



# A m a d e u s

March, 2009  
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## Newsletter

A publication of the Pro-Mozart Society of Atlanta, Inc.

### *The Pro-Mozart Society of Atlanta, Inc.*

*Cordially Invites you and Your Friends as it*

*Presents*

## *Sandro Russo*

Italian Pianist

Sunday, March 22

7:30 PM

### *Piano Works*

2805 Buford Highway

Duluth, GA 30096



Acclaimed for his profound sense of poetry and distinctive style, Sandro Russo has been in great demand as a soloist in many venues around the world. He invariably receives accolades for his sparkling virtuosity, and his playing has often been referred to as a throwback to the grand tradition of elegant pianism and beautiful sound. He will be performing for us works by Mozart, Chopin, Scriabin, Liszt, Hamelin, and Liebermann.

Born in San Giovanni Gemini - Italy, Sandro Russo displayed exceptional musical talent from an early age. In 1995, he graduated summa cum laude from the V. Bellini Conservatory, and earned the Pianoforte Performing Diploma from the Royal College of Music in London 'with honors'. As a result of winning various piano competitions, he was invited to perform in some of the country's most prestigious concert halls.

Soon after he came to the United States in April 2000, he won the Bergen Philharmonic Orchestra Competition, and also made his New York City debut under the invitation of conductor John Yaffé. Subsequently, he was presented at Carnegie Recital Hall as a winner of the 25th Frinna Awerbuch Competition, and gained further accolades in his homeland performing a Chopin recital and the prestigious Politeama Theater, and also appearing at the Nuove Carriere Music Festival.

Highlights of past seasons include solo recitals for The Rachmaninoff Society in London, Memphis, and New York, the "Homage to Cziffra" Festival in NYC, and he has also performed at the Salle Cortot in Paris and the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam. More recently Mr. Russo has been heard in concert at Carnegie Hall, and has performed as a soloist with the Slovak Philharmonic, the Jacksonville Symphony, and others. In July 2008 he was the featured soloist with the Brussels Chamber Orchestra at the opening gala of The Music Festival of the Hamptons, and performed the Rachmaninoff 3<sup>rd</sup> Piano Concerto in Italy on a tour with the Orchestra Sinfonica Siciliana.

**This Newsletter is Your Invitation**

## *The Pro-Mozart Society Music Scholarship Competition Winner!*



***Kristin Center, Pianist, is the 2009 Winner and will be going to the Mozarteum this summer.*** Kristin is finishing a four-year Bachelor in Music degree, Piano Performance at the University of Georgia in Athens. She is the pianist for the University of Georgia's top Symphony Orchestra and won the GMEA All State 2007 first place winner as a solo pianist. Her most recent summer festivals include the 2008 International Keyboard Institute and Festival held in New York City. Her competition performances included portions of Mozart's Sonata in A Minor, K 310, Ballade in G Minor by Frédéric Chopin, Partita No. 1 in Bb Major BWV 825 by J. S. Bach, and Ernesto Lecuona's Afro-Cubanan Suite. She had a wonderful sense of style and heartfelt uniqueness for each composer's music.



The Six Contestants from left: Clera Seung-Yeon Ryu, Pianist; Ryan Pagels, Pianist; Kristin Center, Pianist; Katie Baughman, Soprano; Jessica Lauren Copland, Soprano; and Blake Johnson, Cellist

## A Message from Our President



Much has happened since our Scholarship Competition at Peachtree Christian, so I will attempt to share some of the things with you:

First, I want to thank Charlotte Gaines, our VP of Scholarship for all of her hard work in getting information and applications out to all of the university and college music departments. Because of her efforts, we had six wonderfully talented young musicians compete. While each was a WINNER, the judges chose Kristen Center, Pianist, as the one to receive the \$4,000.00 Scholarship to study at the Mozarteum this summer. Thanks also go to our judges; Mary Ann Hill-Meehan, Madonna Brownlee, and Marilyn Dietrichs. AND, a **SPECIAL Thank You to Rev. Jim Bell and Peachtree Christian** for hosting our Competition in their amazingly beautiful sanctuary. We are most grateful!

As you can see from the cover page, **the venue and time change for Sandro Russo's Concert** became necessary due to circumstances beyond our control. Please make every effort possible to attend his concert, which promises to be exceptionally fine. Sandro is not just another pianist ... he is one of the world's best, so **DON'T MISS** his performance! **PianoWorks** is also sponsoring **Sandro's Master Class** which he will be given in their performance hall, Saturday afternoon from 2:00 – 4:00. You are welcome to attend this special event.

We were saddened to learn that our immediate past President, William K. Hart (Father Damien), passed away March 7, 2009 at St. Silouan the Athonite Russian Orthodox Monastery in Lomond, CA. Fr. Damien's remains were transported to St. Mary of Egypt Russian Orthodox Church in Roswell, GA for a Panikhida (Orthodox memorial) which was held March 12<sup>th</sup> at 10:00. I attended his memorial service and several thanked me for representing our Society and being there.

Please make your plans now to attend Dr. Chris Sarzen's concert April 19, 2009 at 3:00 p.m. at **Holy Innocents' Episcopal Church**. Chris is our last years' scholarship winner and has an excellent program planned for us. **NOTE the venue change.**

With daylight savings time now in place, we look forward to the first day of Spring, March 20<sup>th</sup>. **HAPPY SPRING** to you! Hope to see you on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Yours for great music,

Kevin Pritchett



Valerie Parker and Shirley Boyce at the Gala Noel, Ravinia Club



Carolyn Rich, Bob Nauman, Nelly Bourne at the Gala Noel, Ravinia Club



William K. Hart, Father Damien, immediate past President



Gene Brown, Jennie Ham, Charlesy Brown, & Mildred Cherry at the Scholarship Reception



The three pianist: Clera Ryu, Ryan Pagels, and Kristin Center,



Jim Bell, Host; Jessica Copeland, Soprano; Julia Rice, Accompanist



Blake Johnson, Cellist



Katie Baughman, Soprano; Peter Marshall, Accompanist



*Pro-Mozart Society of Atlanta, GA, Inc.*

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