



Washington International
Piano Arts Council
and



Sonmaz Mashal Cultural Relations Public Union

Proudly presents

SEASON 2020 OPENING CONCERT



“Music in the Afternoon”
(A Mélange of Classical Compositions)

Friday, September 25, 2020
3:30 in the afternoon

Saint Luke Catholic Church
7001 Georgetown Pike
McLean, VA



*Washington International
Piano Arts
Council*

Washington International Piano Arts Council

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*Washington International
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On behalf of the Washington International Piano Arts Council (WIPAC) Organization, it is my pleasure to welcome you to this historic music concert, “Music in the Afternoon” -A Mélange of Classical Composition.

In association with Sonmaz Mashal CRPU, we celebrate the 135th year anniversary of Uzeyir Hajibeyov, an Azerbaijani pioneer composer, conductor, publicist, playwright, and social figure. He is recognized as the father of Azerbaijani classical music and opera and composed the national anthem of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic. WIPAC and SMCRPU share the same mission which is dedicated to crossing international boundaries and increasing mutual understanding among nations. Thanks to Shahla Naghiyeva for the music concert on Zoom that was held on September 20th, online.

Established in 2001 to promote international friendship and mutual understanding among nations and to provide cultural educational forums for all levels of professional and non-professional pianists, WIPAC has hosted numerous music events, including, since 2003, the longest running annual international piano competition for outstanding non-professional pianists in the United States.

I want to thank our WIPAC Board of Directors and WIPAC Founders Chateau and John Gardecki, for their tireless efforts to create a renaissance of interest in the field of piano artistry by providing venues worldwide where classical music can flourish.

A very special acknowledgement of appreciation is extended today to His Excellency Elin Suleymanov, Ambassador of Azerbaijan for his continued support of WIPAC programs. Please accept my best wishes for a wonderful and memorable concert and thank you for attending.

Portia Boggia Davidson
WIPAC President



In Celebration of the 135th year Anniversary of Azerbaijani Composer, Uzeyir Hajibeyov

The Afternoon's Agenda

- I Welcome
- II Greetings by Chateau Gardecki, WIPAC Board
Chair and Founder
- III Salutation – H.E. the Ambassador of Azerbaijan,
Elin Suleymanov
- IV Voice and Piano Performance by Marina Shinko,
soprano and Frank Conlon, pianist

PROGRAM

Marina Shinko, Soprano and Frank Conlon, pianist

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Fryderyk Chopin | Mazurka in Bb major, Op. 7, No. 1
Nocturne in C minor, Op. 48., No. 1 |
| Sergei V. Rachmaninov | Не пой, красавица! (Oh, never
sing to me again) , Op. 4, No. 4.
Words by Aleksandr Pushkin.

Ужь ты, нива моя! (The Harvest of
Sorrow) , Op. 4, No. 5. Words by
Count Aleksey Tolstoy. |
| Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky | Отчего? (Why?) , Op. 6, No. 5
Words by L. A. Mey (after Heine) |
| Alexander Scriabine | Prelude in C# Minor (l.h. alone)
Nocturne in Db major (l.h. alone) |
| Modest P. Mussorgsky | Спи, усни, крестьянский сын
(Sleep, Sleep Deeply, My Peasant
Son) . From the play "Voyevoda" by
Aleksandr Ostrovsky. |

Где ты, звёздочка? (Where Are You, My Little Star?). From Youthful Years, A Vocal Cycle.
На Днєпре (On The Dnieper)
Adapted from the epic poem “Gaidamak” by Taras Shevchenko.

Uzeyir Hajibeyov

Sevgili Janan, (Beloved Sweetheart), words based on poetry of Nizami Ganjavi

Trans.: Fascination’s beautiful laws, oh beloved sweetheart!
In all the world to have been worthy of your happiness.

Come and caress me. Give me a kiss from your sweet lips.
Because your beautiful lips are a blessing to your beloved.

I asked, ‘Where was my heart?
and this was my answer:
‘Do not ask, the person who seeks it, it will not be found

Have mercy, my eyes are flowing like a stream. Don’t plague me with pain, oh beautiful one!

If you are merciful, tell Nizami —
How must I act towards you, oh moonlight?

Uzeyir Hajibeyov

Overture from the Opera “Koruglu” (Blind Man’s Son), a piano transcription from Hajibeyov’s last Opera, 1937}



A Brief Introduction....

Washington International Piano Arts Council (WIPAC) in association with the Azerbaijan University of Languages and Sonmaz Mashal CRPU of Azerbaijan began in 2017 to cooperate in presenting a cultural program of literary and musical arts. It launched its first undertaking entitled "Lullaby of Peace," a brilliant creation by pianist Haskell Small commissioned by Chateau Gardecki, WIPAC Chairperson and Founder.

"Poetry in Music" is the 2nd project that Dr. Naghiyeva has proposed and was met with enthusiasm by WIPAC. Ms. Gardecki approached pianist Andrew Celentano to do the honors. After a long summer, Andrew created an exciting composition to match the dramatic and famous Azerbaijani poem "I Cannot Fit" (both worlds cannot fit within me), by Imadaddin Nasimi (d. circa 1404).

Today's program features rarely heard compositions by Azerbaijan's most famous composer, Uzeyir Hajibeyov to a poem of the Azerbaijani poet, Nizami Ganjavi (d.1209).

Sonmaz Mashal Cultural Relations Public Union (SMCPRU) is



a nonprofit, cultural relations union located in Azerbaijan dedicated to crossing boundaries and increasing mutual understanding and cooperation between the different nations through culture. The main goal of the union is to promote the

integration of Azerbaijan into the global cultural processes going on in the world today.

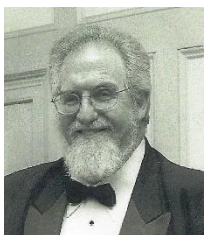
About the Artists.....



Marina Shinko, soprano

Marina is a 2009 graduate of Shenandoah University, where she studied voice with Donna Gullstrand. A Washington, D.C. native, she has sung as a chorister with both the Cathedral Choral Society and Choralis, under J. Reilly Lewis and Gretchen Kuhrmann, respectively. Ms.

Shinko currently sings and teaches voice at St. John the Baptist Russian Orthodox Cathedral in Washington, D.C.



Francis Conlon, pianist

Frank has performed in concerts and recitals at most of the colleges and halls in the Washington, D.C. area, and in many different cities throughout the United States, Canada, Central America, Europe, Japan, and India, also, at Carnegie Hall in New York City, the

Gardner Museum in Boston, Robin Hood Dell in Philadelphia, Kennedy Center, the National Gallery, the Phillips Collection, the Corcoran Gallery, the Library of Congress, the Smithsonian Institution, Dumbarton Oaks, Schlessinger Hall, and Wolf Trap Farm Park. Mr. Conlon has been a teacher of music at George Washington University, Catholic University School of Music, George Mason University School of Music, Georgetown University, the Ellington School of the Arts, the Levine School of Music, and the Sidwell Friends School. He is a long-serving juror of the WIPAC International Piano Artists Competition.

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

There are so many people to thank to make a project come to fruition. This monumental task could have not been possible without the help of our friends and WIPAC members who go the extra mile.

To Dr. Shahla Naghiyeva, President of Sonmaz Mashal CRPU and Professor at the Azerbaijan University for Languages, Jamila Javadova Spitzberg, Director of American Azerbaijan Music Foundation, Texas, WIPAC Donors and Sponsors, its President, Portia Davidson, and our volunteers and staff. Most especially to Shalala Valiyeva for her assistance, and the Diaspora Committee and its Chairman, Mr, Fuad Muradov.

A sincere thanks to Margot Young for introducing me to Saint Luke Music Director Paul Skevington. Heartfelt thanks to the artists Marina Shinko and Frank Conlon.

WIPAC hopes that you will enjoy this program.

SPECIAL GUESTS

H.E. the Ambassador of Azerbaijan Elin Suleymanov
and Mrs. Lala Surat

Mr. Fuad Muradov, Chairman, Diaspora Committee
Members of the Diaspora Committee

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Inez Nedelcovic

Mickey Nedelcovic

Rhoda Septilici

Don and Grace Sumihiro

Karl Woelflein