

American Liszt Society

AN OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE AMERICAN LISZT SOCIETY, INC.

2008 ALS Conference Will Take Place in Washington, DC

by Thomas Mastroianni

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It is my privilege to invite you to attend the 2008 annual conference of the American Liszt Society in the beautiful city of Washington, DC. We have scheduled activities for Friday, May 30 through the evening of Sunday, June 1. It is my pleasure to co-host this year's conference with members of the Baltimore-Washington Chapter of the Society.

This year's theme is "Liszt, Literature, and Painting." We have secured the facilities of the Catholic University of America (CUA), National Gallery of Art, and Library of Congress to provide a variety of beautiful and functional venues to support an exciting three days of events!

After brief introductory remarks by Susan Vita (Director of the Music Division, Library of Congress), Murry Sidlin (Dean of the CUA Rome School of Music), and me at 9:15am on Friday morning, the opening presentation will feature Frank Cooper speaking on the subject, "Liszt and Literature." The first concert of the conference will follow at 10:30am with ALS competition winners performing selections from the *Années de Pèlerinage II* ("Italie"): Bobby Mitchell offers *Sposalizio*, Irene Kim the *Sonetti del Petrarca* Nos. 47 and 104, and Michael Schneider the "Dante" Sonata.

We segue into yet another recital, this one featuring repertoire centered on the theme of "The Influence of the German

Poets." Soprano Sharon Christman and pianist Ivo Kalcchev will perform three Liszt songs based on texts by Heine and Goethe, followed by pianists Matthew Bengston and Gila Goldstein performing transcriptions by Liszt of songs of Schumann and Schubert. Dominic Traino, Brian Chou, and Claudia Bornholdt will also perform.

Following lunch, Rena Charnin Mueller, Editor of the *Journal of the American Liszt Society*, will speak on the subject, "Liszt: French Literature and Thought," focusing on the authors Lamartine, Lamennais, and others. Keeping with the pattern of interspersing spoken presentations with recitals, we will move to a program featuring the *Harmonies Poétiques et Religieuses* performed by Sean Duggan, James Litzelman, Jay Hershberger, and Paul Barnes, our talented host for the 2005 ALS Conference in Lincoln.

At 4:00pm, the always-popular scholar Alan Walker speaks on "Liszt as Author." Liszt's essays and other written works have great importance to the performer and scholar in understanding his thinking, emotions, and motivation, and this is a session not to be missed.

The afternoon concludes with a special event: presentation of the ALS Medal of Excellence to Maestro James Conlon. While Conlon himself is unable to be with

Perpetuating the ideas of Franz Liszt through excellence in music performance and scholarship

(Continued on page 6)

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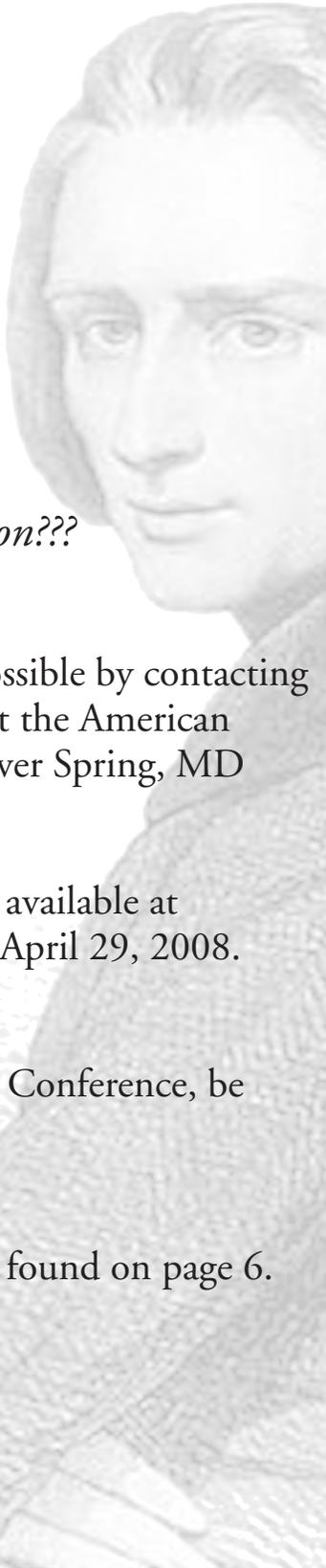
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*“Bonjour, mes amis!
Are you planning to attend the
2008 ALS Conference in Washington???
I’ll be there; will you?”*

Please be sure to register as early as possible by contacting
ALS President Thomas Mastroianni at the American
Liszt Society, 1420 Chilton Drive, Silver Spring, MD
20904.

Housing at special group rates will be available at
The Phoenix Park Hotel in DC until April 29, 2008.
After that, the price will go up.

For up-to-date information about the Conference, be
sure to check the ALS website at
www.americanlisztsociety.org.

Additional registration details may be found on page 6.

William Garrison Festival and Piano Competition a Great Success

The Baltimore-Washington Chapter of the American Liszt Society presented its third William Garrison Festival and Piano Competition September 14 - 16, 2007 at the College of Notre Dame in Maryland. Distinguished musicians participated as performers, presenters, and judges. All competition semifinalists were awarded membership in the American Liszt Society and honorary membership in the Baltimore-Washington Chapter. The 2007 Festival attracted young musicians from throughout the world, including contestants from Albania, Brazil, China, Japan, Korea, Romania, Taiwan, Venezuela, and the United States.

The Chapter celebrated the launching of its first CD, featuring live recordings by winners from the 2005 and 2006 competitions, and this CD is available for a minimum contribution to support the Chapter's ongoing fund raising efforts. During the post-festival meeting, the Board of Directors approved the decision to rename the Festival and Competition as the Liszt/Garrison Festival and Piano Competition (www.lisztgarrisoncompetition.org), which will be presented biennially to allow time for fund raising. The 2008 fund raising concert will take place at College of Notre Dame on April 12, 2008 at 7:00pm under the title, "Noche de Tango." The 2009 Festival/Competition will be extended to include three international competitions.

The Chapter extends its gratitude to the board members, the local membership, volunteers, supporting organizations and institutions, and world-renowned guest artists and professionals who graciously offered their expertise and time that reflects their deep commitment to and love of music. We extend special thanks to Dr. Mary Pat Seurkamp, President of the College of Notre Dame, for providing the venue; our featured gala artists, Ann Schein and Earl Carlyss; distinguished guests, including Michael Adcock, Thomas Benjamin, Phyllis Bryn-Julson, José Cueto, Andrew Gerle, Daniel Glover, Robin Hodson, Ivo Kaltchev, Phillip Kolker, Noel Lester, Dyana Neal, Edward Polochick, Jose Ramos Santana, Shaun Tirrell, Anthony Villa, and Alan Walker; and our winners from 2006: So-Yeon Kim, Ya-Ting liou, Monica Ohuchi, Sun-A Park, Hyunju Song, and Christina Webster.

Special thanks for the financial support of the George Shields Foundation, American Liszt Society, the ALS Chapter in Baltimore-Washington, Silent Auction donors, and the artists who donated their time and expertise. We salute Shaun Tirrell and Piano Craft, who provided not only the instrument but also the tuning services throughout the event. Our official piano for 2007 was a beautiful 9'4" Mason and Hamlin, and we thank the representatives of that company who attended and sponsored the Festival.

Winners of the 2007 Competition included:

American Pianist Category [For the Three Americas] -
Shared First Prize: Jack Kurutz and Alexis Zhu; Second Prize: Lok Ng

Young Artist (International) -
First Prize: Irene Kim; Second Prize: Bogdan-Claudiu Dulu

Collaborative Artists -
First Prize: Yien Wang, piano, and Julie Ahn, violin; Second Prize: Eun-Jun Shon, piano, and Hyung Chan Kim, bassoon

American Liszt Society

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News of Members and Chapters

Dr. **Jane Solose**, Associate Professor of Piano at the Conservatory of Music and Dance, University of Missouri at Kansas City, has released another solo piano CD with Eroica Classical Recordings. *Variations: Three Centuries of Solo Keyboard Variations* features works by Purcell, Bach, Mozart, Chopin, Herz, and Liszt. In 2006, Eroica released her compact disc *Style Hongrois*, with works by Schubert, Hummel, Weiner, Debussy, and Liszt. Both CDs are available at www.eroica.com/solose/music.html. Her CD *Array* was released in 2006 by Capstone Records and celebrates works by American composers Gershwin, Beach, Gottschalk, Ince, Chen Yi, and Fry. It is available at www.capstonerecords.org/CPS-8766.html.

The two-piano team of Noel Lester and **Nancy Roldán** celebrates its thirtieth anniversary in 2007-2008. Formed in 1977, when the pianists were graduate students at the Peabody Conservatory of Music, they performed their first concert together in Brodbeck Music Hall at Hood College in October of that year. Inspired by their rapport and sympathetic partnership, they have performed steadily since that time, and highlights of their collaboration include participation in the opening-week festivities at Friedberg Hall at the Peabody Conservatory of Music, a Kennedy Center debut, a recital as convention artists for the Maryland State Music Teachers Association, several CD recordings, and recitals at Bucknell University, College of Wooster, George Washington University, Hood College, Montgomery College, Messiah College, and Maryland Hall in Annapolis, among many other colleges and universities. They have presented the world or American premieres of two-piano and piano duet music by Carlos Guastavino, Russell Nadel, Tom Benjamin, and Brian Dykstra.

In May of 2007, they kicked off their 30th-anniversary celebration as soloists with Concert Artists of Baltimore in a performance of Saint-Saëns' "Carnival of the Animals"; their performance received a standing ovation from the sellout crowd, and Tim Smith, writing in the *Baltimore Sun*, called it a "bright reading" and a "polished performance." In 2007-2008, they will perform anniversary concerts at Hood College, Buckingham's Choice, and the Yasi Piano Salon at Yamaha Hall in New York. Their program will include works by Bach, Dello Joio, Saint-Saëns, Guastavino, Liszt, and the New York premiere of *Fantasy and Fugue on a Gregorian Chant*, a work dedicated to the duo by Russell Nadel. They have released a CD in conjunction with this milestone event: *The Lester/Roldán Duo: A 30-Year Celebration*. In addition to their duo, both Noel and Nancy have maintained successful solo and teaching careers.

Boaz Sharon, Chair of the Piano Department at the University of Florida, spent the fall semester of 2007 as a Visiting Professor of Piano at Shenyang Conservatory, China. During the semester he also presented a recital and other concerts at Guangzhou's Xinghai Conservatory and South China Normal University, as well as presented master classes at Shanghai Conservatory and Seoul National University.

Gila Goldstein served as a Visiting Assistant Professor of Piano at the University of Florida (UF) in Gainesville this past fall semester. She replaced Professor **Boaz Sharon** during his sabbatical. She performed two recitals on campus, as well as at the Steinway Gallery in Miami. She also gave lecture-recitals and master classes at Anderson High School for the Arts in Jacksonville,

Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, and the University of South Florida in Tampa. In November, she was the organizer of a Liszt Festival at UF, where four of her students and three guest students from other universities performed an all-Liszt concert. (see article immediately below). In addition to her Florida engagements, Gila also performed the Ben-Haim *Piano Concerto* with the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra in Israel on September 19. (www.gilagoldstein.com)

It was ALS member **Boaz Sharon's** idea to organize a Liszt Festival at the University of Florida, one that would present UF students as well as guest students from other Florida music schools. **Gila Goldstein**, who replaced Sharon during his sabbatical, brought the idea to fruition and organized the event with great success. From UF, four students performed: Seung Hye Kim (Schumann/Liszt *Widmung* and *Feux Follets*), Maria Gorodetskaya (*Sonnetto 104 del Petrarca* and *Eroica*), Joanna Kim (*Pensée des Morts*) and Schumann Ren (Wagner/Liszt's "Senta's Ballade" from *The Flying Dutchman*, and *La Campanella*). Guest students included Sarah Mingle, student of Professor Svetozar Ivanov at the University of South Florida in Tampa (*Vallée d'Obermann*), Matthew Cataldi, a student of Professor Read Gainsford at Florida State University in Tallahassee (*Mephisto Waltz*), and Jamila Tekalli, a student of Professor Laurent Boukobza at the University of Central Florida in Orlando (*Waldestrauchen* and *Gnomesreigen*). The concert inspired the faculty to continue having rotating Liszt events at the various Florida universities.

As part of the Festival, Professor Gainsford (FSU) gave a master class on November 7 at Keene Faculty Center on the University of Florida campus.

More News of Members, Chapters, and Friends

New York/New Jersey Chapter (Gila Goldstein, Founder-President, and David Witten, Vice-President)

Pianist Sandro Russo (www.sandrorussopianist.com) performed for the ALS New York/New Jersey Chapter on November 15 at the Yamaha Piano Salon. Sandro was first introduced to the ALS community at the San Francisco ALS Festival in March 2007, where he stunned everyone with his unique and ultra-virtuosic playing. His New York performance, which presented both well-known and lesser-known works, was just as incredible. The program included Mendelssohn's *Variations Sérieuses*; Chopin's *Andante Spianato and Grand Polonaise*; Poulenc's *Improvisation*; the Saint-Saëns/Liszt/Horowitz *Danse Macabre*; Scriabin's *Fantasy in B minor*; Liebermann's *Nocturne No. 5*; and Liszt's *Spanish Rhapsody*. For an encore he played the *Étude for the Left-Hand* by Felix Blumenfeld. The entire recital is now available on YouTube! - search Sandro Russo American Liszt Society.

The next event sponsored by the New York/New Jersey Chapter is scheduled for 8:00pm on Wednesday, March 26 at the John J. Cali School of Music, Montclair State University, 1 Normal Avenue, Montclair, NJ. The pianist will be Koji Attwood performing a solo recital. Admission is free. For more information contact David at Wittend@mail.montclair.edu or Gila at gilagoldstein@aol.com or by phone at 973-655-4379.

Gila recently notified the *Newsletter* of a great book about the pianist Ervin Nyiregyházi: *Lost Genius: The curious and tragic story of a musical prodigy* by Kevin Bazzana. The book is published by Carroll & Graf, ISBN 978-0-78672-088-0. Go to the Carroll & Graf website at www.eruditor.com/exec/books/item/9780786720880.html, or go to amazon.com

Nancy Roldán reports that in May, 2007 she took her “. . . final step and retired from teaching at the Peabody Conservatory of Music.” She still is, however, performing and presenting master classes. In addition to piano-duo performances during 2007, she performed with violinist José Cueto at the Great Romantics Festival in Hamilton, Ontario. On April 12 there will be a special recital-performance in a fund raiser for the Liszt/Garrison Festival and Competition at the College of Notre Dame in Maryland, where Nancy will perform one of her favorite latest discoveries - “TANGO!” - in the distinguished company of Bandoneon virtuoso David Alsina, violinist José Cueto, vocalist/actor and Emmy Award nominee Gabriella Cavallero, violinist José Cueto, and other greats.

She will be presenting two master classes, one on wellness and technique, and the other on performance, plus a violin-piano duo recital at the University of Colorado at Boulder. The same recital will be a fund raiser to benefit Modern Muse Theatre Company in Denver at the King Center of the University of Colorado. She is on the program of the ALS Conference in Washington and will undertake a mini-tour with the theme “Tone Paintings” that will include several venues in Maryland.

Thomas Allen (14), private student of **Falko Steinbach**, won the Grand Prize of the New Mexico Symphony Concerto Competition 2007. Lauren Anderson, also a student of **Falko Steinbach**, was a Winner of the Creative Presentations Category in the University of New Mexico Undergraduate Research and Creativity Conference. Her subject was the order of the piano keyboard.

Glenn Kurtz's *Practicing: A Musician's Return to Music* has been nominated for the Quality Paperback Book Club's “New Voices” award. The winner will be announced in May 2008. *Practicing* also received a nice notice in *The New York Times* Sunday Book Review on October 28, an issue devoted to music. Readers may visit the NYT link www.nytimes.com/2007/10/28/books/review/Itzkoff3-t.html to see the complete article. You can hear Glenn's interview on Wisconsin Public Radio's nationally-broadcast “To The Best of Our Knowledge” by going to www.wpr.org/book/071007a.html. An even earlier interview with Scott Simon on NPR's “Weekend Edition” is still online at www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=12843867.

[If you have a news item about your professional activities, please send information to Edward Rath, Editor of the ALS Newsletter, at erath@uiuc.edu. Be sure to specify ALS News in the subject line.]

2008 ALS Conference in Washington

(continued from page 1)

us in person, he will have recorded a DVD with his acceptance remarks for us to hear. His wife, the wonderful American soprano Jennifer Ringo, will be in attendance to accept the Medal on his behalf.

Following a break for dinner, pianist Michael Campanella will perform an all-Liszt recital including *Vexilla prodeunt*, *Sancta Dorothea*, *Ave Maria* (Lebert-Starck), *Two Legends*, and the *Hungarian Rhapsodies* Nos. 13, 3, 12, 10, and 15.

Saturday morning begins with a 10:00am lecture by Denise Gallo entitled, "Libretti as Literature." A perfect followup concert at 11:00am includes pianists Jane and Kathleen Solose performing a four-hand version of Liszt's *Grandes variations de concert Hexameron sur un theme des Bellini's Puritains*, followed by the *Grand Concert Fantasy on La Sonnambula*, performed by duo-pianists William Wellborn and John Touchton. Louis Nagel offers his interpretation of the *Don Juan Fantasy*, and Daniel Glover closes the program with the *Rienzi Fantasy*.

After a mid-day break to catch a snack - and our breaths! - we return to the concert hall for what might be called "The Four Ls: Liszt, Laménais, Lamartine, and Lafont." Justin Kolb opens the program with the *Apparitions*, followed by duo-pianists Eugene and Elizabeth Pridinoff performing both the *Les Préludes* and the *Concerto Pathétique*. Nancy Roldán and José Cueto end the program with Liszt's *Grand Duo Concertante*.

Richard Zimdars, who hosted a wonderful Liszt conference at the University of Georgia in 2006, introduces us to some of the literary sources of one of Liszt's greatest works, Book One of the *Années de Pèlerinage I* ("Suisse"): "Remarks on Byron, Schiller, and Senancour." The work will be performed in its entirety by pianists Guilio Draghi, Karen Shaw, and Sandro Russo.

Dinner is followed by a recital of Liszt works based on Lenau and Goethe: Alexandre Dossin playing *Six Songs of Beethoven*, Steven Spooner performing the formidable *Erlkönig*, and Luiz de Moura Castro finishing up with two melodramas: *Der traurige Mönch* and the famous *Mephisto Waltz No. 1*.

Morning activities at the Catholic University of America will be announced at a later date. After lunch and traveling to the National Gallery of Art, we encounter a religious theme as we are presented with "Liszt: Sacred Art and Sacred Texts" at 2:00pm. Here we will be able to see some beautiful art work, as David Cannata and Nicolas Dufetel talk about works by Michelangelo and Orcagno, and Steven Spooner performs *Il Penseroso*, a solo version of *Totentanz*, and *Saint Francis Walking on the Waves*. There will then be time to stroll the Gallery and see paintings that Liszt himself might have seen - although not in America, sad to say!!

The conference's musical activities come to a close with a 6:30pm concert by the Choral Arts Society of Washington - Norman Scribner, Artistic Director; Joseph Holt, Conductor; and David Lang, Organist. Repertoire will include *Inno a Maria Vergine*, *Ave Maria I* (from *Harmonies Poétiques et Religieuses*), *Zur Trauung* (*Sposalizio*), *The Beatitudes*, *Pater Noster* (from *Christus*), and ending with a Liszt masterpiece, the *Missa Choralis* (1865).

Conference participants will then have the opportunity to relax in an atmosphere in which Liszt himself would have revelled: a late-night dinner, I'm sure complete with fine wine - and cigars.

The 2008 ALS Conference invites you to attend all events or as many as you can. Registration fees are \$125 per person, which includes all concerts, lectures, transportation on Sunday, June 1, as part of the itinerary as listed in the official brochure. The cost of the final banquet on June 1st Ristorante d'aqua is \$70 per person.

Please check the ALS website at www.americanlisztsociety.org for up-to-date information about the conference.

To register for the conference, please contact Dr. Thomas Mastroianni in care of the American Liszt Society, 1420 Chilton Drive, Silver Spring, MD 20904, or you may e-mail him at mastroianni68@aol.com in order to obtain a brochure.

Hotel accommodations are available at The Phoenix Park Hotel, 520 N. Capitol Street NW, Washington, DC 20001. Please contact the hotel directly at 800/824-5419 or at its website, www.phoenixparkhotel.com/. You *must* contact the hotel not later than April 29, 2008 in order to take advantage of the special group rate discount prices (single \$169, double \$199, triple \$229, and quad \$259, plus tax). Be sure to use Group Code 11787 when making your reservations! See you in Washington!!

If you are not already a member of ALS but would like to join, you may join by completing an application form available at its website (www.americanlisztsociety.org) and mail it to Justin Kolb, ALS Executive Secretary, 1136 Hog Mountain Road, Fleischmanns, NY 12430, along with your check for the appropriate membership fee.

NEXT ISSUE

The next issue of the American Liszt Society Newsletter will feature the Fall 2008 Great Romantics Festival, a wrap-up of the Washington Conference, and a review of Reginald Gerig's revised *Famous Pianists and Their Technique*.

The deadline for all materials to be included in the next issue is Monday, June 16, 2008. 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 News in the subject line. Typed, word-processed hardcopy, and photocopied materials will not be accepted - only electronic versions are acceptable.

Thank you.

Ralph Locke Wins Deems Taylor Award More News of Members, Chapters, and Friends

For the fifth time since 1992, Eastman School of Music Professor of Musicology Ralph P. Locke has won an ASCAP Deems Taylor Award for excellence in music writing. The award is presented annually by the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers. The new honor cites his article "Liszt on the Artist in Society," which appeared in the book *Liszt and His World* (Princeton University Press, 2006).

Locke's article discusses, and translates into English for the first time, what he calls "a pathbreaking essay" published by Franz Liszt in Paris in 1835. In "On the Situation of Artists and Their Condition in Society," the then 23-year-old pianist and composer wrote about the struggles that artists, especially composers and performers, face in a world that tends not to support the arts.

"Liszt's essay offered a bold eight-point program for reshaping and reinvigorating French musical life," Locke notes. "Liszt proposed that public schools should all incorporate musical instruction. By the end of Liszt's life, in the 1880s, music had become a standard element in public education across Europe and the Americas."

Locke points out that Liszt identified problems still prevalent today, such as artistic isolation and funding cuts. "Liszt," he adds, "offered passionate analysis and practical solutions that can guide us today."

The ASCAP Deems Taylor Award was established in 1967 in memory of Deems Taylor, President of ASCAP from 1942 to 1948, who died in 1966 after a distinguished career as a composer, critic, and commentator. Locke, who received his previous Deems Taylor Awards in 1992, 1998, 1999, and 2003, was honored along with other winners at a reception on December 13 at New York City's Lincoln Center.

Congratulations, Professor Locke!!

Falko Steinbach, Associate Professor of Piano at the University of New Mexico, gave a lecture-recital for the series "Symphony 101" at the Recital Hall of Robertson's Violin Shop with his *17 Choreographic Études*. The *Études* received their world premiere on December 7, 2006 in Keller Hall at the University of New Mexico. They represent a cycle of approximately one hour's length. They will soon be published as a CD and also as a printed score.

From March 10 - 17, Falko taught an international master course in Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia) and played a recital in the German Embassy in that city to celebrate "50 Years of German-Malaysian Diplomatic Relations" for the Diplomatic Corps in Malaysia. He also performed in the "Seri Pacific Concertante Series" in Kuala Lumpur. At this event and at the final student recital, Malaysian Television and the Secretary of the Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia were present.

Later in March he gave an international master course and two recitals in Heek (Germany). The students came from Germany, Japan, USA, South Korea, Holland, and Russia. He also taught a master class and presented a recital at Northwestern State University of Louisiana as part of the "Piano Series International."

Steinbach also played two chamber music recitals in Taos, NM, a lieder-abend with soprano Marlene Mild at the Opera House in Nuremberg, and he again performed his *Études* in Brauweiler (Germany).

The latest release by internationally recognized concert and recording artist Daniel Pollack is entitled *Colors*. The recording presents dazzling, impassioned, and transcendent performances of four nineteenth-century masterworks and offers testament to Pollack's rare link to the Golden Age of pianism and a unique voice in our time.

Readers may sample the new CD at www.danielpollack.com/sample/colors.php. The CD is available for purchase at www.danielpollack.com/amazon.htm. Daniel's websites include www.danielpollack.com or www.myspace.com/danielpollack for more information.

A new website has been established for **Madeleine Forte** and Allen Forte at forte.music.unt.edu. Four videos can be viewed in QuickTime or RealAudio. More lecture-concerts will be posted soon, as well as the unpublished papers of Allen Forte. If you go to madeleineforte.com, you can hear Madeleine's performance of César Franck's *Variations Symphoniques*. (For this you will need Shockwave or QuickTime.) She also has a site at www.youtube.com/madeleineforte, where you can hear her perform two works by Messiaen. The University of Western Ontario in London, Ontario invited both Madeleine and Allen to be artists-in residence in September. The Fortes presented lectures and performances on and of the *Tre Sonetti del Petrarca*, as well as music of Arnold Schoenberg.

Newest Chapter of the ALS is Established at the University of Oregon

The American Liszt Society has established a new chapter in the Northwest. Dr. Alexandre Dossin and Dr. Claire Wachter, members of the piano faculty at the University of Oregon, will serve respectively as its President and Vice-President.

The memory of Franz Liszt, the supreme virtuoso, composer, and master teacher of the 1800s, continues to attract attention in the 21st century. His brilliance merits the worldwide revival of interest he is receiving. As notable scholars, such as Dr. Alan Walker, continue to research his life, more and more truths are uncovered that disprove the many falsehoods and misconceptions about Franz Liszt. His noble and generous character traits, as well as his towering achievements in the musical arena, inspire our admiration. Several letters and diaries written by Liszt's pupils and his contemporaries attest both to his unique creativity and his artistry in performance. It is appropriate that musically-drawn spirits become more thoroughly acquainted with this often misunderstood genius who greatly influenced piano playing and teaching, paved the way to modernism in his compositions, and was able to elevate music to the highest levels of artistry and spirituality.

The very first event sponsored by the chapter could not have been better. In January, the University of Oregon welcomed to its campus the eminent musicologist Dr. Alan Walker, who is best known for his scholarship surrounding Franz Liszt. To date he has published 13 books and has received many awards in recognition of his scholarly work. His three-volume biography of Franz Liszt is a monumental work that gives insights into the life and music of this historic figure. Dr. Walker is Professor Emeritus in the School of Art, Drama and Music, at McMaster University and was invited to Eugene as a Trotter Visiting Professor at the University of Oregon. Lectures by Dr. Walker and other events related to his residency at the University of Oregon included:

Jan. 28, Monday:

Piano literature class: solo piano repertoire by Liszt; great Lisztian performers from all periods

Jan. 29, Tuesday:

Lectures: "Liszt and his Pupils" and "Liszt and the Keyboard"

Jan. 29, Tuesday:

Piano recital, UO School of Music piano students perform music of Franz Liszt

Jan. 30, Wednesday:

Piano literature class: solo piano repertoire by Liszt; great Lisztian performers from all periods

Jan. 31, Thursday:

Lecture: "Liszt as the Cultural Ambassador of the 19th Century"

Feb. 1, Friday:

Theme Lecture: "Liszt and the Beethoven Symphonies"

Feb. 3, Sunday:

Pre-concert lecture on Liszt's *Piano Concerto No. 1* and *Les Préludes*, followed by a performance by the University Symphony with guest soloist Alexandre Dossin

Inquiries about the Oregon Chapter may be addressed to liszt@uoregon.edu. Future events will be announced by e-mail and at the chapter web page (<http://liszt.uoregon.edu>)

We welcome our newest chapter and its members, and thank Drs. Dossin and Wachter for their continuing work to promote the music of Franz Liszt! Contratulations and best wishes!!!!

Burgenland Liszt Society in Austria Hosts 2007 Festival

The 2007 Festival, sponsored by the Burgenland Liszt Society, took place October 12 - 21, 2007. Centered in Raiding, the birthplace of Franz Liszt, the BLS developed an interesting 10-day schedule.

Pianists "framed" the festival: "Fireworks of Virtuosity" is the label attached to Klavierduo Kutrowatz, which opened the Festival on October 12, and the final concert was a piano recital by Cyprien Katsaris on October 21 - one day before Liszt's actual birthday! Katsaris has twice been awarded the "Grand Prix du Disque Franz Liszt."

The Vienna Chamber Choir performed on October 13, and a matinee concert on Tuesday, October 14 featured the string virtuoso Benjamin ("Benji") Schmid, who also offered a program focusing on "Franz Liszt and the Music of the Gypsies" on October 17. The next evening (October 18), Robert Holl, the great Dutch bass soloist, sang a liederabend with David Lutz at the piano. The other half of the "Fireworks of Virtuosity," Klavierduo Klukon & Ranki, played a concert on October 19, and the Chorus sine nomine performed on October 20.

For more information, please contact the Büro Franz Liszt Festival by e-mail at office@franz-liszt.at, or visit its website at www.franz-liszt.at.

In Memoriam Adrienne E. Kimler

Adrienne Kimler, M.D., died July 27, 2007, at age 57. She was a proud Air Force Major Veteran. Beloved daughter of Helen and the late Henry Kimler., she is survived by many cousins. Services were held Tuesday July 31, 2007, at Sterling Heights, MI.

ALS member Richard Zimdars said, "Dr. Kimler was a wonderful and avid pianist and teacher, and was also an animal activist. She was a resident of

In Memoriam: Marilyn Neeley

(The following article by Matt Schudel appeared in the June 4, 2007 edition of *The Washington Post*.)

"**Marilyn Neeley**, 69, an internationally acclaimed concert pianist who directed piano and chamber music studies at Catholic University and was a former dean of its music school, died of pneumonia May 30 at Holy Cross Hospital after surgery for cancer. She lived in Hyattsville.

"A prodigy who made her concert debut at New York's Town Hall when she was 8 years old, Ms. Neeley appeared with more than 100 symphony orchestras and won prizes in some of the world's most prestigious piano competitions.

"She had been a professor of piano at Catholic since 1987 and was a member of the university's Rome Trio, which includes violinist Jody Gatwood and cellist Michael Mermagen. Her performance with the trio in March was praised in *The Washington Post* for its 'lyricism and rhythmic vitality.'

"For many years, Ms. Neeley also appeared in duo concerts with her husband, violinist Robert Gerle. In 1970, they recorded the complete Beethoven sonatas for violin and piano for public television. Their recordings received a special Emmy Award.

"A pianist of 'able technique' and 'blistering drive,' according to Washington Post reviews, Ms. Neeley was most comfortable in the repertoire of the Romantic period, said her son, Andrew Gerle, a musical theater composer in New York. She also had an affinity for French music, the works of Mozart and Tchaikovsky's *Piano Concerto No. 1 in B-flat Minor*. In 1992, she recorded a CD of solo piano music by Mozart, Brahms, Debussy and Liszt.

"She was an exacting teacher and exacting with herself," said Jean M. Barr, a professor at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, N.Y., who performed with and gave master classes with Ms. Neeley. "She was dramatic and had wonderful technique and imagination."

"Ms. Neeley appeared as a soloist with the Boston, Chicago, Pittsburgh and Baltimore symphony orchestras. A *Baltimore Sun* critic once wrote that she was 'at home in the company of the great pianists of our day.'

"Ms. Neeley was born in Los Angeles, the daughter of a judge, and was giving recitals by age 6. When she made her New York Town Hall debut two years later, performing music by Bach, Beethoven, Schubert and Schumann, she was featured in an article in *Life* magazine.

"She graduated from the University of Southern California in 1960 and received a master's degree from USC in 1967 -- not in music, she liked to point out, but in philosophy and religion.

"She knew a great deal about many things," Barr said. "She was quick-witted and extremely observant and had a remarkably dry, stiletto-like sense of humor."

"In 1958, Ms. Neeley and cellist Joanna de Keyser won the Geneva International Music Competition for chamber music. She won a prize at the first Van Cliburn International Piano Competition in 1962 and was a finalist in the Leventritt Foundation piano competition the same year. In 1963, she was named "Woman of the Year in Music" by the *Los Angeles Times* after she substituted at the last minute for an ailing Glenn Gould in a performance with the Los Angeles Philharmonic.

(continued on page 10)

Marilyn Neeley

(continued from page 9)

“Ms. Neeley interrupted her concert career in the mid-1960s to teach at the Boylan-Haven-Mather Academy, a mission school in Camden, S.C., for the descendants of slaves. She taught at Ohio State University from 1968 to 1972 and at the University of Maryland Baltimore County from 1972 to 1984.

“Ms. Neeley then spent two years at Florida State University and a year as artist-in-residence at the Cairo Conservatory of Music before joining Catholic’s faculty. She taught about 20 piano students at a time and also directed CU’s graduate program in chamber music.

“She really had a passion for teaching and helping people,” said Thomas Mastroianni, a concert pianist and emeritus professor at Catholic. “If someone wasn’t toeing the mark, she would speak up in no uncertain terms. But she wasn’t a taskmaster -- she was an example for her students.”

“Ms. Neeley’s concert schedule took her from Moscow to Seoul to Zurich to New York’s Carnegie Hall, and she spent many summers on the piano faculty of the Brevard Music Center in North Carolina. She enjoyed performing in small chamber ensembles and, for the past 10 years, often appeared in two-piano concerts with her son.

“Ms. Neeley’s husband, who taught at Catholic and UMBC, and was musical director of the Washington Sinfonia and Friday Morning Music Club, died in 2005.

“Her son, whose musical play ‘Meet John Doe’ had a recent run at Ford’s Theatre, is her sole survivor.”

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The Board of Directors and Members of the American Liszt Society express their belated condolences to Andrew Gerle.

More News of Members

Frederic Chiu reports that the International Franz Liszt Piano Competition in Utrecht completed its preliminary selections, for the first time held in live auditions around the world. For three weeks, Chiu (Liszt Society member, Bloomington chapter) and fellow panel-members Martyn van den Hoek, Quinten Peelen (Director), Balázs Szokolay, and Múza Rubackyté listened to 64 would-be competitors in Shanghai, Utrecht, and New York City with the goal of picking 24 competitors for the April 2008 competition in Utrecht. Results of the auditions can be found on the competition website, www.liszt.nl/competition.

Congratulations!!

The European Reference Index for the Humanities (ERIH) has recently listed the *Journal of the American Liszt Society* on its list of composed-oriented standard international journals “with a good reputation among researchers of the field in different countries.” Among the criteria for inclusion is the selection of articles, which must be based on an objective review policy. Quality control is normally to be achieved through peer review. The journal must also fulfill basic publishing standards.

This is a first for JALS and certainly a feather in the cap of the American Liszt Society! Congratulations to Editor **Rena Charnin Mueller** on this accomplishment - BRAVISSIMA!!

And congratulations to all who supported the petitions and letters concerning funding of the Loh-Orchester Sondershausen in Thuringia. The efforts paid off, we are told. More details in the next *Newsletter*!!

Steven Spooner accepted a new position as assistant professor of piano at the University of Kansas. His wife, Jung, and he are “. . . really excited to begin work just outside KC in Lawrence, KS, but sad, too, to leave such a wonderful place with wonderful friends such as we had at the University of Idaho.” You can hear him at the upcoming ALS Conference in Washington, DC. Steven also tells us that he will be teaching at both the Amalfi Coast Festival in Italy (July 1-13) and the Poland Summer Music Festival (July 14-25). For more information, contact Steven at info@stevenspooner.com.

Justin Kolb performed a piano recital entitled “Great Romantics Meet Hudson River Composers” at the Burnt Hills United Methodist Church in Burnt Hills, NY. The evening program included traditional repertoire as well as music by Albany’s Nicolas Ascioti, New York City’s Victoria Bond, and Woodstock composer Gilles Malkine. Prior to the recital, members of the Saratoga Youth Symphony attended a special master class during which Kolb and the participants discussed in depth why it is that music students excel.

Kolb is a nationally known advocate on behalf of “Arts in Education.” He is well known for performing works by living American composers. His recordings of music by American composers are available on the Albany Records label. His traditional repertoire, however, centers around Beethoven and Liszt, and you can hear him in person as part of the ALS Conference coming up this spring in Washington, DC. Justin also informs us of interesting articles from *Musical America* to be found at www.musicalamerica.com: “Spontaneous Music Making, Franz Liszt Style” and “Hélène Grimaud at Center of Huge Flap” (*sic*).

More News of Members

Joseph Banowetz (Advisory Council Member, Life Member, and formerly on the ALS Board of Directors) has recently had two compact disc recordings released by Toccata Classics of London. The first recording, released early in 2007 in commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the birth of Sergei Taneyev, contains the world-premiere recording of Taneyev's *Piano Concerto*, with the Russian Philharmonic of Moscow conducted by Thomas Sanderling. Among the other piano music recorded here for the first time is a one-piano, four-hand transcription made by Banowetz of Taneyev's tribute to Tchaikovsky, entitled *The Composer's Birthday*. It is recorded with ALS member **Adam Wodnicki** and is accompanied by a spoken text read by Vladimir Ashkenazy. In the May, 2007 issue of *Gramophone*, David Fanning writes that Banowetz's playing "never gives off the whiff of dutiful generality that so often accompanies such ventures. Banowetz plays with a natural eloquence and heart, as well as a fine technical address." And in the July/August, 2007 issue of *Fanfare*, Barry Brenesal writes that "Joseph Banowetz plays with obvious affection for this music and genuine distinction."

The other recording, released in July, 2007 by Toccata Classics, contains a world-premiere recording of Balakirev's *Fantasy on Russian Folk Songs*, Op. 4, with the Russian Philharmonic of Moscow conducted by Konstantin Kremets. This disc is filled out with Balakirev's transcriptions for one piano, four hands of thirty Russian folk songs. ALS Life Member **Alton Chan** performs these with Banowetz. Each transcription is prefaced with excerpts of the original folk songs sung in Russian. In November the Balakirev disc was nominated for two Grammys (Best Chamber Music Performance and

Best Producer Awards). Both Alton and Joseph received nominations for best performance.

During the first half of 2007, Banowetz performed and gave master classes in the United States, Poland, Bulgaria, India, The People's Republic of China, and Singapore. He continues as Professor of Piano Performance at the College of Music of the University of North Texas, now the largest music school in the United States. His website is www.josephbanowetz.com.

In 2002, **Dr. Charles Joseph Smith** successfully executed his lecture-recital project, "Performance Suggestions for Franz Liszt's Operatic Arrangements on *Don Juan*, *La Sonnambula*, *Robert le Diable*, and *Norma*," and earned a D.M.A. in Piano Performance and Literature at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He did extensive research on other Liszt operatic transcriptions not related to the project, and he now regards himself as a Franz Liszt "expert and specialist."

He performed Liszt's *Don Juan Fantasy* and the *Il Canzone* at two of Leslie Howard's master classes, and Liszt's *Mephisto Waltz No. 1* at the Irina Mozorova master class at the 2006 International Keyboard Institute Festival in New York at the Mannes College of Music

He gave his first postdoctoral lecture/demonstration at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in May 2007, at the studio of piano faculty member Timothy Ehlen, who performed the Schubert-Liszt *Wanderer Fantasy* with orchestra at the 2004 ALS Conference in Urbana. The lecture/demonstration focused on some of the lesser-known late works of Franz Liszt, including *La Lugubre Gondola* numbers 1 and 2, and *Czardas macabre*.

Dr. Smith, a life member of ALS, is now planning his own all-Liszt piano recital programs and continuing to increase his Liszt piano repertory to prepare for the 200th anniversary of Liszt's birth in 2011.

Items of Interest

Lisztian Keyboard Energy/ Liszt et la Pedagogue du Piano by **Bertrand Ott** - available in the English translation by Donald Windham, available at a discount from the Edwin Mellen Press at www.mellenpress.com

Great Pianists and Their Technique

by **Reginald Gerig** - available from Indiana University Press at iupress.indiana.edu

Ensemble Palimpsest

a small group of international artists, has joined together to explore the music of Franz Liszt through the creation of an interdisciplinary piece, *Stalking the Sublime*, an evening-length performance in two parts. Music for Act I is selected from some of Liszt's shorter works, while Act II is based on the *Sonata in B minor*. For more information, visit the group's website at www.ensemblepalimpsest.com.

The Franz Liszt Society of Hungary

has a very fine website at www.lisztsociety.hu. Click on "English" for good translations. Its newsletter is also very interesting, the most recent copy of which includes an article on "The Hungarian View of Liszt."

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