

He's only 20, but pianist is known around the world



Pianist Lang Lang performs Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No. 1 with the DSO, March 7-9.

Celebrated 20-year-old pianist Lang Lang makes his Detroit Symphony Orchestra debut Friday-Sunday, March 7-9, performing Tchaikovsky's *Piano Concerto No. 1* under the direction of Italian conductor Roberto Abbado.

Also featured is Luciano Berio's *Requiem*, Shostakovich's *Symphony No. 1* and Mussorgsky's *Overture to Khovanshchina*.

Born in Shen Yang, China, Lang began piano studies at the age of 3, and quickly began amassing awards, including first prize at the Second Tchaikovsky International Young Musicians' Competition and the first-ever Leonard Bernstein Award for distinguished musical talent. Since 1989, he has performed with many of the world's leading orchestras.

He is equally established in the operatic arena, where he has conducted many new productions and world premieres at the Metropolitan Opera, La Scala, the Vienna State Opera and the Zurich Opera.

THE MUSIC

Like his violin concerto, Tchaikovsky's *Piano Concerto No. 1* was deemed technically impossible by the soloist for whom the work was written. The pianist was Nicholas Rubinstein, founding director of the Moscow Conservatory where Tchaikovsky was teaching.

Rubinstein urged Tchaikovsky to make certain changes, but the composer refused. As a result, rather than being premiered in Moscow, Tchaikovsky granted Haus von Billoew the privilege of giving the concerto an acclaimed world premiere in Boston in October 1875. The attitudes of Tchaikovsky and Rubinstein mellowed over the years, however.

Tchaikovsky revised the concerto twice, finding more playable solutions to problems in its keyboard part, and Rubenstein eventually learned the work, becoming one of its most ardent proponents.

Also featured on the program is Luciano Berio's *Requiem*, written in 1983 in memory of the Italian composer's former wife and constant muse, singer Cathy Berberian, who died that year. Shostakovich's *Symphony No. 1*, written in 1925 when the composer was just 19, was the final work for his composition class at the Leningrad Conservatory. The composition so impressed the conservatory faculty, that they recommended it to the conductor of the Leningrad Philharmonic, who agreed to perform the work.

Russian composer Modest Mussorgsky is also featured on the program.

His opera *Khovanshchina*, about the early years of Czar Peter the Great in the late 17th century, was unfinished at the time of Mussorgsky's death in 1871.

The *Introduction to*

AT A GLANCE

What: Pianist Lang Lang debuts with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra.
When: 8:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. Friday, March 7; 8:30 p.m. Saturday, March 8; 8 p.m. Sunday, March 9.
Where: Orchestra Hall, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit
Tickets: \$15 to \$56, discounts for seniors 65 and over and students. Call (313) 576-5111 or visit www.detroitssymphony.com

Khovanshchina, however, was completed, and depicts the Moscow River at dawn, exemplifying the melodious quality of the score, which is noted for its rich melodies and its Wagnerian tendencies.

Eat, drink and get cultured at Walsh gala

Fine art, fine wine, and fine cuisine are highlights of the Walsh Gala - A Unique Evening for the Arts Saturday, March 1, at the Novi Campus.

Sample wines from local distributors and the Leelanau Vintner's Association.

Master Sommelier Madeline Trifon and Sommelier Riek Rubel will be on hand at a VIP reception to discuss the aging process and taste of rare vintages including a 1982 Heights from Martha's Vineyard, a 1984 Mayneum, and nine-liter bottle (the equivalent of over one case) of 1985 Diamond Creek from Red Rock Terrace Vineyard, a vineyard which only produces 600 cases of wine a year.

The wines are from the cellar of collector Bob Cummings. Of special interest is the 1981 Opus 1.

The wine tasting will be accompanied by a silent auction, a strolling dinner catered by Unique Restaurants, and decadent desserts to sweeten the palate.

The evening will also include displays of art featuring stone sculpture from Zimbabwe, the work of Moravian-born artist Alphons Mucha, photography by Ilhthazar Korab, and watercolor lithographs from the Jack Krastula Collection.

Presenting sponsors include Bob Sellers Pontiac GMC and the Walsh College Alumni Association.

The *Observer & Eccentric* International Marketplace, 94-7 WCSX, and Leelanau Vintner's Association also contributed to the event.



Featured are a reproduction of an Alphonse Mucha 1904 lithograph (left) depicting playwright Sandra Bernhardt and a Shona Sculpture by Zimbabwean artist Richard Mteki.

THE WALSH GALA

What: The Walsh Gala - A Unique Evening for the Arts. All proceeds benefit the newly created Novi scholarship and an endowment for the arts. When: 6 p.m. VIP reception, 7:30 p.m. strolling dinner, wine tasting, art displays. Where: Walsh College, Novi campus, 41500 Gardenbrook Road, north of I-96, west of Meadowbrook Road. Tickets: \$75 per person. Discount for Walsh College alumni and students. VIP tickets \$150 each, includes pre-event reception with artists and sommeliers. Call (248) 823-1204 or go to www.walshcollege.edu for more information.

Art institute will close Somerset store, announces 55 layoffs

Detroit Institute of Arts satellite museum stores in the Somerset Collection and Twelve Oaks Mall will close Monday, March 31. These stores have been consistently unable to meet projected profits, said Graham W. J. Beal, director.

The museum store at the DIA will remain open.

In addition to closing stores, the DIA is strengthening its fund-raising operation and laying off 55 employees, 18 full-time and 37 part-time. The museum also restructured its Development Division designed to address immediate financial needs and build for the future. The changes won't affect museum hours.

"The DIA is already a lean operation compared against peer institutions," said Beal. "But we believe we can achieve additional efficiencies and continuous improvement by closely reviewing every area of our operation. Throughout this process we intend to maintain a strong schedule of public programs and exhibitions. We will continue to work toward the realization of our strategic plan and toward fulfillment of our mission to display and conserve our extraordinary art collection while serving the public."

Most of the affected employees are employed at the DIA's two satellite museum stores and

at the main store at the DIA.

"It is extremely difficult to lose so many dedicated staff members," said Beal. "But the reduction in force reduces operating expenses without compromising public programs or reducing museum hours. The development restructuring is a critical move toward building a strong, financially stable museum."

The DIA is also closing its Art Discovery program in Pontiac. The program was funded through a combination of grants that expires in June and have not been renewed. The closure will affect three employees (one full-time and two part-time).

Other affected individuals (six full-time and five part-time) were employed in different capacities throughout the museum. In addition, the museum is eliminating 10 vacant positions (eight full-time and two part-time).

The restructuring of the museum's development operation is the result of a comprehensive study conducted by John Brown Limited Inc., a nationally recognized firm specializing in fund-raising consultation and nonprofit management. A separate analysis reviewed the museum's fund-raising capacity in the current economic climate. Using the results of both studies, members of John Brown Limited proposed a new operating structure for the development department, which will be immediately implemented.

Every position in the development division will be affected in

the restructuring. Eight employees (six full-time and two part-time) will be laid off because their positions have been eliminated. The division's management structure will be streamlined, and new job descriptions will clearly focus individual fund-raisers on solicitation and cultivation in support of the museum's ongoing \$331 million capital campaign, annual giving and membership.

The restructured development department will actually result in a net gain of three full-time positions. In spite of its overall goal of reducing costs, the museum's leadership is convinced that additional investment in the new development operation will allow the museum to address immediate financial needs.

"We have known for some time that our development efforts were not operating at peak efficiency," Beal said. "The restructuring ensures that we will have the appropriate framework to allow our staff, working closely with board members and volunteers, to successfully build significant support for our exhibitions, programs and capital projects."

The DIA, like cultural institutions across the country, is addressing the challenge of maintaining its commitment to the public at a time of reduced support and economic uncertainty. A series of expense reductions will be instituted with the layoffs, although Beal noted there is little "fat" in the budget since the DIA instituted zero-based budgeting two years ago.

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