

October, 2009

Dear Friends,

About one year ago, David Perlman, Artistic Director of RIT's Performing Artist Series, asked us to listen to a CD of solo piano music played by a Russian virtuoso by the name of Andrey Pisarev. He informed us that the artist would be making a return visit to the RIT series in the fall of 2009, and that we might be able to take advantage of his weekend in Rochester with a guest appearance on the Chamber Music Rochester series. After hearing this CD, there was no doubt that this was an opportunity not to be missed. Pisarev's playing is simply gorgeous, technically brilliant and musically sophisticated. His tone, full of warmth even on disc, is perfect for chamber music.

The next concert of Chamber Music Rochester will take place on November 1 in the Performance Hall of the Hochstein School of Music and Dance and will feature Andrey Pisarev in one of the most popular of all chamber works, Schumann's great **Quintet in E<sup>b</sup> for Piano and Strings, Opus 44**. A showcase for the pianist, this masterpiece is quintessential Romanticism, with its arching melodies, lush harmonies and symphonic proportions. An all-star quartet comprised of violinists Juliana Athayde and Patricia Sunwoo, violist Melissa Matson, and cellist Stefan Reuss will join Pisarev for this performance.

As you know, Chamber Music Rochester sponsors a bi-annual young composers competition. Our concert will begin with the prize-winning compositions in both the high school and college divisions of the 2008 competition. **"Second Place" for String Quartet**, by former Penfield High School and current Eastman student Gabriel Condon, is humorous and jazzy, complete with an improvised solo for the first violinist (in this case, Juliana Athayde). **String Quartet No. 2** by Cornell University student, Zachary Wadsworth, is a substantial work of heartfelt lyricism and depth. We are sure you will enjoy these two exciting glimpses into the future of American music.

To honor the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Franz Joseph Haydn's death, we will end the first half of the program with his **String Quartet No. 61 in D Minor**. The so-called "Fifths Quartet" got its name from the falling perfect fifths that open the work. Haydn's voluminous output of string quartets is unjustly neglected. His sense of humor, melodic gift, and meticulous craft are fully evident in this mature quartet.

The pre-concert chat will begin as always at 7:00 PM. Seating at the Hochstein Music School is not reserved, so please get there early for your favorite seats. There is ample parking in the lot across the street and at the Sister Cities Garage around the corner on Church Street. If you are interested in purchasing tickets for Andrey Pisarev's solo piano recital at RIT on Friday, October 30, at 8:00 PM, call the RIT Field House Box Office at (585) 475-4121. We look forward to seeing you on Sunday, November 1, in the Hochstein Performance Hall.

Sincerely,

Stefan Reuss and Joseph Werner, Co-Artistic Directors