Father and daughter team up for Brahms concerto

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
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Livonia Symphony Orchestra conductor Volodymyr Shesiuk adores Anna Sorokhtei, not just because she's his daughter, but because she's also a "terrific pianist." Shesiuk worked with many talented musicians as conductor of the Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow, and in his eyes, Anna ranks among the best. But as with any outstanding talent, the rehearsal process sometimes grinds to an impasse when conductor and soloist differ on interpretation of the music.

The two have been working on *Concert No. 1 in D minor* by Johannes Brahms for a Saturday, March 23 concert in the auditorium of Churchill High School. Sorokhtei is guest soloist on the program which also includes Modest Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition* as transcribed by Maurice Ravel with slide presentation by Gordon Draper.

It's not like father and daughter haven't worked together before. Anna, at age nine, debuted with the Lviv Philharmonic Orchestra which her father conducted for years. At the time, she was a student at the Lviv Special School for Gifted Children in Ukraine. Anna comes from a talented family. Mother Luba frequently performed as a pianist in Ukraine before immigrating to the U.S. in 1991 with her husband Volodymyr. This is Anna's third guest performance with the Livonia Symphony Orchestra.

Volodymyr Shesiuk

Anna Sorokhtei

Livonia Symphony Orchestra

What: Conductor Volodymyr Shesiuk teams up with daughter/pianist Anna Sorokhtei to perform Brahms Concerto No. 1 in D minor
When: 7:30 p.m. Saturday, March 23
Where: Churchill High School Auditorium, 8900 Newburgh, north of Joy, Livonia
Tickets: $16, $10 students over age 12, no charge for children under 12. Call (734) 425-4655

Lots to juggle

She began practicing the Brahms weeks ago, not an easy task when you're a students and teacher. Anna leaves the Shesiuk's Garden City home some days at 6:30 a.m. and doesn't return until late in the evening.

In between teaching children to play the piano in Rochester, Anna is studying for a master's degree in piano performance with Pauline Martin at Wayne State University.

"It's better not to work together, to work with someone else," said Volodymyr Shesiuk. "She likes to be her own musician and not to be dependent on me. She likes to perform and works very hard. I hope that it will be a great performance.

"The Brahms is very romantic, very deep," said Shesiuk. "He wrote it for Clara Schumann who he was in love with but she was married to Robert Schumann who was very ill. It was a difficult situation because Schumann tried to help the young composer.

"It's fifty-two-and-a-half minutes of nonstop playing. It's a very big exam for pianist, very difficult but she's a terrific pianist."

TABLE TALK

Send items for consideration in Table Talk to Keely Kaleski Wygonik, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150. To fax, call (734) 591-7279 or e-mail kwygonik@oe.homecomm.net

LUNCH

Andiamo Italia West: Is teaming up with WCSX radio and Rick Bloom to present a special luncheon "What You Should Know About This Year's Tax Laws," noon to 2 p.m. Tuesday, March 26. Luncheon menu includes assorted salads, penne bolognese, gnocchi shallots, wild mushrooms in a sherry cream sauce, chicken sicilliana, calamari friti and portobello mushroom. Tickets $25 per person, at the Andiamo West Ticket Office, 6675 Telegraph Road, Bloomfield Hills, or call (248) 865-9300.

LANDMARK

Dobski's Restaurant: Has been at the corner of Cooley Lake & Williams Lake Road in Waterford for the past 45 years. Ron and Patrice Brezner have owned it for the past nine years. If you have not been in recently, they would like you to come visit. "We have made a lot of changes and we are able to keep the cozy Up North feel to the restaurant, said Patrice. Specialty nights include Monday, Mexican specials; Wednesday, Polish specials, pierogi, stuffed cabbage,city chicken, and kielbasa. Friday, all you can eat fish fry. The restaurant is open 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Monday-Saturday, closed Sunday. Call (248) 363-9112 for information.

HOLIDAY FARE

Excalibur: Banquet and Convention Center, 28847 Franklin Road, Southfield will be open 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. for Easter Sunday brunch. The cost is $23.75 for adults, $14 children ages 4-13, no charge for children under 4. Easter dinners to go are also available for $125. Dinner package serves 6-8 people and includes mixed organic greens, whipped potatoes, broccoli and carrots, rice pilaff, rolls, cherry and apple pies and your choice of baked ham, roasted turkey or leg of lamb. Pick up 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Easter Sunday. Call (248) 358-3355 for information/reservations or visit www.theexcalibur.com

Tharp *from page B1*

Benjamin Bowman, Elizabeth Parkinson, Keith Roberts, John Selya, and Ashley Tuttle to showcase new works.

If one word could describe all of the dances to be performed in Ann Arbor, it is energetic. Set to a commissioned score by Donald Knaack, who bangs out sound on found objects, Surfer *at the River Styx* is a dramatic, chaotic work with erratic movements. An avid reader and admirer of ancient arts, Tharp was inspired by Euripides's *Bacchae* to create the dance which concludes "the meek shall inherit the earth."

Archaic pottery led to Tharp choreographing *Westerly Round* – her most recent work which has been described as a cowboy romance for the 21st century. *Mozart Clarinet Quintet K. 581* is a modern ballet complete with fluid movement and assorted partnering. *Sinatra Suite* was originally created for Mikhail Baryshnikov and Elaine Kudo. It is a composite from a longer piece, *Nine Sinatra Songs* for 7 couples.

"*Surfer* is a good closer," said Tharp.

The dance is at its most dramatic at the end when male dancers carry off a lone female. The male dancers cannot be seen. She is the only one left in the spotlight.

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