

St. Petersburg Chamber Philharmonic

Jeffery Meyer, Artistic Director

Of special note:

- St. PCP completes its third concert season!
- The 2005-2006 concert season will be announced shortly!
- The St PCP is accepting sponsorship for the upcoming season! Please contact us for further details.

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St. PCP completes its third concert Season!

Welcome to the first St. PCP newsletter! Because our activities take place almost entirely in Russia, and many of our supporters are not able to travel to see the fruits of their support, we would like to provide this newsletter as a way for our friends and sponsors to keep up with the orchestra and its activities.

The theme of the 2004-2005 concert season was "A Journey Around the Globe". We sampled music and presented performers from the United States, Russia, Germany, Spain, Finland, and Japan. The season included a world premiere performance as well as several Russian premieres.

The St. Petersburg Chamber

Philharmonic was featured in the St. Petersburg Times, the foremost English newspaper in St. Petersburg, in time for its American and Russian composers' concert in March, 2005. It is a well written and informative article which included excerpts from an interview with myself and Darrell Ang, the co-founders of the St. PCP. Please visit our website for a link to the article online.

We are currently planning our 2005-2006 concert season, a continuation of the journey around the globe, to be announced shortly. Our first concert of the season is planned for November.

I hope this newsletter helps bring you a little closer to the St. PCP. —Jeff Meyer

The Third Season: Basque Composers' Concert

We began the season with a unique and fascinating concert of music from the Basque region of Spain, featuring a wonderful Basque clarinetist, Oskar Espina-Ruiz. Espina-Ruiz has forged an individual and singular career as a solo clarinetist, most recently focused on the music of Basque composer, Julián Menéndez. He also recently recorded a double CD which is the first recording of the complete works for clarinet and piano by this little known, but prolific and masterful composer. The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York writes: "The Spanish Basque Julián Menéndez (1895-1975) was a clarinetist of legendary virtuosity with the Madrid Symphony Orchestra and Madrid Symphonic Band. His compositions for the instrument represent a unique style of writing and greatly expanded the technical and expressive possibilities of the clarinet. Menéndez's works are comparable in inspiration and scope to those written for piano by Albéniz and Granados."

The St. Petersburg Philharmonic had the distinct pleasure and honor of introducing the world premiere performance of the Concerto No. 2 for Clarinet and Orchestra, which was orchestrated by Espina-Ruiz himself. The work is lush and romantic, with an elegant Basque style and character. It was an immediate success with the orchestra and audience alike.

The concert was supported largely by a grant from the Basque Government, Department of Culture, in addition to our season's general sponsors.



Meyer & Espina-Ruiz

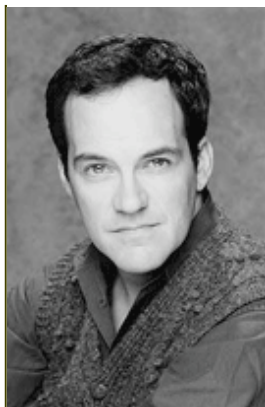


Anastasia Khitruk

'We want more from the St. Petersburg Chamber Philharmonic.'
—Audience member in St. Petersburg



Sergei Slonimsky



Lawrence Dillon

American and Russian Composers' Concert

Another highlight of the season was the American and Russian Composers' concert in March. We focused the program on composers from the 20th century through the present day, and proudly featured three living composers: Lawrence Dillon (USA), Sergei Slonimsky (Russia), and Timofey Buzina (Russia), all of whom were present at the concert! Lawrence Dillon teaches at the North Carolina School of the Arts and Sergei Slonimsky is a professor of composition at the Rimsky-Korsakov Conservatory in St. Petersburg. Timofey Buzina is a former student of Slonimsky's and was the youngest composer represented on the program. (He is also the General Manager of the St. PCPI!) The other composers represented on the program were Alexander Tcherepnin (Russia) and Samuel Barber (USA).

Tcherepnin's "Concerto for Violin and Flute" was an exciting opening to the program. Anastasia Khitruk, a virtuoso young Russian-American violinist from New York City, played beautifully, as did the flute soloist, Denis Lupachyov, one of St. Petersburg's finest young flute players. Lupachyov plays in the Marinsky theater orchestra (Kirov) and is one of Maestro Gergiev's favorite

players. The performance was certainly one of the highlights of the evening. Khitruk appeared again at the end of the program to give the audience a sumptuous and dynamic reading of Barber's neo-romantic Violin Concerto. She has just released a CD of little known works by Khandoshkin, which is available at hermitagemuseum.org/shop.

The works by the three living composers demonstrated how diverse and inviting the "new music" landscape can be. The works by Dillon and Slonimsky provided an intriguing contrast to each other. Dillon's work is a whimsical re-imagining of Mozart's 40th symphony from the perspective of a sophisticated - but somewhat disoriented - machine, and Slonimsky's work is a one movement composition for strings, trumpet and chimes, where each orchestra member functions as soloist. The music is filled with pathos, lyricism, and drama. Buzina's work often displayed a driving rhythmic pulse, obviously indicative of the musical influences of his generation.

In addition to our general sponsors, we would like to thank the US Consulate General and Mr. Peter Tcherepnine of the Tcherepnin Society for their generous support for this concert.

Sharing of musical cultures and ideas

One important aspect of the mission of the St. PCP is to bring together musical cultures, specifically between the United States and Russia. We were able to meet those goals in two areas in conjunction with this concert. First, several days prior to the concert, we organized a meeting between Lawrence Dillon and Professor Alexander Radvilovich, another of St. Petersburg's foremost composers who teaches at the Rimsky-Korsakov Conservatory, along with several of his colleagues and students. We met for almost two hours and discussed American and Russian contemporary classical music—quite fascinating, and a very rare happening. Second, we held a post-concert conversation with Dillon, Slonimsky,

myself and Anastasia Khitruk, who not only took part in the conversation, but functioned as translator as well! The conversation ranged from the composers' views on their own music and where they find their inspiration to the state of contemporary classical music. My favorite response from an audience member was one fellow who stood up and said simply, "American composers: Copland, Carter, Adams.... We want more from the St. Petersburg Chamber Philharmonic!!" I told them that they would get it! Professor Slonimsky was very vocal in his praise of the concert and our efforts, which was a very meaningful endorsement from one of the Russia's most famous and respected composers.

Sharing of musical cultures and ideas continued: a photo journal...



Dillon, Radvilovich, & colleagues



Composers' meeting in the "House of Composers"



Post concert talk with Khitruk, Meyer, Dillon, and Slonimsky (listed from the audience view's left to right)



Other season highlights of note...

Other highlights of the last season include a concert in celebration of the Finnish Independence Day, led by young Finnish guest conductor, Sasha Mäkilä, and featuring Soprano Hanna-Leena Haapamäki, who recently made her debut in the Finnish National Opera in the role of Maria in opera "Rasputin" by Einojuhani Rautavaara. Performed were works by

Sibelius, Mozart, Merikanto, and Rautavaara.

Lance Inouye, our Associate Conductor, presented a program in December that featured our principal cellist, Vsevolod Dolganov, performing Shostakovich's intensely impressive second cello concerto. Also on the program was a work by American composer Alan Hovhaness, as well as Mendelssohn's Symphony No. 3. Lance has just taken a post with Sarasota Opera as Music Director of their youth opera program. He will continue his post with the St. PCP, as well. Congratulations, Lance!

The last concert of the 2005-2006 season was conducted by guest conductor Satoshi Kawasaki, and was part of the 5th Annual Festival



Lance Inouye

"Japanese Spring in St. Petersburg". It was an eclectic program of works by Japanese composer Yoshimatsu, American composer John Cage, Stravinsky and Beethoven that played to a very enthusiastic full house.



Hanna-Leena Haapamäki



Vsevolod Dolganov

Thanks to our past and present sponsors!

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General Manager

Katya Nicholas,
Translation

Please visit our website:

www.st-pcp.org

-Mr. Wayne Aldridge (02-03)
-Dr. Judith Burleigh-Steere
-Mr. Richard Bumstead
-Mr. & Mrs. Phil and Mary deBuhr
-Dr. Brigitte M. Erbe
-Dr. and Mrs. David Meyer (02-03)
-Mrs. and Mr. Margie and Scott Morris (02-03)
-Dr. Jack Passman & Mrs. Giovanna Passman
-Mr. Peter Tcherepnine, The Tcherepnin Society

-The Institute for Cultural Programs, Andrei Zonin, Director
-The United States Consulate General in St. Petersburg, Jeffrey Murray, US Consul for Culture and Press
-City Realty, St. Petersburg
-Klassica Radio St. Petersburg, 88.9 FM
-The Basque Government Department of Culture
-Petersburgcity.com



St. PCP in rehearsal with Denis Lupachyov, flute (Shuvalovsky Palace)

About the St. Petersburg Chamber Philharmonic...

The St. Petersburg Chamber Philharmonic is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization that aims to promote cultural exchange and understanding, and the integration of the repertoire of our time into the standard repertoire of the concert hall.

The St. PCP was founded with a focus on Russian-American cultural interaction. However, it will not be limited to those nations in terms of selection of repertoire,

musicians and partners.

The St. PCP hopes to be an example of collaboration and co-operation between a diversity of musicians, which upholds high standards of musical integrity and embraces an openness to all music, musicians and audiences, regardless of national boundaries. *Please consider supporting our efforts in time for our first concert of the upcoming season!*

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