

WIPAC Spring Concert 2024
by Lisa McFarren-Polgar

Pianist Matthew Palumbo led the audience on an extraordinary journey, from Sergei Rachmaninoff's Etude Op. 33 No 8, to Ludwig van Beethoven's Sonata Op. 53 "Waldstein," ending with Samuel Barber's Sonata Op 26.

The Washington International Piano Arts Council (WIPAC) Season 2024 Opening Concert was held at the The Embassy Building. Pianist Palumbo took on the challenge of performing fiendishly difficult works, with a technical ease that amazed the audience. He was able to capture the feelings of "angst" expressed in Rachmaninoff's Etude, to the sense of loss in the "Waldstein" to the churning and loss in Barber's Sonata.

In an engaging commentary, Pianist Palumbo explained his choice of repertoire. "Imagine how you must feel losing your country," he stated, referring to the feeling of "angst" expressed in Rachmaninoff's Etude. Similarly, he added, when Beethoven was composing the "Waldstein," he was losing his hearing, and suffering anxiety that he would not be able to hear it. Reflecting on the conflict and suffering in Ukraine, Palumbo felt it apropos to include these two works in his performance.

His performance was sponsored by Diane Merriam, a long-time friend and Board Member of WIPAC.

Concert Committee Co-Chairs were Beth Akiyama and Terri Trinchera. Beth Akiyama, Executive Director of the Church of Scientology National Affairs Office, commented, "The greatest representation of human rights is classical music."

Founder and WIPAC Board Chair, Chateau Gardecki welcomed the audience for this sold-out performance.











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