask for your written opinions on this matter. It is my plan to collect your responses, be they sent by e-mail or "snail mail," informally tally them, and then report back to you in the next printed version of the *Newsletter*, which will come out in about six months - approximately January 15 - 20, 2008. It is my intention to include in the next *Newsletter* salient and well-written comments that I receive so that you can have the opportunity to read for yourself what has been shared with me. Next spring, when we have our Board of Directors meeting in Washington, I will present the Board with a collection of all comments received, and perhaps we will make a decision as to keeping the printed version, or phasing it out over a short period of time, probably a year.

In the meantime, Helen Smith Tarchalski and I will be conferring on ways to make the website more useful and attractive. She has already suggested that perhaps one of the pictures of Liszt as a young man in Paris would be a nice alternative to the aged Liszt now on our home page. And I think purple is not the color of vibrancy, unless you are considering the merits of a fine glass of cabernet, so we will be looking at some new color schemes as well.

One thing that would be helpful, no matter which way we go on this, is for you to send me news items about yourself, especially as it pertains to Liszt. If we have such information reasonably in advance of an event like a concert, for example, we can put that information on the website and help promote your performances or lectures, new books that you have written or are recommending to others, etc. You have my promise that our home page and other pages, including some new ones, will be up and running by around September 1.

That's about it for this issue. I am on my way to Burgos and Madrid Spain to supervise a chamber music festival for three weeks, and then returning to the first site of my European odysseys: three days of relaxation in Glion, Switzerland overlooking the city of Montreux and Lake Geneva. Of course my thoughts will be on Book I of the *Années de Pèlerinage*, but I am also looking forward to tasting Gruyère in the village by that name, and seeing if Stephan still makes those tasty strawberry tarts in his patisserie like he did in 1974 . . . or perhaps now they will be made by his children. ¡Hasta luego! and a *bientôt!*

American Liszt Society

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Great Romantics Festival

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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5
CENTENARY UNITED CHURCH

2:00pm - LIEDER RECITAL: "Robert and Clara Schumann"
Janet Obermeyer (soprano), Leslie De'Ath (piano)

Clara Schumann: Sechs Lieder, Op. 13 - Ich stand in dunklen Träumen (Heine);
Sie liebten sich Beide (Heine); Liebeszauber (Geibel); Der Mond kommt still
gegangen (Geibel); Ich hab' in deinem Auge (Rückert);
Die stille Lotosblume (Geibel)

Robert Schumann: Frauenliebe und -leben (Chamisso), Op. 42

3:00pm - RECITAL: Jose Cueto (violin), Nancy Roldán (piano)

Beethoven: Sonata in F major ("Spring"), Op. 24
Grieg: Sonata in C minor, p. 45

CONVOCATION HALL

8:00pm - PIANO RECITAL: Eric Zuber
1st Prize Winner: Hilton Head International Piano Competition, 2007

Schubert: Sonata in A Major, D. 664

Liszt: Three Transcendental Studies (1851) - No. 10 in F minor;
No. 3 in F major (Paysage); and No. 5 in B flat major (Feux-follets)

Liszt: Vallée d'Obermann (from the Years of Pilgrimage, Book I, "Switzerland")

Schumann: Scenes of Childhood

Tchaikowsky/Pletnev: Concert Suite from the Nutcracker, Op. 72a

10:00pm - Reception in Student Centre, hosted by McMaster University
President Dr. Peter George

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6
CENTENARY UNITED CHURCH

10:00am - Mike Spring: "Too Many Piano Concertos: An Introduction to the
Hyperion record series, by the man who put it together."

11:00am - RECITAL: Coenraad Bloemendaal ('cello), Valerie Tryon (piano)

Popper: Suite for Cello and Piano ("Im Walde")
Saint-Saëns: Cello Sonata No. 2 in F major

Lunch Break

CENTENARY UNITED CHURCH

2:00pm - Ross Alley: "Chopin, the Poet of the Piano"

2:45pm - PIANO GALA: "Homage to Chopin"

William Aïde: Nocturne in D flat major; Ballade No. 4 in F minor

Jay Hershberger: Polonaise Fantasie; Scherzo No. 1 in B minor

Berenika Zakrzewski: Fantasie in F minor, Op. 49; Andante Spianato and
Grande Polonaise

Alexandre Dossin: Ballade No 1 in G minor; Polonaise in A flat major

7:30 WEBSTER ROOM
HAMILTON CONVENTION CENTRE
GREAT ROMANTICS FESTIVAL
CANDLELIGHT BANQUET

See website for menu:

www.artset.net/greatromantics.html

Make your reservations now to be among
the many lucky persons attending wonderful
concerts and presentations, while sharing
ideas about music and the arts. Here are two
conference hotels recommended by Dr. Walker:

Sheraton Hamilton Hotel

116 King St. W.

Hamilton, ON L8P 4V3

Room rate:

Single/double occupancy - \$139.00

Reservations: 888-627-8161

www.starwoodmeeting.com/Book/Romantics

Plaza Hotel Hamilton

(formerly the Ramada Plaza Hotel)

150 King St. E.

Hamilton, ON L8N 1B2

Room rate:

Single/double occupancy - \$96.00

Phone: 905-528-3451

www.plazahamilton.com

NEXT ISSUE

The deadline for all materials to be included in the next issue of the American Liszt Society Newsletter is Saturday, December 15, 2007. All photos should be e-mailed as attached .jpeg files or sent via regular mail as black and white photos - no color photos, please. Photographic materials should be addressed to Edward Rath, School of Music, University of Illinois, 1114 West Nevada Street, Urbana, IL 61801. Please send articles or news items only by e-mail text or attachment to Edward Rath, Editor, at erath@uiuc.edu. Be sure to include ALS Newsletter in the subject line. Typed, word-processed hardcopy, and photocopied materials will not be accepted - only electronic versions are acceptable. Thank you.

Chapter News

Baltimore-Washington Chapter

(Nancy Roldán, President,
nancyroldan@comcast.net)

The 2007 ALS-B/W William Garrison Festival and Piano Competition will be held September 14 - 16, 2007 at the College of Notre Dame of Maryland in Baltimore. The deadline for all competitor applications is May 25, 2007. Detailed information (including further contact info) can be found at the competition's website, www.garrisonpiano.competition.org, or by writing to:

The American Liszt Society/
Baltimore-Washington Chapter
Garrison Festival/Piano Competition
P.O. Box 26288
Baltimore, MD 21210

New York/New Jersey Chapter

(Gila Goldstein, Founder-President;
David Whitten, Vice-President)

The ALS NY/NJ chapter hosted its annual spring concert at Montclair State University's Cali School of Music in NJ on Thursday, May 10, 2007. Pianist Artis Wodehouse (www.artiswodehouse.com) performed rare pieces by Liszt on both the piano and harmonium. (She owns an 1875 Trayser Harmonium). The program included "Ungarns Gott"; *Hungarian Rhapsody No. 18*; *Nuages Gris*; a world-premiere of a work by American composer Eva Wiener - *Prelude, Fugue and Variations on "Nuages Gris"*; the Wagner/Liszt "Pilgrims' Chorus" from *Tannhäuser*; and the *Via Crucis*, with choir and performed on the harmonium (except for the last movement, which was performed on the piano). It was a very interesting version considering the harmonium sound, and with a small choir, the performance created an

intimate atmosphere permeated by sadness. The concert was unique for our audience, greatly performed by Artis and appreciated by the audience members. The chapter's next concert will be in New York on Thursday November 15 at 7:30pm in the Piano Salon at Yamaha Artist Services, 689 Fifth Avenue (northeast corner of 54 Street), New York City. Featured artist will be pianist Sandro Russo in recital. For further information contact Gila Goldstein at gilagoldstein@aol.com

Member News

Ernest Ragogini was the featured artist in the February 2007 issue of *Clavier* and the photo subject of that issue's cover. The interview dealt with his career and his lifelong "unwelcomed partner," arthritis. During this extended period, he continued an active teaching and performing career, playing hundreds of concerts in the United States, Canada, Europe, and North and South America as soloist, collaborative musician, and with orchestra. In spite of surgery on his left hand in 2003, he resumed a full performing schedule within six months.. This past February, surgery on his right hand again curtailed his activities somewhat, but he was back on stage briefly in May, and will return to full time performing again next season. Of his often debilitating situation he says, "I don't consider it a struggle or a battle. It has less power by considering it an 'annoyance'. Regardless of the stops along the way, music wins out. So do I." You may contact him by writing Ernest Ragogini, Professor of Music, Director of Music at CND

Concert Series, College of Notre Dame of Maryland, 4701 North Charles Street in Baltimore, MD 21210. His phone number is 410-532-5386, and the e-mail address is eragogini@ndm.edu.

The Bel-Etre Ensemble - Pedro Pinyol (violin), Mariusz Skula (cello), and ALS member **Madeleine Forte**, (piano), will perform on Sunday, September 9 at 4:00pm at Harkness Hall in Sudler Hall at Yale University. Their program includes works by Martinu, Bloch, Oppel, and Rodrigo, along with a selection of South American tangos for piano trio. Madeleine was selected to be ACME (Artists, Composers, Musicologists, and Educators) Honoree in the Spring issue of *The Triangle of Mu Phi Epsilon*. Madeleine joined forces with Allen Forte and Pedro Pinyol as resident artists at the University of North Texas in April. Allen conducted classes on composers Berg, Schoenberg, Webern, and Cole Porter, and on the subject of Advanced Schenkerian Analysis. Mme. Forte conducted a masterclass entitled "Debussy and Friends." Cuban-American violinist Pedro Pinyol joined her in a program of Jewish and Lost Composers (such as Germans Oppel and Weisse) in post-World War II world premieres.

William Wright of Ayr, Scotland writes, "I am trying to track down the manuscript of a 'Master Antoine Rubinstein Concerto, arranged by Liszt.' According to at least two sources, the work was performed in London by the then eleven-year-old Russian pianist/composer on 20 May 1842. Any information that might lead me to the uncatalogued Rubinstein/Liszt autograph will be warmly welcomed." Please contact William at williamgcwright@hotmail.com.

(continued on next page)

Member News

Gila Goldstein writes that a friend brought to Gila's attention the name of pianist Ernst Levy (1895-1981). "He seems to be practically unknown in the current piano community!" Born in Basel, he moved to Paris in 1928, and then moved to America in the mid-30s. His piano teachers included Raoul Pugno and Egon Petri. Levy was a professor at the University of Chicago and other schools, including Brooklyn College. He was also a composer, conductor (especially of choral works), and a musicologist. He wrote this book with his colleague from the University of Chicago, Austrian-American Siegmund Levarie, entitled *Musical Morphology: A Discourse and a Musical Dictionary* (www.blacksquirrelbooks.com/si/56931.html). Levy Retired in 1966, moved back to Switzerland and died there 1981. Marston Records has released three volumes of his piano performances. Gila considers Levy to be "... a true Lisztian, and his Liszt Sonata, in my humble opinion, is the best ever. Just incredible! Also very important: he recorded Missa Choralis in Paris in 1935 on Polydor, the first-ever recording of a Liszt sacred choral work. I have yet to find out if this recording is available or will be in the future on CD. As well, he premiered Christus in Paris in the early 30s!" The liner notes on his CD are written by ALS member Frank Cooper. Donald Manildi, Director of the International Piano Archives and a presenter at the Great Romantics Festival this coming October, was the producer of the three discs. For more information, go to www.marstonrecords.com/levy/levy_liner.htm (Liner notes), www.marstonrecords.com/levy/levy_tracks.htm (volume 1), www.marstonrecords.com/levy2/levy2_tracks.htm (volume 2), and www.marstonrecords.com/levy3/levy3_tracks.htm (volume 3).

Reginald Gerig, former ALS Membership Secretary and Professor of Piano Emeritus at Wheaton (IL) College, has had his "classic" 1974 volume, *Famous Pianists & Their Technique*, published in a new, revised edition by Indiana University Press, Bloomington, in June 2007. In the original 20 chapters, the laws of pianistic nature are explained in an interesting and historical way that not only instructs the reader, but tells a great story about the 300 year history of the piano, its most notable performers, and their technique. The new material contains a Foreword by Alan Walker, 10 appendices that serve as a study guide to the book, and a supplementary bibliography that includes an annotated list of wellness resources. The text is in paperback and totals 632 pages. For a review of the new edition, see the American Music Teacher (MTNA) for June/July 2007

Justin Kolb informs us that one of the founders of the American Liszt Society, **Davis Charles Lee**, passed *ad astra* on July 22, 2006. "Bob," as he was known by friends, had not been a member of ALS for many years. He studied with a student of Martin Krause, became a pianist and teacher, and considered himself a musicologist. A Fulbright Scholar in Poland and an IREX Scholar (Liszt) in Budapest, he earned a Ph.D. in musicology. His wife, an artist and teacher died in 1991. Bob is survived by an elderly brother and a niece. Bob's partner for the past almost three years and a friend of forty-five years, Ms. Edna Natkin, is the executrix of the estate. (Ms. Natkin is a former classmate of ALS President Thomas Mastroianni.) The estate does contain some Liszt memorabilia, including an

1886 Steinway "B." The piano needs about \$20,000 worth of rebuilding. There are also more than 2000 books that are being donated to local community libraries, schools, etc. Some of what Edna described as "world class" late Lisztiana and related materials are also part of the estate, although no inventory as such is available. Interested parties may speak with Edna, as items are available for purchase. Phone 206-329-5568, or write her at 1219 E. Newton Street, Seattle, WA 98102-4103. She is very pleasant and is under the gun to finish "packing off" the estate and liquidating it. If anyone in the ALS membership knows more about Dr. Lee, please contact Edward Rath, editor of the *ALS Newsletter*.

Ian Hobson, Swanlund Professor of Piano at the University of Illinois and Conductor of Sinfonia da Camera, recently completed his 2-CD set of the complete works for piano and orchestra by Sergei Rachmaninov with the Sinfonia Varsovia of Warsaw - as both pianist *and* conductor! (Zephyr label, scheduled for release July 17.) Ian is certainly no stranger to Rachmaninov, having already recorded many of the great pianist-composer's works, including the Preludes, Etudes Tableaux, early works, and the complete transcriptions. Ian recently led Sinfonia da Camera in concerts in Peking, Beijing, and Shanghai. He is again a member of the artist faculty at the Amalfi Festival, along with many ALS members.

Want to see your name and activities in this column next issue? It's easy: send Edward Rath your news stories by the December 15 deadline, and he will do his best to include your information for all to read! Electronic versions only: erath@uiuc.edu. Watch for your name and news next time!

Liszt and the Mortality Enmeshed in His Music

by Mark S. Porter

In his mid-teens, in the 1820s, Franz Liszt was hailed as one of the preeminent pianists in Europe. In the mid-19th century, Liszt created the “tone poem,” an innovative musical structure that proved unpopular with many of his audiences. By the 1870s, and before he died in 1886, Liszt had become disenchanted by the lack of popular acceptance of his later musical compositions.

About 120 years after his death, many Liszt fans now cherish his later works.

According to the [New York/New Jersey Chapter of the] American Liszt Society, it will present its annual New Jersey concert next Thursday, May 10, in the Cali School of Music at Montclair State University. Artis Wodehouse will perform the concert of several Liszt compositions on piano and harmonium.

“I’m trying to show some aspects of the late Liszt,” Wodehouse told *The Times*. “There’s something about the music that’s almost painful. He’s dealing with his own mortality. “He’s following his solitary pathways into the future.”

Wodehouse, the music director of the Unitarian Church of Montclair, will be accompanied by the church choir on Liszt’s “Via Crucis.” “I found this group to be pretty amazing in their commitment to projects,” she said of the Unitarian Church of Montclair Choir. “We in the choir are relishing our experience,” said Julian Caplan, a longtime bass in the choir. “She brings out the best in us because she sets such a high standard.”

Wodehouse is an acclaimed pianist known for her jazz deliveries. Citing her performances of Jelly Roll Morton, Duke Ellington and George Gershwin compositions, Caplan enthusiastically pronounced: “She did jazz and it was magnificent.”

She will perform some Liszt compositions on a harmonium, which is a keyboard instrument similar to a pipe organ in producing sounds by pushing air over vibrating brass reeds. The MSU concert was postponed from March due to repairs being made to her Trayser harmonium, which suffered cracks when exposed to cold, dry air this past winter. “We’ve repaired all these cracks,” Wodehouse said. “It’s been brought back.”

(This article originally appeared in the Wednesday, May 2, 2007 edition of *The Montclair Times*. Reprinted by permission of *The Montclair Times*)

(Editor’s note: a fascinating article by Wayne T. Moore dealing with “Liszt’s Monster Instrument: The Piano-Harmonium” may be found in the August 1970 edition of *The Diapason*. This source was brought to our attention by Randolph Herr, Artis Wodehouse’s harmonium technician, via Gila Goldstein.)

A Thank You from William Wellborn

I want to extend my sincerest thanks to all who made the Liszt Festival in San Francisco such a success. There are simply too many people to thank individually in this venue, but I hope to have expressed my gratitude in writing or verbally to all the performers and presenters, and the behinds-the-scenes staffers in the intervening three months. We had 131 people preregister, but there were many more walkups and people who attended the individual concerts. I am still getting comments from people who attended and who expressed their enthusiasm with the program and the overall high level of musicianship and scholarship. I wish you the very best for a wonderful summer. For me, I am off to “Liszt Land,” again teaching at the Franz Liszt Summer Piano Academy and Festival in Sopron, Hungary.

Piano Competitions Around the World

If you are interested in finding our more information about the many piano competitions that exist throughout the world, the Internet is arguably your best resource! Using your favorite search engine(s), simply type in the words Piano Competition and hit Enter. Want to focus on a particular country? Just add that country after the words listed above! You might get news about past competitions, but chances are you will get plenty of materials for you and your students. Give it a try!!!

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