



Providence, Rhode Island

Musicales

131st Anniversary Season

Sunday, January 10, 2010 at 2:00 p.m.

Mary K. Hail Music Mansion

Greetings from: Edith Hemenway, President

Providence, Rhode Island

Program

I

Ball-Scenen, Op. 109 (1854).....Robert Schumann (1810-1856)

- Preamble
- Polonaise
- Walzer
- Ungarisch
- Francaise
- Walzer

Jane Rankin and Donald Rankin, piano duetists

II

Three Madrigals for Violin and Viola.....Bohuslav Martinu(1890-1959)

- Poco Allegro
- Poco Andante
- Allegro

Minna Choi, violin and Sebastian Ruth, viola

III

Preludes from Book II (1912-1913).....Claude Debussy (1862-1918)

- La puerta del Vino; Movt. de Habanera
- “Les fees sont d’exquises danseuses”; Rapide et leger
- La Terrasse des audiences du clair de lune; Lent

Etudes-tableaux from Op. 39 (1916-17).....Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873-1943)

- No. 6 in A minor; Allegro
- No. 8 in D minor; Allegro moderato
- No. 9 in D Major; Allegro moderato: Tempo di marcia

Barbara Speer, piano

*denotes guest

Program arranged by Emily Anthony

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

James and Marian DeCesaris

Deborah Concannon * Robert Salmani

STAGE MANAGER: Haig Yaghoobian

Next Musicales: Sunday, February 14, 2010 at 2:00 pm

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The Chopin Club has been recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

ABOUT THE PERFORMERS

MINNA CHOI, violinist, has been involved with Community MusicWorks since 1998 and was a founding member of the Providence String Quartet from 2001 to 2004. After attending the Hartt School of Music where she earned a Masters Degree in Violin Performance, Minna returned in 2006 as the Fellowship Program Coordinator. Minna graduated from Brown University in 1996 with a BA in Philosophy and her influential teachers include Eric Rosenblith, Katie Lansdale and Lois Finkel. She has performed with the Boston Philharmonic, the Rhode Island Philharmonic, and the Ocean State Chamber Orchestra. Each summer, she performs at the International Musical Arts Institute in Fryeburg, ME.

SEBASTIAN RUTH, violist, is the Founder and Executive-Artistic Director of Community MusicWorks. A graduate of Brown University, he has been a member of the Boston Philharmonic Orchestra, Ocean State Chamber Orchestra, and the Wild Ginger Philharmonic. Sebastian has participated in the Audubon String Quartet Seminar, the Yellow Barn and Apple Hill Chamber Music Festivals, and the International Musical Arts Institute. In 2003, Sebastian studied, under the auspices of a fellowship from The Rhode Island Foundation, in a two-week violin master class at the Schola Cantorum in Paris. Influential teachers include Eric Rosenblith, Rolfe Sokol and Pamela Gearhart.

JANE RANKIN holds a Bachelor of Music degree from Oberlin Conservatory and a Master of Music from Converse College School of Music. She was piano faculty at Spelman College for four years, teaching piano at New England Music Camp summers. She and Don have three boys for which she was a quasi stay at home Mom, although she taught part time public school music in North Kingstown, served as adjunct faculty at URI, and served as organist/choir director at St. Barnabas in Warwick, and Bethany Lutheran in Cranston.

Pianist **DONALD RANKIN** taught at the University of Rhode Island for 38 years. Currently he teaches piano privately and serves as a docent at RISD Museum.

Pianist **BARBARA SPEER** has been a major contributor to the advancement of piano and chamber music in the New York metropolitan area. Of her debut, *New York Times* music critic Donal Henahan praised her “*technical finesse, excellent taste, genuine involvement, poetic understanding and strong structural sense.*” She has appeared extensively as recitalist and chamber musician at major colleges and universities and in New York at Lincoln Center, Alice Tully Hall, Town Hall, Carnegie Recital Hall, and Merkin Concert Hall, where she last presented the World Premiere of Stefan Wolpe’s “*Blues and Tango*” as part of the Wolpe Centennial Concerts.

With her late husband, clarinetist/composer Herbert Sucoff, she founded The Sea Cliff Chamber Players, a chamber ensemble and conductorless chamber orchestra that was hailed as a “national treasure” and was the recipient of numerous national and state awards over its 28-year history. She was featured as both pianist and commentator on NPR in 13 live concerts and interviews, broadcast nationally and in Europe. She has taught at Adelphi University and SUNY/Empire State College. Her upcoming solo recording features music by Ravel and Rachmaninoff.

Since her move to Providence, she has performed at Brown University, the RI Philharmonic Music School, as guest with the Aurea Ensemble, among others. Appearances this season include chamber music with Musica Dolce, a trio concert at Bell St. Chapel, and a Chopin Bicentennial recital at the Music Mansion. Ms. Speer also accompanies, coaches, and teaches a class of private students.