



American Liszt Society

AN OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE AMERICAN LISZT SOCIETY, INC.

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2013 ALS Festival Scheduled for May 30-June 1 in San Francisco

by William Wellborn

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Liszt's Dance with the Devil

It is my great pleasure to invite you to attend the 2013 American Liszt Society annual festival, which will be held this year in San Francisco at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. The festival dates are May 30-June 1, 2013, with the main activities beginning on the morning of Thursday May 30. The closing banquet will be held on Saturday evening, June 1. I am especially pleased to announce that the 2013 festival will be co-hosted by the Wagner Society of Northern California.

The theme for the 2013 festival is "Franz Liszt: Anniversaries and Connections," and celebrates the 200th anniversaries of three of Liszt's contemporaries: composers Giuseppe Verdi, Richard Wagner, and Charles-Valentin Alkan, as well as the 150th anniversary of composer and conductor Felix Weingartner. Liszt's connections to these individuals varied from acquaintance (Alkan), to admiration (Verdi), to pupil (Weingartner), to deep friendship and artistic kinship (Wagner). During the course of our three-day festival, Liszt's connections to these and other important figures will be examined in a variety of lectures, presentations, and concerts.

As part of our tribute to Verdi and Wagner, during the course of the festival the Verdi-Liszt and the Wagner-Liszt opera transcriptions will be performed by a variety of ALS and guest artists. There will also be transcriptions of music by Verdi and Wagner written by composers other than Liszt. In the realm of historic recordings, Donald Manildi (from the International Piano Archive at Maryland) will give a presentation of Wagner-Liszt and Verdi-Liszt transcriptions by legendary pianists of the past. **Alan Walker's** lecture "Liszt and the Keyboard" will no doubt provide fascinating insight into Liszt's superb abilities as a transcriber.

Along with the Verdi opera paraphrases, we'll also hear Liszt's rarely encountered transcription of the "Agnus Dei" from Verdi's *Requiem*, and Giuseppe Martucci's *Fantasia su Un Ballo in Maschera*, Op. 8 for piano four-hands (performed by **Jay** and **Sandra Mauchley**). Liszt's colorful pupil Hermann Cohen ("Puzzi") composed fantasies on Verdi's *Nabucco* and *I Lombardi*, and these works will probably be a first hearing for many in the audience. In addition to performing these works, the always-entertaining **Justin Kolb** will provide background on the wily Cohen.

(continued on page 6)

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President's Message

IN MEMORIAM: ROBERT SILVERMAN

We greatly mourn the passing of Robert Silverman. His service to The American Liszt Society was significant and long standing. As a member of the Board of ALS he shared in building the society and in forging its future. His highly successful work through the *Piano Quarterly* was instrumental in awakening the pianistic world to higher values and to the promotion of ideals shared by The American Liszt Society.

Silverman's contact with leaders of the piano profession proved valuable to his service on the ALS Board. His input provided a constant source of professional realism and worldly wisdom to discussions prone to idealistic flights of fancy. His knowledge of the vicissitudes of the music industry provided a keel that contributed stability to the Society as it developed during a time of unprecedented changes in the attitudes of the music world towards Franz Liszt.

His expertise and professional experience were often delivered in a stream of anecdotes, often satirical but seldom acerbic.

A close friend of Glenn Gould, he gleaned and shared much wisdom from his intimacy with that innovative and exceptional musical mind.

Silverman's honesty and genuineness were his clearest attributes. He said what he meant and pulled no punches, yet he was at heart kind and generous: a truly exceptional man of intelligence, wit, worldly experience, and a deep devotion to Franz Liszt. The American Liszt Society will be ever in debt to him.

Thomas Mastroianni
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Letter from the Editor



Dear Fellow Lisztians!

Justin Kolb recently pointed out to me the article entitled, "Playing by Heart, With or Without a Score," written by the noted music critic of the *New York Times*, Anthony Tommasini. (The article is accessible via the NYT website at http://www.nytimes.com/2013/01/01/arts/music/memorizations-loosening-hold-on-concert-tradition.html?pagewanted=all&_r=0. Mr. Tommasini refers to an earlier article penned by the British pianist Stephen Hough, appearing in *The Telegraph* during the Liszt bicentennial (see <http://blogs.telegraph.co.uk/culture/stephenhough/100053906/liszt-the-man-who-invented-stage-fright/>).

I think this is a subject that has merit as a point of discussion among members of ALS. Many pianists swear by the conviction that playing from memory frees one to concentrate on the spontaneity and musicality of the performance. We all know the stories of some legendary pianists - Jorge Bolet and Arthur Rubinstein come to mind - who are said to have learned music on trains or, later, planes, and then playing the works shortly thereafter from memory in public.

In my own younger days, I remember memorizing a bassoon concerto (without the bassoon!) in the car and playing it from memory the next morning, or memorizing a movement of a Mozart piano concerto overnight and performing it in a competition the next morning, or programming a piece on a future concert - and not even having the music when making the commitment to perform it, all without really worrying about the memory holding up under pressure - it just worked.

No more, my friends. As I have become older, I find that memorizing music new to my repertoire is a real struggle, and that the "fear" of forgetting leads to stage fright that at times has compelled me to stop performing. Even the skill of concentration when using the score can be inconsistent or simply absent.

Surely I am not alone, nor the only person who has an interest in this subject. So, I ask for your input. I would like to dedicate a large portion of the next Newsletter - and also as an ongoing dialog on the ALS website, to the subject of playing from memory and its relationship to stage fright. How have you overcome the pitfalls associated with memorizing and growing older? How do some of our younger members feel about the subject? Is memorizing music a passé aspect of performance? Why should pianists and some soloists feel forced by tradition to play without the score, while other instrumentalists and even some singers feel perfectly comfortable with the "notes" in front of them and "permitted" to do so? Your thoughts, please - and let me know if you would prefer that your name not be used in connection with your written submissions.

On a sad note, I offer a tribute to Wanelle Lowe. Most likely only a few of you would recognize that name, but she was a wonderful piano teacher who touched the lives of hundreds of young pianists in central Louisiana. A dedicated wife, mother, and church pianist, she was the embodiment of honesty in piano teaching, demanding while keeping a friendly smile and encouraging tone in her voice. I encouraged her to pursue a master's degree some years ago, and was honored to teach her; we became good friends as well as colleagues. She died this past August. And she will be missed.

ED

The American Liszt Society

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Member News

Kris Becker has won the 2012 National Federation of Music Clubs Emil & Ruth Beyer Composition Award for his new *Piano Sonata No. 1*, and has also been chosen as the Texas Music Teachers Association Commissioned Composer for 2013. Kris was furthermore a finalist in the ASCAP Morton Gould Young Composer Awards. 2012 saw the premieres of Kris' new piece for alto saxophone and piano, *Contention* (commissioned by Scott Sandberg), at the World Saxophone Congress in Scotland last summer, as well his eight-hand piano works commissioned by and premiered at Michigan's Stella Royce Piano Camp. Becker's new album as composer/pianist, *Expansions*, has just been released. The album, as well as the score to Becker's *Piano Sonata No. 1*, is available at <http://www.krisbeckermusic.com>. The complete sonata is available for listening at <http://www.reverbnation.com/krisbeckermusic>.

Sara Davis Buechner recently performed the Mozart *Piano Concerto in C Minor*, K. 491, with the Canton (Ohio) Symphony under the direction of Gerhard Zimmermann. The performance, which included her own cadenza to the first movement, was broadcast via the Internet.

Luiz de Moura Castro was made an Honorary Hungarian and decorated with the Silver Raven Medal by the Corvina Cultural Circle (Collegium Corvinum) of Los Angeles for his numerous Lisztian/Hungarian connections. Luiz studied at and received the Diploma from the Liszt Academy in Budapest, where he lived, got married, and where his daughter was born, not to mention his true connection to the music of Liszt - performing it worldwide.

Alexandre Dossin, host for the 2012 ALS Festival held last May in Eugene, Oregon, will be teaching and performing at the 2013 Schlern International Music Festival to be held this summer in Italy, July 15-29. This is an opportunity for interested pianists who would like to spend an inspiring time in a very scenic part of Italy. Prospective pianists may contact him directly at 541-346-3781.

Alexandre also announces that his latest project with Schirmer Performance Editions, *Rachmaninov's Préludes, Vol. 1*, which he both performed and edited, was recently released. For more information, visit his website at <http://www.dossin.net/> and click on "Publications." You may also access reviews of Alexandre's recordings by going to the same website and clicking on "CD Reviews."

Mária Eckhardt was Distinguished Guest for the Jury of the Los Angeles International Competition in November. In 1991, Dr. Eckhardt helped to establish the "cultural bridge" between the ALS and the Liszt Museum in Budapest when she invited a winner of the LA Competition to play a concert in the Liszt Hall at the Museum.

Gila Goldstein performed three recitals in December 2012 and early January 2013: at the Newton Library in Newton, Massachusetts, at the Henry Crown Hall in Jerusalem (live broadcast for the Israeli Classical Music Station), and at her alma mater, the Tel-Aviv University's Buchman-Mehta School of Music. The programs included works by Bach, Chopin, Liszt, and Ginastera.

Jay Hershberger, Vice President of ALS and Professor of Piano at Concordia College in Moorhead, MN, performed the Brahms *Concerto No. 1 in D Minor*, Op. 15, with the Concordia College

Orchestra under the direction of Maestro Foster Beyers on November 4.

Hungarian pianist **Tihamér Hlavacsek** was contracted in 2005 by Hungaroton Classics to record the complete piano works of Karl Goldmark. The fourth and most recent CD of the set, consisting of works for piano duet and recorded with pianist Balázs Szokolay, was released this summer. Following are excerpts (translated from the Hungarian) from a full-page review by Németh G. István of the 4-CD set in *Gramofon Magazine*, Budapest, Hungary, Autumn, 2012.

"The edition of Goldmark's complete piano works started by Hungaroton in 2006, has arrived at its fourth CD. The series has proved to be successful both nationally and internationally.... The first CD of the series by pianist Tihamér Hlavacsek, was nominated for the MIDEM-prize in Cannes and received also the category [Outstanding Young Artist of the Year] award from Gramofon [Hungarian pianist] Peter Frankl first drew Hlavacsek's attention to the piano works of Goldmark, and Hlavacsek has not undertaken an easy task. As some of the works existed only in manuscripts, the artistic achievement had to be preceded by scholarly, musicological research.... The fourth CD, released this summer, is a collection of the four-hand works in the astonishing interpretations by Hlavacsek with pianist Balázs Szokolay.... This series [of Goldmark's piano works] has not yet reached its completion... and, based upon the foregoing, we are strongly cheering for its continuation. Gramofon Rating of the 4 CDs: ***** (Excellent)"

Hlavacsek is a DMA Teaching Assistant at Shenandoah Conservatory. His mentor is Professor Elizabeth Temple. Learn more about Tihamér Hlavacsek by visiting his website at <http://www.tihamerhvacsek.com/>

Member News

Ian Hobson continues his monumental series of performing in concert all the Brahms music for piano, including solo, duo, four-hand, and instrumental chamber music. Ian will be taking a number of the Brahms works to New York in a series of recitals to be performed there next fall. For more information, you may visit Ian's website at <http://www.ianhobson.net/>, or check the next issue of the ALS Newsletter for a schedule of the New York concerts.

Geraldine Keeling and **Judith Neslény**, Co-Founders and continuing organizers of the Los Angeles International Liszt Competition, were recognized at this past November's competition for the 22 years of service to the Greater Los Angeles area by bringing Liszt's music to the public in general through the Competition. Each received the Diploma of Appreciation from Los Angeles City and County, presented by Dr. Frank G. De Balogh, Los Angeles City Commissioner, prior to the start of the 2012 Competition's final concert.

On Saturday, August 3rd, 2013 the "Phoenicia International Festival of the Voice" will present pianist and ALS board member **Justin Kolb** in a collaboration with novelist, dramatist, and celebrated orator Carey Harrison in a program titled, "Liszt, Verdi and Wagner: Two's a Company, Three's a Crowd."

This will be the third collaboration between Harrison and Kolb during the four-day annual festival in the Catskills. Their performance will serve as the festival's "pre-concert" prior to a production of Verdi's *Rigoletto*, starring Louis Otey, baritone; Barry Banks, tenor; and Nancy Alan Lundy, soprano.

Carey Harrison has close to 200 plays and scripts to his name.

Seventeen hours of his works have been seen on *Masterpiece Theater*, including the miniseries "Freud." Currently Professor of English at City University of New York, he is also Artistic Director of the Woodstock Players Theater Company, for which he sometimes appears on stage following in the footsteps of his distinguished actor father, Sir Rex.

Justin's current passion is to celebrate the music of Hermann Cohen. On the program of the ALS Festival in San Francisco this coming May, he will share the intrigue he has experienced during his investigations of the scholarship of others surrounding the "Barefoot Carmelite" composer.

Following a recent concert, at which Justin performed Liszt's *Apparitions*, an admiring audience member presented him with the following poem.

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"Apparitions in the piano.
Liszt whispers
through conjuring fingers
into listening ears."

The poet, Sharon Cucinotta, co-hosts a popular local community radio program in the Catskills area of New York. The poem appears here by permission of the poet.

LaWayne Leno recently published a book, *The Untold Story of Adele aus der Ohe: from a Liszt Student to a Virtuoso*. Adele aus der Hohe was one of Liszt's most important students during the master's later years in Weimar. Adele had a long and very important career as a performer and composer.

The book has received praise from scholars and performers of Liszt's music and piano music in general. The book is available directly from the publisher, Beaver's Pond Books (<http://www.bookhousefulfillment.com/>) or from *Amazon.com*. For more about the book, please go to <http://www.adeleausderohe.com/>

Edward Rath will join **Ian Hobson** for a performance of the second set of Brahms' *Hungarian Dances* as arranged for piano, four hands. The concert will occur on February 5 and is part of Hobson's series of the complete Brahms piano music performed on the campus of the University of Illinois. Rath and Hobson will also perform the work in New York City during the fall of 2013 (dates, times, and location to be announced).

Tatiana Shustova, who recently became a member of the American Liszt Society, won first place in the American Protege Romantic Music International Competition (<http://www.americanprotege.com/Romantic2012.htm>). Her performance of the Schubert-Liszt "Erlkönig" was chosen among other recordings she submitted. As a result of her winning the competition, she performed in New York City's Carnegie Weill Recital Hall on November 24.

Tatiana has been a doctoral student of ALS Life Member **Ian Hobson** at the University of Illinois School of Music, where she recently finished her preliminary exams. Her next major performance will take place in the Krannert Center Foellinger Great Hall on the UI campus, March 14 at 7:30pm. She will be performing works by Scriabin, Barber, Shostakovich, and John Nichols, a doctoral composition major at Illinois. The concert is part of a yearly series entitled, "21st Century Piano Commission Award."

Steven Spooner began 2012 with a performance in Carnegie Hall, where he premiered Mohammed Fairouz's *Second Piano Sonata*, "The Last Resistance," along with his song cycle, *Posh*, collaborating with his colleague and good friend, Chris Thompson. Both of these works were recorded and will be released on the Naxos label later this year.

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2013 ALS Festival

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The opening night concert will consist of the Wagner-Liszt paraphrases, and the Wagner Society will host a champagne reception after this program. In another session we will hear additional transcriptions from *Tristan und Isolde* and *Die Walküre* (the ever-popular "Ride of the Valkyries") by Liszt's pupil Carl Tausig, as well as Ferruccio Busoni's transcription of "Siegfried's Funeral March" from *Götterdämmerung*.

In addition to paraphrases and transcriptions, original works by Verdi and Wagner will also be performed. A pleasant surprise for many will be the discovery of Verdi's *String Quartet in E Minor*, performed by the Ives Quartet, an ensemble of musicians from the San Francisco Conservatory and Stanford University. A group of Verdi songs will be presented by soprano Denise Ritter Bernardini and pianist **Michael Boyd**. I am also especially delighted to welcome the Austrian pianist Stephan Möller for a recital of rarely-heard solo piano music of Wagner. Möller has recorded the complete piano music of Wagner, and will perform the "*Wesendonk*" *Sonata* on a concert coupled with the *Wesendonk Lieder* (with baritone Kevin McMillan and pianist Gabriel Dobner). A lecture by Wagner scholar Hans Rudolph Veget detailing Wagner's relationship to Mathilde Wesendonk further illuminates this topic. Also relevant to our examination of the relationship between Liszt and Wagner, **Geraldine Keeling** will lecture on the topic of Liszt and the premiere of *Lohengrin*.

Two sessions will be devoted to music of Alkan and Weingartner. **José López** and I will share a lecture-recital, performing and discussing music of Alkan, including the *Trois petites fantaisies*, Op. 41, and excerpts from the *Esquisses*, Op. 63. **Richard Zimdars** will give a lecture about the life and career of Felix Weingartner, in addition to performing songs of Weingartner with tenor Greg Broughton.

An exciting program is sure to be the Friday night solo recital with Van Cliburn prize winner Antonio Pompa-Baldi, who will perform the complete Lyapunov *Transcendental Etudes*, Op. 11. **Paul Barnes** will present N. Lincoln Hanks' "*Monstre sacré* - the life of the self-indulgent artist," to which he wryly added "fits Wagner perfectly!". Original music of Liszt will be featured in two programs, including a concert by winners of the 2012 Los Angeles International Liszt Competition. One recital will also be devoted to Liszt songs. Among the many wonderful performers who have not yet been mentioned are **Eugene Alcalay**, Mark Alexander, **Benjamin and Elizabeth Arnold**, **Alexander Djordjevic**, **Alexandre Dossin**, **Giulio Draghi**, **Daniel Glover**, **Gila Goldstein**, **Jay Hershberger**, **John Hord**, Yun Ha Hwang, Jeremy Jordan, **Lachezar Kostov**, Corey McVicar, Gwendolyn Mok, **Judith Neslény**, **Ksenia Nosikova**, Matti Raekallio, **Robert Schwartz**, and **Viktor Valkov**.

To register for the conference or to obtain a brochure, please contact Joshua Saulte at LisztFestival2013@gmail.com. With specific questions or concerns, you may also contact me personally at the following address: William Wellborn, 2370 20th Avenue #9, San Francisco, CA 94116, or by e-mail at pianoleg@aol.com. Accommodations for the festival will be at the nearby Whitcomb Hotel (1231 Market Street, San Francisco, CA 94103), which is within walking distance to the events at the Conservatory. For reservations, contact the hotel directly at 415-626-8000 or by e-mail at reservations@hotelwhitcomb.com. To receive the special group price of \$109, be sure to mention the American Liszt Society festival. I hope you will make plans to attend this year's festival, and I look forward to welcoming you to San Francisco.

Julius Katchen Foundation Awards \$3,000 to ALS

Special thanks to the Julius Katchen Foundation for a \$3,000 donation to ALS. \$1,000 is designated to the NY/NJ chapter of ALS, and \$2,000 is designated to The American Liszt Society in general. The American Liszt Society extends its sincere thanks for this welcome contribution.

Julius Katchen was an internationally known concert pianist who passed away in 1969, at the young age of 42, from cancer. The foundation was set up in his memory to assist music students with their careers. The foundation is being dissolved at the end of 2012 according to the foundation's President, Leon Hillman.

This donation is the result of the president of the NY/NJ Chapter, **Gila Goldstein**, nurturing and developing a musical relationship with another lover of Franz Liszt through her chapter activities. Thank you, Gila. You are a true ambassador of all the goals and purposes of the American Liszt Society!

Want to See Your Name in the Next Issue?

We are always in search of news about our members' musical, educational, and scholarly activities. Even if what you are doing does not pertain directly to Liszt, if you are a member of ALS, then your professional and musical activities are of interest to all of us. Please send your information to Ed Rath at e.rath@comcast.net!!!

Chapter News

Baltimore/Washington Chapter (Nancy Roldán, President)

The B/W Chapter of the American Liszt Society is pleased to announce the 2013 Liszt-Garrison Festival and International Piano Competition to be held October 23-26 on the campus of the College of Notre Dame in Baltimore, Maryland. The competition is open to solo pianists as well as duos with piano. A special addition to this year's Festival/Competition will be the sponsorship of the last day of the event by the Hungarian Embassy in Washington.

Application postmark deadline is May 15, 2013. For more information, please go to the event's website at www.lisztgarrisoncompetition.org.

Members of the chapter, along with many other concert goers, were treated to performances by the Duo **Kostov/Valkov** in a concert at the College of Notre Dame and also at the Chamber Music on the Hill series.

New York/New Jersey Chapter (Gila Goldstein, President)

The ALS NY/NJ chapter began its 20th Anniversary season with a festive concert on October 25 at the Yamaha Piano Salon in New York City. The evening started with the presentation of the Medal of the American Liszt Society to Professor **Rena Charnin Mueller** of New York University, a Liszt scholar and former editor of the *Journal of the American Liszt Society*. ALS president Dr. **Thomas Mastroianni** spoke on behalf of the Society, and both Dr. Mueller and pianist **Justin Kolb** delivered remarks as well.

The program featured **Gila Goldstein** and **David Witten**, pianists, Inbal Segev, cellist, and Eric Silberger, violinist. Gila and Inbal opened the program with Liszt's "Romance Oubliée" and "La Lugubre Gondola"; Gila continued with the *Three Petrarch Sonnets* and *Hungarian Rhapsody No. 13*. Following the second half with the Schubert-Liszt

"Der Muller und der Bach," and then together with David played the lovely Schubert *Grand Rondo in A Major*. David then played Ravel's "Oiseaux tristes" and "Alborada del Gracioso" from *Miroirs*, and to end the program, Inbal and Eric joined Gila in a performance of the Liszt's arrangement for piano trio of his *Hungarian Rhapsody No. 9*.

The second concert of the Chapter's 20th anniversary season, on December 6, featured the 16-year-old Korean pianist Gyu Tae Ha, first prize winner of the 2011 Korean Liszt Society competition and 3rd prize winner of the 2012 Moscow International Junior Chopin Competition, who performed works by Bach, Beethoven, Chopin, and Liszt.

The most recent celebratory concert took place January 11, when Beatrice and Christina Long played a two-piano concert, the first time the Chapter has hosted such an event. Each of these young ladies is wonderful, and each a very accomplished pianist on her own (Beatrice lives in New Jersey and Christina lives in Texas); and together they make a great team. You can visit their website at <http://longduopiano.com>. Their program included the Mozart-Busoni Overture to *The Magic Flute*; one movement from Messiaen's *Visions de l'Amen*; Arensky's suite, *Silhouettes*; three movements from Schumann's *Pictures from the East* for piano, four hands; and a wonderful piece, "Spring Thunder" by Japanese composer Takeshi Asai who attended the performance. This work is performed not only on two pianos but also with two rain sticks. The program ended with Liszt's *Concerto Pathétique*.

A very well-attended concert, the audience loved it, and the duo played as an encore another movement from the Schumann

suite. Some members of the audience drove especially to this concert all the way from Baltimore and Boston!

The Chapter's upcoming concerts:

March 7, 2013, at 7:30pm at Yamaha: eight pre-college students will play an all-Liszt concert. Participants include prize winners from the 2012 Los Angeles International Liszt Competition, as well as young pianists from New York and Boston.

May 14, 2013 at 7:30pm: **Viktor Valkov**, piano and **Lachezar Kostov**, cello, winners of the 2011 Collaborative Piano Category at the Liszt-Garrison International Piano and Chamber Competition in Baltimore.

San Francisco Chapter (William Wellborn, President)

The 2013 ALS Festival will be held at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music on May 30 - June 1. For more information, please see the lead article in this issue of the ALS Newsletter.

Other upcoming events co-hosted by SF-ALS in the 2012-13 season include recitals at the Old First Concert Series at Old First Church in San Francisco (oldfirstconcerts.org). On Sunday January 27, 2013 **José López**, president of the South Florida chapter of ALS, will present a program largely composed of music of Alkan as part of the 200th anniversary of the French composer. The concert will begin at 4:00pm. In the spring of 2013, the SF-ALS and the San Francisco Conservatory will present the 10th annual Young Pianists play Liszt concert (date and time to be announced).

2012 Los Angeles International Liszt Competition Results

The 2012 twelfth biennial Los Angeles International Liszt Competition is now completed. Co-sponsored by the Pasadena Branch of the Music Teachers' Association of California, Azusa Pacific University, Trinity United Methodist Church, the American Liszt Society, and members of the Hungarian community, the competition attracted entrants from many countries.

Following is a list of winners in each of the categories, including the winner's teacher (in parenthesis) and the works prepared for the competition. In cases of multiple titles, only the bold-faced titles were performed at the final concert on November 18.

I - Age 12 and under: Joshua Chen (Claudia Xi) - "Tarantella" (*Années de Pèlerinage II*)

II - Ages 13-14: Phyllis Pan (Jenny Shin) - "Waltz" from *Faust*

III - Ages 15-16: Asana Onishi (Bernadene Blaha) - *Transcendental Etude 10*

IV - Ages 17-20: Sofija Nedic (Mack McCray) - *Hungarian Rhapsody No. 11* and **Paganini Étude No. 3 ("La campanella")**

V - Ages 21-35: Myung-Ji Lee (John Milhauer) - "**Wedding March**" and "Dance of the Elves" from *Midsummer's Night Dream* (Mendelssohn/Liszt)

VI - Longer Work: Alex Chien (Kai Chi Zhu) - *Rhapsodie espagnole*

VII - Concerto : Eva Polgar (Adam Wodnicki) - *Concerto No. 2 in A Major*

VIII - Organ: Weicheng Zhao (Cherry Rhodes) - *Prelude and Fugue on the Name B-A-C-H*

IX - Voice: Nandani M. Sinha (Vladimir Chernov) - "**O lieb, so lang du lieben kannst**" and "Die Lorelei"

X - New York Concert: HeeWoo Kim (Jeong W. Jin) "**Benedetto sia'l giorno,**" "Freudvoll und leidvoll," "Die Lorelei," "Oh! quand je dors"

XI - Budapest Concert: Eva Polgar (Adam Wodnicki) - "Les jeux d'eaux á la Villa d'Este"; **Variations on a Theme from Bach's "Weinen, Klagen, Sorgen, Zagen"**; "Polonaise" from *Eugene Onegin* (Tchaikovsky)

The American Liszt Society Award went to Eva Polgar, and the Alan Walker Prize went to Jonathan Levin

Special thanks to Azusa Pacific University Music Department Chair, Duane Funderburk; Rev. Dale Smith of Trinity United Methodist Church; Claremont United Church of Christ; Steinway Pianos and Seromi Park for providing five grand pianos; and the California Federation of Music Clubs.

DVDs and CDs of the final Evening Concert are available for \$20US. Make checks payable to Los Angeles International Liszt Competition and send to 8260 Youngdale Street, San Gabriel, CA 91755. Be sure to indicate your choice of format: DVD or CD!!

Adjudicators for the Piano Division:

Joseph Banowetz
University of North Texas

Luiz de Moura Castro
Hartt School of Music

Mark Clinton
University of Nebraska at Lincoln

Alexander Djordjevic
Music Institute of Chicago and
College of DuPage

Kálmán Dráfi
Liszt Academy of Music, Budapest

Gila Goldstein
Boston University

Thomas Mastroianni
Catholic University/President, ALS

Edward Rath
University of Illinois

Dimitri Shteinberg
North Carolina School of the Arts

Krystian Tkaczewski
Artistic Director - Chopin
International Piano Competition,
Hartford, CT

Alan Walker
McMaster University

Adam Wodnicki
University of North Texas

Adjudicators for the Organ Division:

Frances Norbert
Whittier College

Imre Szilas
Westminster Presbyterian Church
and Eagle Rock SDA Church.

Adjudicators for the Voice Division:

Mária Eckhardt
Liszt Ferenc Museum and Research
Center, Budapest

MeeAe Nam
Eastern Michigan University

ALS Directory Updates

A special "Thank You" to **Kirill Gliadkovsky** and **Renata Yuill** for their contribution above and beyond their yearly dues to the American Liszt Society!!

CURRENT MEMBER TO LIFE MEMBER:

Linda Gertig

NEW MEMBERS:

Brent Arnold
Nancy Jensen
Kirill Gliadkovsky
Sung Hoon Mo
Wesley I. Rose
Tatiana Shustova
Renata Yuill

Personal information about members has been deleted to ensure members' privacy.

Please help us to keep the Membership Directory up to date and accurate by sending us any new information about your address, e-mail, phone number, etc. If you notice an error, for which we apologize in advance, please send your corrections to the Membership Secretary, Barbara Mellon Kolb, at *barbsthings@gmail.com*. Thank you!

Deadline for the Next Newsletter: Monday, July 1, 2013

Please send all information for the Newsletter, as well as for the website, to Edward Rath at *e.rath@comcast.net*. Be sure to indicate "ALS Newsletter" or "ALS Website" in the Subject line. If sending photos, please compress the files before attaching same to e-mail messages! Prior e-mail addresses for the editor are no longer valid, and your communication may not be published if you use an address other than that given above!

Member News

(continued from page 5)

The months of May and June were occupied with a five-week Asian tour. Steven's travels began in Singapore, followed by a week in Indonesia. The trip ended in Korea, where he visited multiple universities across the country. This trip was particularly exciting, as he was able to try out his new "Audience Choice" recital program. Every night, Steven walked out on stage not knowing what he would play, and the audience loved this element of surprise! (Read a review at <http://pianofortephilia.blogspot.com/2012/05/steven-spooner-piano-recital-review.html>)

Other highlights included the complete release of his *Historical Piano Recital Series*, in addition to the release of his live concert DVD, entitled *Aspects of Liszt*. These recordings are all available at iTunes, Amazon.com, and CD Baby.

In January 2013, Steven's schedule includes playing Rachmaninov's *Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini* with the Topeka Symphony on January 12 and Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* at the Lied Center of Kansas on February 1. He invites you to join him for the world premiere of the *Incessant Variations* by world renowned composer Emile Naoumoff. This piece was commissioned by ROK Inc., especially for Steven. The premiere will take place at the Polsky Theater in Overland Park (KS) on March 10 at 3:30pm. The *Incessant Variations* will be featured along with the "Audience Choice" program requiring audience members to turn on their cell phones and, from several different programs, vote for the program that they would most like to hear!

Steven is also looking forward to his first collaboration with the Borromeo String Quartet in a performance of the Brahms *Piano Quintet*.

Membership Dues Increase as of January 1, 2013

At its annual meeting in May 2012, the ALS Board of Directors voted to increase annual membership dues as follows:

Individual	was \$ 40	now \$ 50.00
Organization	was \$ 60	now \$ 75.00
Family	was \$ 50	now \$ 62.50
Student	was \$ 20	now \$ 25.00
Life	was \$400	now \$500.00
Family Life	was \$500	now \$625.00
Contributor	was \$100	now \$125.00
Chapter Dues	was \$ 10	now \$ 12.50

When you receive your annual statement from the Membership Secretary, the new dues rates will be shown on your renewal. Application forms available via the ALS website (<http://www.americanlisztsociety.net>) show these same rates.

In the Next Issue of the ALS Newsletter

The next issue of the ALS Newsletter, Volume 29, No. 1, will include a wrap-up of the San Francisco Festival in May. You will also be able to read more details about the upcoming Liszt-Garrison Festival and International Piano Competition.

Also, it is hoped that many of you will weigh in on the subject of public performance using - or not using - the score. (See Letter from the Editor on page 2.)

Please keep in mind that the Newsletter is *your* opportunity to share your musical and professional activities with hundreds of "Liszt lovers" throughout North America and literally throughout the world!

Liszt's Dance with the Devil: a film by ALS Member Ophra Yerushalmi

Was Franz Liszt Faust? Mephisto? Both?

Liszt's Dance with the Devil, by pianist-turned-filmmaker and ALS member Ophra Yerushalmi, concentrates on the inner duel between the virtuoso and the composer, the seduction of glamour and the quest for spirituality that took place throughout Liszt's life. Gathering brilliant participants, themselves in search of Liszt, who offer different, even contrary points of view, the director aims to highlight the complexity of Liszt the man and the richness of his music, in fact a composer unlike the Liszt we have been led to imagine.

Among the pianists heard are Oxana Yablonskaya, Frederic Chiu, Mykola Suk, Jean Dubé Muza Rubackyte, Jeffrey Swann, and Wilhem Latchoumia. Other highlights are remarks by Poet Laureate Robert Pinsky, author Jacques Drillon, and Nike Wagner, a descendent of both Liszt and Wagner.

Selected for the 2011 celebrations and festivals in Paris, Budapest, Utrecht, and Rome, *Liszt's Dance with the Devil* was also screened in Ottawa (Mayfair Theatre), Baltimore (Cinema Sundays at the Charles), Oakland's Teachers Convention (MTAC), at the opening of "Liszt and the Birth of Modern Europe" (Columbia University, N.Y.), and the Downtown Festival (Provincetown Playhouse, NYU Steinhardt Institute). Hungarian Television screened the film this past December.

Here are some reactions from a variety of sources:

"I consider Ophra Yerushalmi's Liszt documentary mandatory viewing for Lisztians everywhere. Ms. Yerushalmi makes outstanding use of musical examples both familiar and unfamiliar, and includes interviews with international experts." Michael Saffle, Professor, College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, Virginia Tech.

"Loved the many wonderful hands at keyboards - all sizes and shapes, genders, colors, all extremely competent, some real virtuosity from people I had not encountered before. And of course Liszt's hands in the fabulous Budapest statue." Richard Taruskin, Author of the *Oxford History of the Western Music*.

"I find your film remarkable. It is interesting, poetic and really original." Mária Eckhardt, Liszt Memorial Museum, Budapest.

"Beautifully filmed with virtuoso pianists in a way I have rarely seen documentaries capture music on camera." Gaylen Ross, award-winning filmmaker (*Killing Kasztner*).

Ophra Yerushalmi is a graduate of the Jerusalem Academy of Music, and later was a scholarship student of Claudio Arrau and composer Stefan Wolpe. She has performed throughout four continents and premiered works of Israeli composers including Paul Ben-Haim, Mordecai Seter, and Joseph Tal. New York audiences have heard her at the 92nd Street "Y," Merkin Hall, The Miller Theatre, Symphony Space, Lincoln Center, and The Music Festival of the Hamptons directed by Lukas Foss, who also participated in her previous film, *Chopin's Afterlife*.

Liszt's Dance with the Devil was selected for the 2011 celebrations and festivals in Paris, Budapest, Utrecht, and Rome; Columbia University, Ottawa, Baltimore, Oakland, and the Provincetown Playhouse of NYU. Hungarian Television screened the film - in Hungarian. This past October, the film was shown at the Bologna Festival.

Liszt: A Chorus of Voices, just published by Pendragon Press, includes an essay by Ms. Yerushalmi, "Benediction to Liszt in his Solitude."

Ms. Yerushalmi has received "An Artist-in-Residence" grant for three months in 2013 awarded by the Helene Wurlitzer Foundation in Taos, New Mexico, where she plans to develop her new film-project. As pianist/filmmaker, her cassita in Taos will include a grand piano.

For more information, please go to Ophra's website: <http://www.ophra-yerushalmi.org/>