



For Immediate Release:

PSU Steinway Piano Series Highlights Intergenerational Legacy

“Yablonskaya’s musicality never gives way... If tastefulness and stylistic insight mean anything to you, you will thoroughly enjoy listening to Oxana Yablonskaya” - Los Angeles Times

PORTLAND, OR (March 19, 2024): The PSU Steinway Piano Series proudly announces its 2024 residencies, featuring the distinguished Oxana Yablonskaya this spring, and the “brilliantly evocative” (*International Piano*) young phenom Tom Hicks this fall. These two masters represent an intergenerational spectrum of artistry that showcases both legacy and innovation, inspiring audiences and students alike.



The PSU Steinway Piano Series thrives under the direction of its founder, Susan Chan. She has created "one of the secretly best concert series in Portland... [featuring] an impressive array of some of the best pianists alive" (*Oregon ArtsWatch*). Chan notes:

“I first heard about Oxana through my friend who studied with her at Juilliard. He told me how amazing she was as a performer, teacher and recording artist, and how she was one of the remaining great pianists from the past generations. I had the wonderful opportunity to attend her recital in Connecticut while a graduate student at Yale, and was immediately struck by her absolute focus, tremendous pianism and artistry, and sheer presence and energy. She is extremely knowledgeable about the traditional piano literature and how to express the stylistic elements of the composers and their music. Her teaching is to the point and tremendously inspiring and effective. Her students showed immediate improvement in the masterclass. It is a great joy and a tremendous opportunity to have her on our Piano Series.”

Yablonskaya’s teacher Alexander Goldenweiser (1875–1961) is remembered as a major pianist, one of the founders of the Russian school of playing, and a friend of Rachmaninoff, Scriabin, and Tolstoy. Goldenweiser was a classmate of Rachmaninoff, and both studied with Alexander Siloti, one of Franz Liszt's favorite pupils. Liszt’s training traces back to Czerny, who studied with Beethoven, and then by way of a few generations, the education traces back to J.S. Bach. Goldenweiser was a prolific composer himself, but rarely played his own works in public; instead, he shared this deep understanding of repertoire and this incredible pedigree of training with his students. Yablonskaya is perhaps one of the remaining disciples of this legendary tradition: historically

significant “golden years” of piano playing. Her program of *Piano Repertoire Gems of the 18th - 20th Centuries* highlights the best of this tradition. According to the American Record Guide, “Oxana Yablonskaya is an artist who deserves to be heard and in any repertory she chooses.” Lucky for us she’s chosen pieces that especially highlight her tremendous musical lineage.

Spring 2024 Residency: Friday - Sunday, May 10 - 12, 2024

CONCERT: *Piano Repertoire Gems of the 18th-20th Centuries*
Music by Franck, C.P.E. Bach, Liszt, Schubert, Rachmaninoff and Tchaikovsky
Starring Oxana Yablonskaya
Friday, May 10 at 7pm - *PSU Lincoln Recital Hall, Room 75*
\$25 General Admission; \$10 Students, Seniors, PSU Faculty/Staff, OMTA teachers

GUEST ARTIST With guest pianist Oxana Yablonskaya and featuring current and former PSU students
MASTER CLASS: Saturday, May 11, 7 pm - *PSU Lincoln Recital Hall, Room 75*
FREE and open to the public

FACULTY With PSU piano faculty Susan Chan and featuring students from the community
MASTER CLASS: Sunday, May 12, 2 pm - *PSU Lincoln Recital Hall, Room 75*
FREE and open to the public

TICKETS: Available at pdx.edu/music-theater/steinway-piano-series

Pianist **Oxana Yablonskaya** delivers charismatic performances and profound interpretations that garner worldwide acclaim. Celebrated for her powerhouse virtuosity, exquisite sensitivity, and deep emotional drive, “Yablonskaya is a mixture of passion, power and poetry” (*Toronto Star*). With a storied career that spans more than half a century, Yablonskaya performs with “a technique as impressive as ever... Being perfectly able to manipulate the keyboard however she wants, Yablonskaya knows when to take risks and when to pull back and let the music speak for itself” (*Chicago Sun-Times*). An American-Israeli pianist born in Moscow, Yablonskaya is “one of the country’s most distinguished musical residents” (*The New York Times*), and has taken her place among the major pianists of the world. She taught as a member of the piano faculty at the Juilliard School for more than 25 years, has toured in concerts and recitals throughout the world, and has made numerous acclaimed recordings. She is a recipient of the Einstein Medal for Outstanding Achievements in the Arts, Winner of Grand Prix du Disque from the Liszt Society, and is an Honorary Academician of the International Academy of the Arts at the United Nations, International Academy of the Arts in San Francisco, and Independent Academy of Liberal Arts at the Russian Academy of Sciences. Yablonskaya launched her career by winning top prizes in the Marguerite Long-Jacques Thibaud Competition in 1963, Rio de Janeiro Piano Competition in 1965 and the Vienna Beethoven Competition in 1969. Her Carnegie Hall debut was attended by a capacity crowd and deemed “a vibrant dialogue” (*The New York Times*). Yablonskaya now lives in Israel and teaches at the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance. She continues to dazzle audiences throughout Israel and abroad.

Fall 2023 Residency: Thursday - Friday, November 14 - 15, 2024

Full Details Forthcoming

CONCERT: *Music at Night* Starring Tom Hicks

This program, inspired by the night, shares works for the piano that are dreamy and atmospheric, and also includes nightmares and fantasies. The concert begins with several of Chopin's most celebrated nocturnes, before exploring other beloved works of the genre by Scriabin, Debussy, Fanny Mendelssohn, and Clara Schumann. Beethoven's *Moonlight* Sonata concludes what promises to be a popular program with finger-twisting fireworks.

Guernsey-born pianist **Tom Hicks** receives consistent praise for his "brilliantly evocative" (*International Piano*) and "gorgeously creative playing" (*Fanfare*). With his expansive repertoire, Hicks has appeared as recitalist in venues such as The Wigmore Hall in London, The Bridgewater Hall in Manchester, and in many other venues throughout Europe and the United States. He has performed as concerto soloist on more than 60 occasions, including complete cycles of the Rachmaninoff and Brahms Piano Concerti. Hicks is a gold medallist in competitions including the Wales International Piano Competition, the EPTA UK Piano Competition, and the Croydon Piano Concerto Competition. His highly acclaimed discography includes *Liszt and Ireland Piano Sonatas*, noted for its "consistent excellence" and "commanding performance, balancing the dramatic with the intimate" (*Musical Opinion* and *MusicWeb International*), and selected in the *America Record Guide* Best of 2022 Critics Choice. In 2019, Hicks gave the launch recital as Artistic Director of the Fanny Davies International Piano Series, and in 2012, he co-founded the new music collective Terra Nova. Hicks studied with Murray McLachlan at Chetham's School of Music in Manchester, and continued with him on the prestigious joint course at The Royal Northern College of Music and Manchester University. He then studied with Boris Berman at Yale University's School of Music and with James Giles at Northwestern University's Bienen School of Music in the USA, graduating with a Doctorate in Musical Arts. He is a recipient of the Gold Medal Award and Peter Frankl Piano Prize from the Royal Northern College of Music, and numerous awards from the University of Manchester, having graduated with the highest degree mark ever awarded from the Department of Music. Hicks has taught piano at Yale University and Northwestern University, and is currently Visiting Assistant Professor of Music and Piano, Director of the Piano Department, and Director of Collaborative Piano at Whitman College in Washington State, USA. tomhickspianist.com

The PSU Steinway Piano Series brings internationally recognized performers and educators to Portland for a weekend of public recitals and masterclasses each year. Acting as a bridge between world-class stages and the college classroom, the series elevates awareness for PSU's outstanding music program while providing students and concertgoers with access to a broad spectrum of the highest-level professional pianists performing today. Founded in 2015 and directed by piano professor Dr. Susan Chan, the PSU Steinway Piano Series is sponsored by the Arima Schumann Fund of Schwab Charitable, Ausplund Tooze Family Foundation, Layzell Family Foundation, Steinway & Sons Portland, and other donors with additional support from PSU College of the Arts and PSU School of Music & Theater. pdx.edu/music-theater/steinway-piano-series



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