



PETROUSHKA BALL
2018

ROSSINI

SEMIRAMIDE



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ON STAGE FEB 19 – MAR 17

High-flying soprano Angela Meade takes on the virtuosic title role in Rossini's masterpiece of dazzling vocal fireworks. The all-star cast also features Ildar Abdrazakov, Elizabeth DeShong, and Javier Camarena. Maurizio Benini conducts.

Tickets start at \$25 metopera.org 212.362.6000

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THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
NEW YORK, NY 10007

February 9, 2018

Dear Friends:

I am delighted to join the Russian Children's Welfare Society in welcoming everyone to its 53rd Annual Petroushka Ball.

Our city's diverse residents share a sense of responsibility not only to lift up their fellow New Yorkers, but also to do all that we can to extend a helping hand to those in need around the world. Since its founding in 1926, the Russian Children's Welfare Society has worked to improve quality of life for underserved children across Russia by providing scholarships, educational classes, medical treatments, holiday programming, and more. One of our city's most anticipated Russian-American events, tonight's Petroushka Ball will help raise needed funding for RCWS to continue its important work. I am proud to join in applauding this organization's staff and supporters for their commitment to fostering positive change in our city and beyond.

On behalf of the City of New York, I offer my best wishes for a meaningful event and continued success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill de Blasio".

Bill de Blasio
Mayor

Генеральное Консульство
Российской Федерации
в Нью-Йорке
9 East 91st Street, New York, NY 10128



Consulate General
of the Russian Federation
in New York
Tel.: (212) 348-0926 Fax:: (212) 831-9162

TO RCWS, PARTICIPANTS AND GUESTS
OF THE 53D PETRUSHKA BALL

New York, February 9, 2018

Dear Friends,

I would like to warmly welcome you all in the beautiful Ballroom at The Plaza Hotel in New York City, where the Russian Children's Welfare Society celebrates its 53rd Petrushka Ball.

Last year, the RCWS celebrated the 91st anniversary of its founding. For over nine decades the Society has raised funds to support orphans and to help children with serious health conditions and specific needs to improve their health, education and social welfare. It was founded in the spring of 1926 with a small group of organizers who announced their commitment to support Russian children whose families left their homeland and moved to other countries after the Revolution in 1917.

I support your charitable business and wish you to have an enjoyable time this beautiful evening!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sergei K. Ovsiannikov', written over a horizontal line.

Sergei K. Ovsiannikov
Consul General



The 53rd Annual

Petroushka Ball



February 9th, 2018 • The Plaza Hotel • New York City

To Benefit the

Russian Children's Welfare Society

Dear Guests,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the 53rd Petroushka Ball

The Russian Children's Welfare Society's mission is to help the thousands of disadvantaged children of Russia. The Society was founded in 1926 and, during the past 92 years, has undergone a number of permutations which were the result of the many political and social shifts over the 20th Century. Originally, the Society exclusively helped children of Russian decent outside of Russia who were victims of the Russian Revolution and World Wars I & II. Eventually Europe, followed by South America, became self-sufficient and the Society refocused its efforts on helping children in Russia after the fall of the Soviet Union. For the past two decades, the Society has devoted all of its aid to Russia.

The Society's primary activities include: pediatric maxillofacial surgery in partnership with the Russian Aid Foundation; a successful college scholarship program currently supporting 157 students; assisting vetted orphanages; and hosting an annual Christmas "Yelka" party where over 1,000 orphans from across Russia celebrate an unforgettable day in Moscow. To learn more about the RCWS's programs and ways you can contribute, please visit our website at www.rcws.org.

The theme of this year's Petroushka Ball celebrates Fabergé, which opened its doors in St. Petersburg over 175 years ago. Most people know of the fabulous Imperial Eggs created by the House of Fabergé and given by the Czar to the members of the Royal family at Easter. In this program, you will find an insightful article written by Nicholas Nicholson, SVP & Division Head of American & European Furniture & Decorative Arts at Freeman's Auctions, about the House of Faberge.

The Society is as always most grateful to the Metropolitan Opera and its General Manager, Mr. Peter Gelb, for their kind permission in allowing Ildar Abdrazakov and Lyubov Petrova to perform this evening.

We are thrilled to welcome a special performance from the Broadway Musical ANASTASIA.

In contributing to our cause, you will know you have helped a child achieve a hope or dream come true.

I am ever grateful for your attendance and support.

Very truly,

Beatrice M. Fekula

President

Russian Children's Welfare Society



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A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE HOUSE OF FABERGÉ

Carl Fabergé, legendary jeweler to the Russian Court was born on the 18th of May, 1849. His family, French Huguenots by origin, left France after the revocation of the Edict of Nantes, and arrived in Russia through Pernau (now Pärnu, Estonia), eventually settling in St. Petersburg, where Fabergé was born only a few years after his father had founded the family's atelier and salesroom at 11 Bolshaya Morskaya Street.



First educated at the St. Petersburg German Lutheran *Annenschule*, Fabergé and his family relocated to Dresden, where his father retired. It was at Dresden where Fabergé was exposed to some of the greatest jewelry treasures of the 16th, 17th, and 18th centuries in the collections of the Saxon Kings on display in the legendary *Grünes Gewölbe*. This exposure to the works of Jamnitzer, Dinglinger, and Cellini formed an artistic foundation that Fabergé carried back with him to the family firm in St. Petersburg.

In 1872, Fabergé took over his father's firm, and the business began the transformation from an importer of western European jewelry and small-scale manufacturer, to the giant purveyor of luxury goods he ultimately became. Fabergé's exceptional team of jewelers gradually increased the variety and breadth of production, satisfying every need of the elegant St. Petersburg *beau monde*. For a decade, Fabergé honed his skills as a businessman, eventually capturing the patronage of all classes of Russians, who came to him for everything from simple gold wedding bands, to silver table services and flatware, to silver mounted glass and enamelwork, *objets de luxe* in enamel and gold, and *haute joaillerie*.

In 1882, the imperial family became Fabergé's most important clients, after some archeological revival pieces first attracted attention at the Pan-Russian Exhibition in Moscow in 1882, where he exhibited a replica of a 4th-century B.C. gold bangle from the Scythian Treasure in the

Hermitage Museum. The Empress Maria Feodorovna bought the Emperor a pair of Scythian style cufflinks, and the Emperor Alexander was so pleased, he ordered that the works of Fabergé be placed alongside the original Scythian pieces in the Hermitage. By 1885 the House of Fabergé had received the title of 'Supplier to the Court of His Imperial Majesty' and received its first commission for an imperial Easter egg.

Of all the works by Fabergé, the Imperial Easter Eggs hold the greatest fascination, and the tale of their construction and their histories before and after the Russian revolution has been a focal point of the more than 3000 books and publications on the work of this legendary house.

While the revolution spelled the end of the Russian period of the house of Fabergé, the family continued their work as jewelers after the revolution in Paris and in Geneva, ultimately selling the family business and name. It was a great moment when the brand was revived, with family members on the board and behind the creative process to bring the name of Fabergé back to the forefront of luxury jewelry production in Europe and the Americas.

Nicholas Nicholson, SVP & Division Head of American & European Furniture & Decorative Arts at Freeman's Auctions

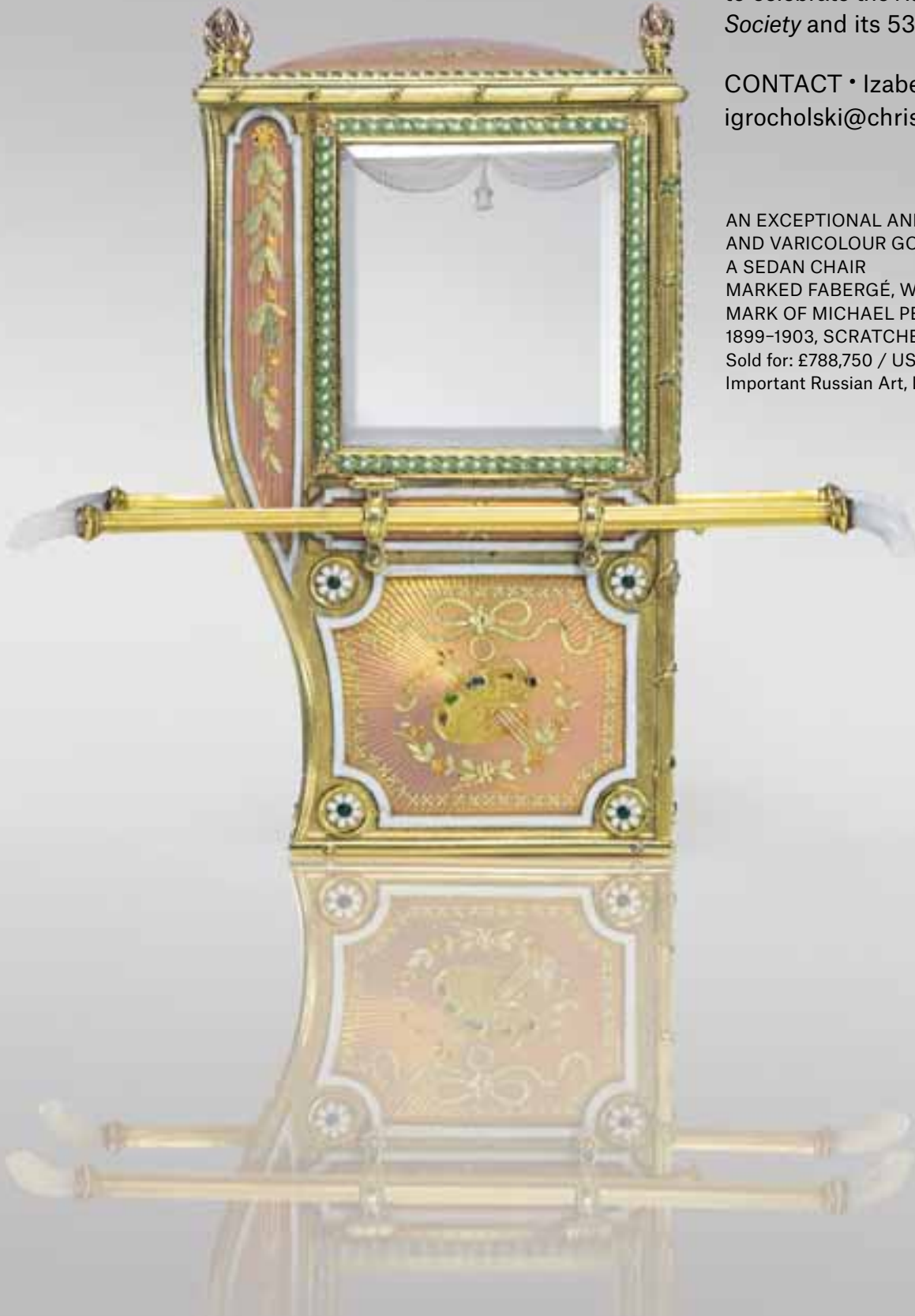


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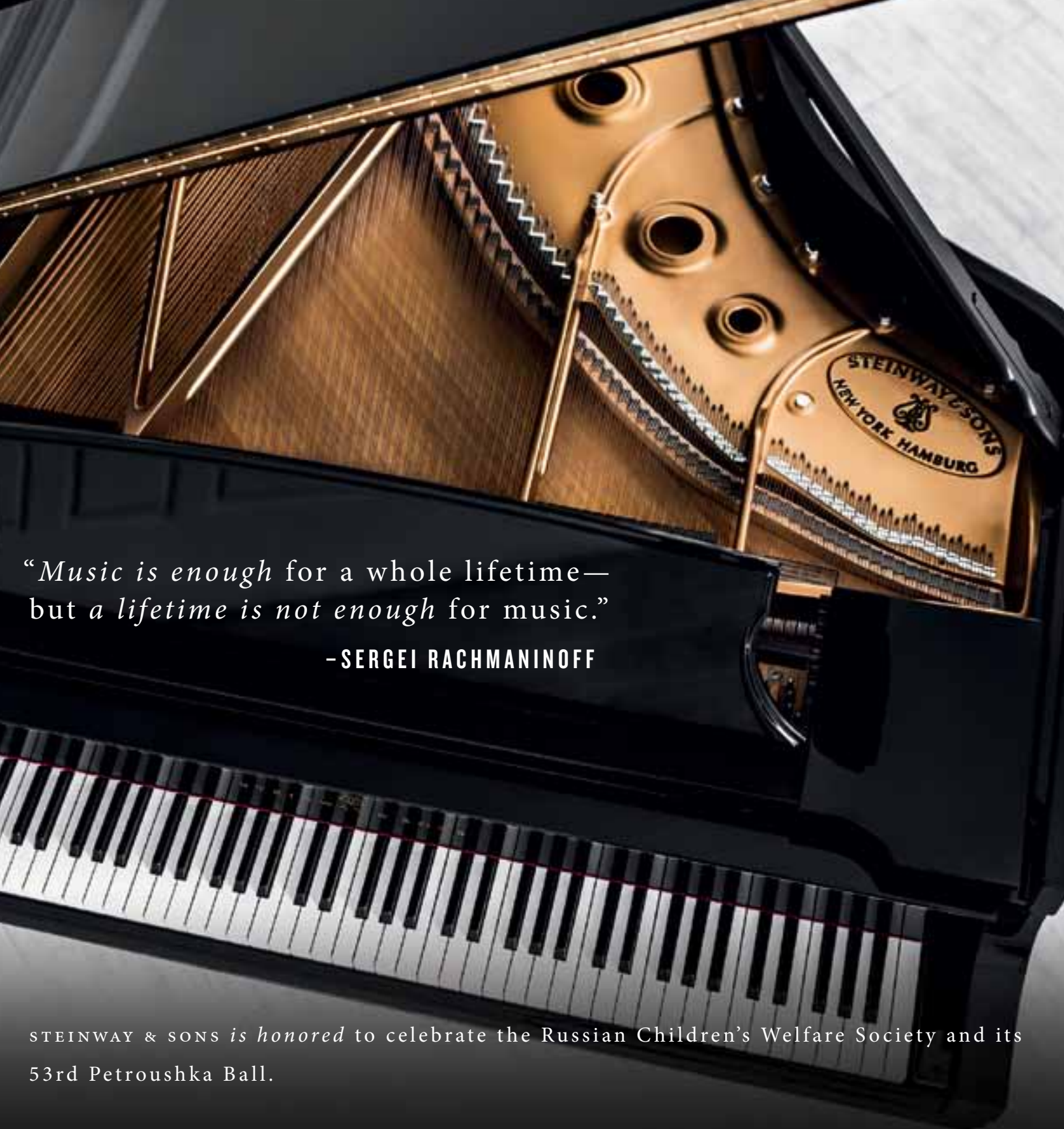
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*“Music is enough for a whole lifetime—
but a lifetime is not enough for music.”*

—SERGEI RACHMANINOFF

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53rd Petroushka Ball.

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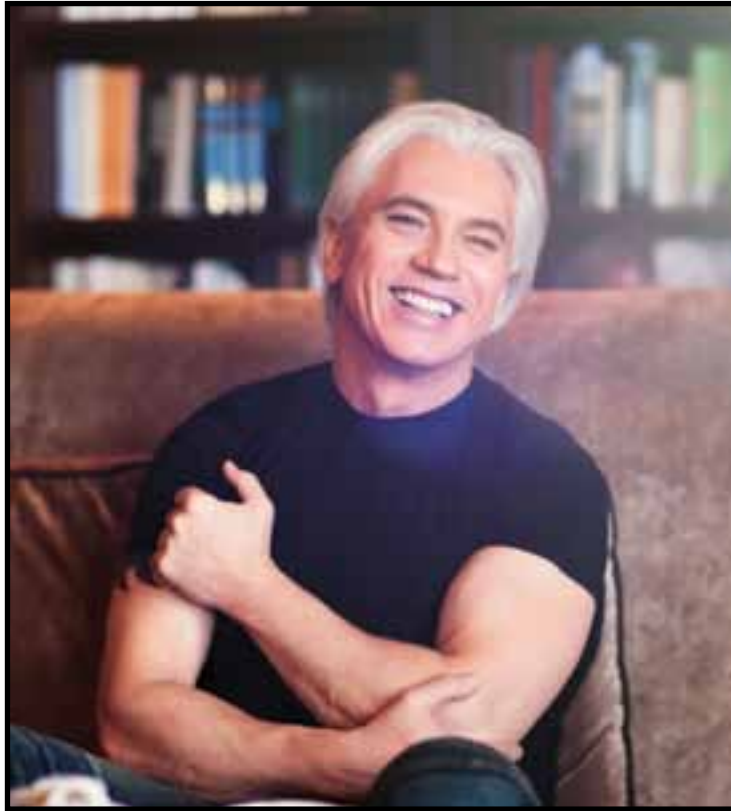


Photo credit: Pavel Vaan & Leonid Semenyuk

DMITRI HVOROSTOVSKY

The opera world mourns the untimely loss of Dmitri Hvorostovsky, the great Russian baritone, who died November 22, 2017 at the age of 55 after a battle with brain cancer.

Dmitri was a beloved figure in the opera community and one of the world's most extraordinary operatic artists; his lustrous voice and dashing appearance made him a favorite of operagoers around the world. Over the course of his remarkable career, Dmitri performed in all of the world's major opera houses and renowned international festivals, including the Royal Opera House, Metropolitan Opera, Paris Opera, Bayerische Staatsoper, Salzburg Festival, Teatro alla Scala, and Vienna State Opera.

Throughout his career, Dmitri maintained a strong connection to his native Russia. He became the first opera singer to give a solo concert with orchestra and chorus on Red Square in Moscow, which was televised in over 25 countries. Later, Dmitri developed his own concert series 'Dmitri Hvorostovsky and Friends,' inviting renowned opera stars—Renée Fleming, Elina Garanca, Jonas Kaufmann, and more—to join him in Moscow. In 2005, he gave a historic tour throughout the cities of Russia, singing to crowds of hundreds of thousands of people to commemorate the soldiers of the Second World War, and in September 2017, he received one of Russia's highest non-military honors, the Order of Merit for the Fatherland of the IV degree.

The RCWS will sorely miss Dmitri not only for his wonderful performance at the Petroushka Ball, but for his work on behalf of needy children in Russia as a long-time member of our Honorary Board. The Russian Children's Welfare Society sends deepest condolences to Dmitri's wife Florence and children, Maxim, Nina, Alexandra, Daniel, and Maria.



About the Society



This year, the Russian Children's Welfare Society proudly celebrates the 92nd Anniversary of its founding and the 53rd Anniversary of the Petroushka Ball. In the spring of 1926, the original organizers pledged their commitment to improving the lives of Russian children living outside the Soviet Union.

The direction of the Russian Children's Welfare Society's many initiatives has been guided to a great extent by the unending political and social flux of the 20th century. The Bolshevik Revolution of 1917 prompted the migration of large numbers of Russians to Western Europe, Asia, and North and South America. By the early thirties, the Society had ten branches operating throughout the United States and was sending money and material assistance to schools and organizations in locales as diverse as Latvia, Estonia, Poland, Finland, France, Germany, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Harbin, Shanghai, and Istanbul. RCWS gained recognition from the Presidential War Relief Control Board as an approved charity for work abroad during the war. By 1950, the Society was again sending relief to 14 countries.

As Europe and North and South America became self sufficient, and with the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, Russia's infrastructure left an alarming number of children disenfranchised. Consequently, RCWS shifted its focus to assisting underprivileged children living in Russia. Given such a great need, the Russian Children's Welfare Society now directs all of its yearly aid to children in Russia by funding an array of projects that include medical programs, college scholarships for orphans, schools and orphanages, and rehabilitation centers for children with special needs.

A SELECTION OF INITIATIVES UNDERTAKEN BY THE RCWS IN 2017 THANKS TO THE KIND SUPPORT OF OUR PATRONS:

MEDICAL PROGRAMS

“GIVE BEAUTY BACK TO THE CHILDREN”- PEDIATRIC MAXILLOFACIAL SURGERY FUND

Thousands of Russian children are burdened by unsightly facial deformities as a result of congenital defects, tumors, cleft lips, cleft palates, and other traumas. Only 2-3 hospitals in all of Russia have specialized surgeons to undertake cases that often require a series of surgeries and highly advanced medical technology.

Consequently, treatment is often a luxury few families have access to even when it is a dire necessity for a child's physical and psychological well-being.

Over ten years ago, RCWS launched “Give Beauty Back to the Children,” in partnership with Professor Vitaly Roginsky, Head of the Moscow Center for Maxillofacial Surgery (MCMS) and Lev Ambinder, Head of the Russian Aid Foundation (Rusfond). MCMS is one of the most innovative facilities in Russia providing treatment and rehabilitation for children with facial deformities.



The “Give Beauty Back to the Children” program has forever altered the lives of over 1,300 children suffering from facial deformities. Average cost per surgery is in the range of \$2,500-\$5,000. Thanks to our mutual donors' support and the help of advanced medical micro technology, Professor Roginsky and his staff have witnessed many of their patients' personalities flourish with hope and happiness as they gain the ability to do what is second nature to most – to smile.

EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS AND PROGRAMS

During the fourteen years since the inception of the RCWS scholarship program, the number of participants has grown from 3 in the 2003-2004 academic year to over 150 in 2017-2018. Currently, RCWS is supporting 157 students in the Pskov, Yaroslavl, Moscow and Velikiy Novgorod regions. To date, the scholarship program has been enormously successful in providing a support structure for students as they transition from living in an orphanage to attending a university on their own. For an annual cost of approximately \$2,500 per student, the Society is helping orphans successfully complete an academic degree or vocational training in order to steer them in the direction of a promising future. RCWS requires academic transcripts from each scholarship recipient, as well as reports on the use of the stipend to assure accountability. Over eighty of our scholarship recipients have thus far completed their schooling and found employment. This is an outstanding achievement of which we are very proud.

We would like to share several stories.

Irina Ezhova, 20 y.o., 2nd year student of Pskov State University, major in Finance and Economics: *“My life has never been simple. Since I was 10 years old, I live without parents. My father died and mother was deprived of parental rights. It was a very difficult time for me. However, I did not lose courage and faced the challenges. I believe that a profession, work required skills and experience, would greatly increase my chances of landing a good-paying job. Since I can rely only on myself, it's very important for me to obtain a college diploma. This summer I completed the 2nd year at the university with “excellent” grades. Without RCWS scholarship and support, I would not be able to achieve it. Thanks to the RCWS scholarship, I was able to buy all necessary books, studying materials, equipment and school supplies. In addition, I took a driving course and just passed the exam. I want to say that RCWS help is invaluable to me. Thank you for support!”*



This note is from Ioann Novikov, 20 y.o., social orphan, graduate of St. Alexis School and Orphanage in Yaroslavl region, 2nd year student at Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology, major in Nano-, Bio-, Information, Cognitive and Social Humanitarian Sciences and Technologies: *«I completed a very difficult 1st academic year at the University. Since now I live in a dormitory in Moscow, I have to*



About the Society



take care of myself. In the past I often faced financial challenges. Even to visit my native city of Omsk, where my mother was buried, was very expensive and out of reach for me. After joining the RCWS scholarship project, my life has changed. The monthly scholarship helped me to purchase winter and summer clothes, buy books and school supplies, pay for the dormitory and Internet. With your support I am able to focus on my studies, instead of looking for means of subsistence. »

Tikhanova Svetlana is 19 y.o., an orphan, her mother passed away, father is deprived of parental rights. Now Svetlana is the 2nd year student at the Pskov State University, with a major in "Architecture": *"I always had a dream to design a unique and beautiful building, then build it, and leave a mark in the history of the city of Pskov. I am getting closer to my dream and will continue moving forward to achieve it. I study architecture and really like my major. The academic year went well, I learned so many new things! RCWS scholarship helped to repair my computer, buy books, supplies and other essentials. Thank you for helping me to realize my dream!"*

Alexander Savunov, 20 y.o., social orphan, graduate of the Krasnogorodsky Orphanage in the Pskov region. Alexander's father passed away, his mother lost parental rights. Now Alexander is a 3rd year student at the Pskov Agrotechnical College, major in Agriculture Automation & Electrification and RCWS scholarship recipient: *"My mother brought me to the Krasnogorodsky Orphanage "AgroSchool" when I was in the first grade. All the teachers and caretakers at the orphanage became my new family. My younger brothers and cousins still continue their studies at this orphanage. I have no resentment towards my mother, she could not cope with the problems and left us. Probably she thought that the orphanage would be a better place for us. Time flies quickly. I have decided many years ago that I want to become an electrician and study at the Pskov Agrotechnical College. I want to get an electrician diploma and find a job in this field. My knowledge and professional skills could be useful not only at work, but also in everyday life, I can set up the electrical wiring in my house, help the neighbors and friends. With such profession I can always earn a living. Among my hobbies is music and sport. I lead a healthy lifestyle, making progress in cross-country skiing, cycling, and like to play football.*

This passed academic year included many ups and downs, but I was able to overcome all the challenges thanks to the RCWS support. I completed last semester with "good" grades and won "The best electrician of 2017" title in the Pskov region competition. Thanks to RCWS scholarship, I was able to purchase the tools and equipment for my practical training classes. I am immensely grateful for your help!"

Olga Vasilieva, 20 y.o., is an orphan, never saw her father and her mother was deprived of parental rights due to alcoholism. Now Olga is the 2nd year student of St. Petersburg Medical University, major in pediatrics: *"You are my saviors and my guardian angels. I was along, in a difficult situation. Now I am a medical university student. In the future, I want to treat and help children. They are so small and defenseless! I also want to help people, as you do. After all, if we do good deeds, it would return to us. My studies and getting a profession is my priority. In order to become a good physician, you need to study and work a lot! I am very grateful to RCWS for everything you do for me. Not many people are able to help children who need help."*

RCWS has been expanding the scholarship program, adding new partners and increasing the number of participants. Currently, RCWS provides scholarships to fifteen young musicians affiliated with the Spivakov Foundation, established by renowned concert violinist Vladimir Spivakov, to help disadvantaged children in Russia develop musical and artistic talent.

St. Alexis School, Yaroslavl region

The St. Alexis School was established in 2001 to serve orphaned children and the elderly. At present, 285 students are enrolled at the St.



Alexis School. The community takes care of 285 children. The secondary school of the St. Alexis community is ranked as one of the best schools in Central Russia. Over 100 children have graduated and

left the St. Alexis School, many of them are continuing education at the top universities and colleges in Russia.

The education is provided free of charge. In 2014, the St. Alexis School was included in the rating of 200 best schools in Russia located in rural area. The number of students continue to increase. In 2017, RCWS provided funds to equip additional nice rooms with proper school furniture.

ORPHANAGES

Our goal is to enable orphanages to meet basic needs, and to promote comprehensive programs that help orphans grow to be healthy and independent adults.

Orphanage for children with special needs in Shatura, Moscow region

School-orphanage for children with special needs located in Shatura, Moscow region provides 1st to 9th grades education to 156 children with various disabilities. In addition, psychologists and speech therapists work with children engaging them in developmental activities.

In 2017, RCWS sponsored the installation of 27 new windows in the orphanage. Orphanage in Shatura has not been renovated since it was established in 1960s. Additionally, RCWS covered the educational and speech therapy equipment to create more opportunities for disabled children to develop and improve their skills.

Nikolo-Solbinsky Orphanage/Solba, Yaroslavl Region

Nikolo-Solbinsky Women's Convent is located in the Dmitrovskoye Village of the Yaroslavl Region. In 2007 the convent opened its first

shelter for girls, which is the only facility of this kind in the entire region. It provides girls not only with food, clothes and medical treatment but also with secondary and professional education. Special emphasis is made





About the Society



on children's involvement in arts, music and theater. Currently, 50 girls (from 7 to 18 years of age) reside at the orphanage.

In 2015 the following seven college departments were established at the Solba facility: music conductor/choir, ceramics, sewing, cooking, art, mosaic, medicine. Over 300 children are enrolled in Solba college programs. Among the students are orphans that reside at Solba, children from low income families from local villages.

The objective of the Solba college/trade school that students would have a profession and skills set that would allow them to have a job and a source of income in the future. All the departments except the sewing have all the necessary vocational equipment. In 2017, RCWS sponsored renovation, furniture and purchase of sewing & embroidery equipment to launch the sewing department (\$154,181 in total).

Pushkinogorodsky Orphanage, Pskov region

The Pushkinogorodsky Orphanage is the only institution in the Pskov region that offers treatment to children who have been exposed to tuberculosis. In 2017, RCWS sponsored equipment and supplies for art workshops to improve socialization and encourage creativity for 143 children at the Pushkinogorodsky orphanage.

REHABILITATION CENTERS

Rehabilitation Center "Inspiration," Yaroslavl region, Russia

Rehabilitation Center "Inspiration" was founded in 1999 and provides services to children between the ages of 6 months and 18 years with various physical and mental disabilities who are either orphans or come from low-income families. Hundreds of children benefit from participating in activities offered at the center and 40 children currently reside on the grounds. In 2017, the RCWS awarded funds to cover food for 6 months, educational equipment, art supplies and heating.

Educational Center "Big Change" (Bolshaya Peremena), Moscow

Center "Big Change" is a non-profit organization registered and operating in Russia since 2002. It was founded by a group of teachers who were inspired by the idea of helping children brought up in orphanages smoothly transition into adulthood and seamlessly integrate into society. Big change currently works with close to 80 students who are between the ages of 12 and 26, have different educational levels, come with different goals and varying life circumstances. In 2017, RCWS provided funding towards the Center educational programs for 70 students.

Rehabilitation Center "Krug", Moscow

Established in 1989, Krug Rehabilitation Center provides over educational, rehabilitation, and recreational programs for over a hundred children with autism spectrum disorders, learning disabilities and physical handicaps. The Center's programs are designed to help the participants gradually integrate into society while understanding how to best manage their disabilities. Many of the Center's students have went on to attend regular schools, college or even found gainful employment.

Currently over 100 children enrolled in the Center's programs. Krug's curriculum is practiced at a number of other institutions in Russia that are partially funded by the government. A vital aspect to children's development, particularly those with autism spectrum disorders, is travel. When children are introduced to new environments and are culturally stimulated, they become noticeably engaged and joyful. In 2017, the RCWS covered travel and tour expenses for 40 children with autism spectrum disorders and 60 parents and staff.

Charitable Organization for Parents of Disabled Children "GOORDI", Ryazan

Charitable Organization for Parents of Disabled Children was established over 20 years ago in Ryazan and assists families with disabled children by providing medication, food, clothing, shoes; obtaining state financial aid for needy families; organizing summer rehabilitation activities and sightseeing tours for children and their parents. The Center's programs focus on the social and legal rehabilitation of disabled children and help to improve their quality of life. In 2017, RCWS sponsored rehabilitation equipment and art supplies to assist 30 children with special needs.

Naked Heart Foundation, Moscow & Nizhni Novgorod

The Naked Heart Foundation was founded in 2004 by supermodel Natalia Vodianova in the wake of the Beslan school siege. Desperate to do something to help, she had a simple idea to help the little victims heal by providing them with safe outdoor play facilities. Since 2004, the Naked Heart Foundation has built over 100 play facilities and hopes to build 500. In 2017, the RCWS awarded the Naked Heart Foundation with a grant for its Early Bird Program, a program that gives parents of children with autism the opportunity to communicate, advise one another and work together in finding the best solutions for the problems they face.

Rehabilitation Center "Predolenie L", Moscow



Founded in 1992, the Rehabilitation Center "Preodolenie L" in Moscow provides training, education, and physical therapy for disabled children from orphanages and low income families. The goal of the Center is to prepare children to be fully active members of society. The center has been recognized by the Russian Government as one of the best facilities promoting social education and rehabilitation for children with special needs. The Center prides itself on its unique equine therapy program for children with disabilities. While riding horses, children feel a unique spirit of freedom and relaxation: no need to sit in a wheelchair, hold onto crutches or grasp someone's hand.





About the Society



YELKA – ANNUAL NEW YEAR AND CHRISTMAS PARTY

It has been 18 years since RCWS organized our first Yelka, a modest Russian Christmas and New Year Party in Moscow for disadvantaged children. Today, over 1,000 children annually participate in RCWS's Yelka festivities and are treated to a Christmas show and presents. This past December, over 1,100 children traveled great distances



to participate in the 18th annual Yelka event at the Teatrium on Serpukhovka in Moscow and see the holiday show "Sword of Samurai" and to receive a gift.

The selection process for Yelka participants is highly competitive as they are selected based on academic merit. They spend months diligently studying and striving to be the best in hopes of being awarded a trip to Moscow, a trip that is oftentimes the highlight of their year.



Additionally, RCWS personnel and volunteers, together with "Ded Moroz" (Russian Santa Claus), visited the Orphanage in Shatura and over 100 little patients at the Moscow Center for Maxillofacial Surgery and the Sechenov Academy in Moscow to distribute gifts and bring some magic to their holiday.



Please visit our web site www.rcws.org for more information about the RCWS on-going projects.

RCWS has been tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code since 1944.

The Society is proud of its accomplishments in its 92-year history, and pays tribute to all of our predecessors and donors who transformed the organization into one of the leading charities in Russia today.

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Zhanna Petrenko, Controller, New York Office

Russian Children's Welfare Society
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Founded 1926

www.rcws.org



DR. CYRIL ERASTOVICH GEACINTOV

Dr. Cyril Geacintov, Board member, Petroushka Ball Patron, and an all-around dear friend and supporter of the Russian Children's Welfare Society died May 23rd, 2017. Cyril was President and CEO of DRG International Inc., a leading provider of innovative medical diagnostic products and equipment.

Cyril was born in France into a noble Russian family. He held a BS degree in Paper Science and Engineering and a Ph.D. in Physical Chemistry. The Geacintov family attended many Petroushka Balls, filling their tables with friends, diplomats, and public figures. Dr. Geacintov became a member of the Board of Directors in 2001.

The RCWS will sorely miss Cyril, a man of culture and energy who used his many skills and great warmth and wisdom to benefit the children in need. Cyril leaves a wife, Elke, children and grandchildren, and the legacy of a daughter, Ms. Elizabeth Geacintov Guest, who is now a Candidate Director.

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Vertical text on the left side: Maria Abashova as Anna. Photo by Souheil Michael Khoury

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Tonight's Performers



ILDAR ABDRAZAKOV, *Bass*



Photo credit: Sergey Misenko

has just about everything – imposing sound, beautiful legato, oodles of finesse” (*The Independent*). Also an active concert artist, he has performed at London’s BBC Proms and at New York’s Carnegie Hall, as well as with leading international orchestras, including the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and the Vienna Philharmonic.

Among Abdrazakov’s signature roles are the title role in *Le Nozze di Figaro*; Don Giovanni and Leporello (*Don Giovanni*), Méphistophélès in Gounod’s *Faust*, Selim in Rossini’s *Il Turco in Italia*, and the title role in Borodin’s *Prince Igor*, Banquo (*Macbeth*) and *Attila*.

Abdrazakov’s discography includes a Grammy Award-winning recording of Verdi’s *Requiem* with Riccardo Muti, Shostakovich’s *Suite on Verses of Michelangelo*, Rachmaninoff’s *The Miserly Knight* and unpublished arias by Rossini with Riccardo Chailly. Abdrazakov’s debut solo album *Power Players*, a celebration of the great Russian bass roles, was released in early 2014 on Delos, to great critical acclaim.

The bass’s DVD releases include *Moïse et Pharaon* from La Scala, *Oberto* from Bilbao, *Norma* from Parma and *Lucia di Lammermoor* from the Metropolitan Opera. Marking the Verdi bicentennial, May 2013 saw Abdrazakov’s star turn in the title role of *Attila* immortalized on the Mariinsky label’s first DVD/Blu-ray release. Abdrazakov signed an exclusive contract with Deutsche Grammophon in early 2017.

Abdrazakov was born in Ufa. His 2000 win at the Maria Callas International Television Competition thrust him into the international spotlight and led to his debut at La Scala the follow-

ing year. Since 2007, Abdrazakov has been an ambassador for the Zegna & Music project, a philanthropic initiative founded in 1997 by Ermenegildo Zegna, to promote music and its values. Abdrazakov’s concert attire is generously provided by the designer. Ildar Abdrazakov is also Artistic Director of the Elena Obraztsova International Academy of Music – where he was appointed by Obraztsova herself in 2014 – which opened in a gala concert in August 2015.



Photo credit: Ronnie Nelson

LYUBOV PETROVA, *Soprano*

Opera News hails Lyubov Petrova as a “soprano of ravishing, changeable beauty, blazing high notes and magnetic stage presence.” In the 2017-18 season, she sings Susanna in *Le nozze di Figaro* with the Metropolitan Opera, her first performances of Freia in *Das Rheingold* with both the London Philharmonic and Odense Symphony Orchestra, and returns to the Met-

ropolitan Opera for their production of *Così fan tutte*. Later this summer, she joins Music@Menlos for Shostakovich’s *From Jewish Folk Poetry* and returns to La Jolla Music Festival for performances Lilla-Lobos’ *Bachianas Brasileiras* and selections of Schubert Lieder. Last season, she sang her first performances of Tatyana in *Eugene Onegin* with Florida Grand Opera, Sophie in *Der Rosenkavalier* at the Bolshoi Theater in Moscow, and Sofya in Prokofiev’s *Semyon Kotko* with Vladimir Jurowski conducting the Radio Filharmonisch Orkest at the Concertgebouw.

Ms. Petrova made her Metropolitan Opera debut as Zerbinetta in *Ariadne auf Naxos*. The former participant in the company’s prestigious Lindemann Young Artist Development Program has returned for numerous roles including Sophie in *Der Rosenkavalier*, Pamina in *Die Zauberflöte*, Norina in *Don Pasquale*, Sophie in *Werther*, Nannetta in *Falstaff*, Oscar in *Un ballo in maschera*, Adele in *Die Fledermaus*, Blondchen in *Die Entführung aus dem Serail*, Xenia in *Boris Godunov*, and Woglinde in *Das Rheingold* as well as for the company’s productions of *Giulio Cesare* and *Le nozze di Figaro*.

She has sung Brahms’ *Ein deutsches Requiem* with the Hong Kong Philharmonic and Rachmaninov’s *The Bells* with the Florida Orchesta. In her native Russia, she has joined the Russian National Orchestra for further performances *The*



Tonight's Performers



Bells (available commercially on the Warner Classics label) and Artiomov's **Requiem** with the Russian National Orchestra; Bach's **Magnificat** and Haydn's **Lord Nelson Mass** with Helmuth Rilling conducting the Moscow Conservatory Orchestra; and Mozart's **Exsultate, jubilate** with the Moscow Chamber Orchestra. She has also sung a program of Johann Strauss with Julius Rudel conducting the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra and joined the Pressburger Symphoniker at the Schloss Esterhazy in Austria for a concert of Rossini, Donizetti, Bellini, Mozart, and Bizet.

NATALIA KATYUKOVA, Pianist

One of the highly regarded collaborators of her generation, Russian pianist Natalia Katyukova is currently working as an Assistant conductor at the Metropolitan Opera and a coach at Lindemann Young Artist Development Program.

Ms. Katyukova has performed with singers such as Anna Netrebko, Ildar Abdrazakov, Irina Arkhipova, Bryn Terfel, Paul Appleby, at festivals and summer programs including the Ravinia Festival and Tanglewood Music Festival and has appeared in recital throughout the U.S.A., Russia, Germany, Italy, Finland, Japan and other countries.

A graduate of the Moscow State Conservatory, The Juilliard School and Lindemann Young Artist Development Program, her teachers included Margo Garrett, Jonathan Feldman, Brian Zeger, Ken Noda and Lev Naumov.

ANASTASIA The Musical on Broadway featuring STEPHANIE ROTHENBERG



Photo credit: Matthew Murphy

The Petroushka Ball is thrilled to welcome Stephanie Rothenberg to perform the Oscar-nominated "Journey to the Past" from the Broadway Musical ANASTASIA.

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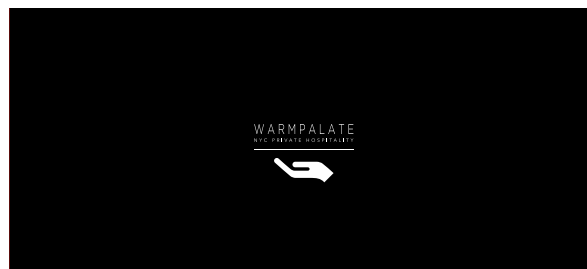
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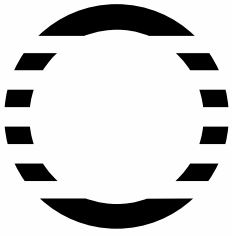
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Mr. Gregory and Dr. Evelyn Tolston
Olga and Peter Tymus
Ilse and Eugene Ulianov
Ms. Marina Wells
Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Wilcox
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Zemann

List in progress



Young Patrons



Alexander and Anastasia Aksakov

Ms. Marina Alton

Ms. Julia Andersen

Ms. Veronika Arkhangel

Igor and Tatsiana Axenov

Ms. Viktoria Baklanova

Ms. Maria Baibakova

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Dr. Steven Binenbaum and Mrs. Lina Binenbaum

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Mr. Constantine Schidlovsky

Mr. Maxim Schidlovsky

Mr. George Selinsky

Ms. Anna Simakova

Ms. Elena Siyanko

Ms. Katia Sokoloff

Ms. Maria Soldier

Taisiya Solovyeva and Igor Faynzilbert

Mr. Oleg Svintsitski

Ms. Elena Tchainikova

Ms. Olga Timoshenkova

Dmitry and Tatyana Ulyanov

Ms. Elena Vorontsova

Charles and Yana Worthman

Ms. Marina Yakolina

Mr. Alexei Yashin

Pavel and Natalie Zadorozhny

Ms. Tatyana Zakharova

Natasha and Alex Zarechnak

Mr. Kyril Zimin

List in progress



Raffle Prizes



1. GRAND PRIZE:

BUSINESS CLASS ROUND-TRIP TRAVEL FOR TWO PEOPLE ON AEROFLOT-RUSSIAN AIRLINES, FROM THE UNITED STATES TO MOSCOW OR ST. PETERSBURG

Travel can be from any of Aeroflot's US departure cities (New York, Los Angeles, Miami, Washington DC) to Moscow or St. Petersburg. Special conditions and restrictions apply to prize travel.

Courtesy of Aeroflot, www.aeroflot.ru

2. CAVIAR GIFT SET BY LOVE CAVIAR CLUB

Faberge egg holder with a 28g Kaluga caviar, Russian Ossetra caviar 150g jar, crackers, cream fresh, mother of pearl caviar serving set, plate and a spoon.

Estimated value: \$530

Courtesy of Love Caviar Club, www.lovecaviarclub.com

3. CLÉ DE PEAU BEAUTÉ LUXURY GIFT SET

Courtesy of Clé de Peau Beauté counter at Saks Fifth Avenue, tel 212.940.2678 www.cledepeaubeaute.com

4. TWO TICKETS TO EIFMAN BALLET OF ST. PETERSBURG PERFORMANCE "ANNA KARENINA" AT LINCOLN CENTER

April 7, 2018, David H. Koch Theater at Lincoln Center

Courtesy of Ardani Artists, www.ardani.com

5. GRAFF COFFEE TABLE BOOK AND WINE GIFT SET FROM THE DELAIRE GRAFF ESTATE IN STELLENBOSCH, SOUTH AFRICA

Courtesy of Graff Diamonds www.graffdiamonds.com

6. "HOUSE OF JO MALONE LONDON" GIFT SET

Includes cologne, bath oil, body cream, body and face wash gel mousse, candle, body and hand lotion.

Estimated value: \$205

Courtesy of Estee Lauder Companies, www.esteelauder.com

7. CAVIAR GIFT SET BY LOVE CAVIAR CLUB

Faberge egg holder with a 28g Kaluga caviar, Russian Ossetra caviar 28g jar, crackers, cream fresh, mother of pearl caviar serving set, plate and a spoon.

Estimated value: \$260

Courtesy of Love Caviar Club, www.lovecaviarclub.com

8. TWO TICKETS TO THE ANASTASIA THE MUSICAL ON BROADWAY

Includes an opportunity to meet and greet the performers backstage. Tuesday, Wednesday evening or Thursday Performances, 2/13/18-4/26/18

Courtesy of Anastasia The Musical on Broadway, www.anastasiabroadway.com

9. GOURMANOFF DELIGHT GIFT BASKET

Courtesy of Gourmanoff. Food with personal touch!
www.gourmanoff.com

10. TWO TICKETS TO THE THEATRE OF NATIONS PRODUCTION "IVANOV" BY ANTON CHEKHOV AT NEW YORK CITY CENTER FOR AN OPENING NIGHT

June 14, 2018, The New York City Center

Courtesy of Cherry Orchard Festival, cherryorchardfestival.org

11. KAI FRAGRANCE GIFT SET

The Kai gift bag includes Kai fragrance perfume oil, eau de perfume, body lotion, body butter, and skylight candle in a chic organza bag – all in kai's signature, light and intoxicating scent of gardenia wrapped in white exotics.

Estimated value: \$205

Courtesy of Kai, www.kaifragrance.com

12. GIFT CERTIFICATE FOR ENGINEERED FOR MOTION (EFM) MENSWEAR AND PERSONAL FITTING WITH LEAD DESIGNER DONRAD DUNCAN

EFM is an advanced luxury brand that is redefining menswear and

inspiring a movement in modern dressing. Integrating sophisticated design, applied technologies, and truly innovative features, EFM creates multi-functional, "do more with less" apparel while pushing comfort and urban minimalist aesthetics to new levels.

Estimated value: \$600

Courtesy of EFM, www.efmmenswear.com

13. SILK SHAWL IN THE TRADITION OF FABERGE

Estimated value: \$45

Courtesy of St-Petersburg Global Trade House, 261 Fifth Avenue, www.fromrussia.com

14. SILVER PLATED BUCKET WITH A BOTTLE OF PINK ROSÉ

Courtesy of Beatrice Fekula

15. DINNER FOR TWO AT RUSSIAN SAMOVAR RESTAURANT
Includes: 2 appetizers, 2 entrees, and 2 desserts. Does not include tax and gratuity. Requires a reservation in advance.

Courtesy of Russian Samovar, 256 West 52nd Street, www.russiansamovar.com

16. PALAIS DES THÉS PARIS GIFT SET

A beautiful cast iron teapot and four tins of some of PALAIS DES THÉS best seller teas.

Estimated value: \$203

PALAIS DES THÉS USA, 107 Spring Street, 2nd floor, tel. 212-813-2882, www.us.palaisdesthes.com

17. 2 MASTER PRIVATE PERSONAL TRAINING SESSIONS AT FITNESS CELL NYC

Estimated value: \$500

Courtesy of The Fitness Cell, 28 East 72nd street, www.boazfitness.com

18. CAVIAR GIFT SET BY LOVE CAVIAR CLUB

Faberge egg holder with a 28g Kaluga caviar, Russian Ossetra caviar 28g jar, crackers, cream fresh, mother of pearl caviar serving set, plate and a spoon.

Estimated value: \$260

Courtesy of Love Caviar Club, www.lovecaviarclub.com

19. AMBER BRACELET BY VALERIO 888

Estimated value: \$150

Courtesy of Valerio 888, www.valerio888.com, tel. 212-631-8090

20. TWO TICKETS TO FIRE AND AIR, A NEW PLAY BY TONY AWARD WINNER TERRANCE MCNALLY ABOUT THE BALLETS RUSSES

Directed by John Doyle. Performances through February 25 only.

Courtesy of Fire and Air Play, www.classicstage.org/shows/2018/01/fire-air/

21. BLEUSTORM VODKA GIFT SET

Courtesy of Michael Rangini, BLEUSTORM VODKA, www.bleustorm.com

22. TWO TICKETS TO MASHINA VREMENI "BACK TO THE USA" SHOW AT TERMINAL 5

March 16, 2018, Terminal 5 (610 W 56th St, New York)

Courtesy of Maestro Artists, www.maestroartist.com

23. SILK SHAWL IN THE TRADITION OF FABERGE

Estimated value: \$45

Courtesy of St-Petersburg Global Trade House, 261 Fifth Avenue, www.fromrussia.com

24. 2 MASTER PRIVATE PERSONAL TRAINING SESSIONS AT FITNESS CELL NYC

Estimated value: \$500

Courtesy of The Fitness Cell, 28 East 72nd street, www.boazfitness.com

25. GOURMET DELIGHT GIFT BASKET – FROM NET-COST MARKET WITH LOVE

Courtesy of NetCost Market. Traditions of Taste – Traditions of Family. www.NetCostMarket.com



Raffle Prizes & Auction



26. FABERGE STYLE ORNAMENTS

Courtesy of Larissa Pokrovsky

27. BOOK "GIFT OF THE TSARS, 1500-1700: TREASURES FROM THE KREMLIN" BY BARRY SHIFMAN (2001)

Courtesy of Boris W. Fedoff

28. GEORGIAN WINE GIFT SET

Courtesy of Mr. and Mrs. Sarandinaki Kadaria

29. AMBER CUFFLINKS BY VALERIO 888

Estimated value: \$60

Courtesy of Valerio 888, tel. 212-631-8090, www.valerio888.com

30. SIX MONTH SUPPLY OF NUTRAFOL

Win a 6 month supply of Nutrafol, a dermatologist recommended nutraceutical oral supplement for better hair health sold in over 700 dermatology practices. 100% drug-free. Happy Hair. Happy You. Value: \$528.00

Courtesy of NUTRACEUTICAL WELLNESS INC, roland@nutrafol.com, www.nutrafol.com

31. BOOK "RUSSIAN ELEGANCE: COUNTRY AND CITY FASHION"

Courtesy of Boris W. Fedoff

32. FRAGRANT WELLNESS GIFT SET

Includes set of essential oils, \$100 aromatherapy consultation

Estimated value: \$150

Courtesy of Fragrant Wellness www.fragrantwellness.com

List in progress

SILENT AUCTION

1. EXCLUSIVE PRIVATE CHEF ITALIAN DINNER FOR SIX AT YOUR HOME OR YACHT PREPARED BY CHEF PASQUALE MARTINELLI AND HIS WARM PALATE TEAM IN COLLABORATION WITH LOVE CAVIAR CLUB. 5 COURSES CAVIAR AND AUTHENTIC ITALIAN FOOD TASTING MENU

In the comfort of your own home or yacht, Chef Martinelli will create an authentic southern Italian dinner based on Mediterranean Diet. The menu will be artfully designed to meet the guest's food orientations and restrictions. All 5 courses will feature caviar, that's right, even the dessert! Dinner includes: food shopping, a maître D, server and after dinner clean up.

Estimated value: \$6,000

Courtesy of Chef Pasquale Martinelli, www.warm palate.com and Love Caviar Club, www.lovecaviarclub.com

2. LADY'S LEATHER JACKET WITH LEATHER FRINGE SLEEVES AND HANDWOVEN DETAILS

Retail value \$3,400

Courtesy of Dmitry Sholokhov, www.dmitrysholokhov.com

3. IPL PHOTO FACIAL WITH CLEARLIFT LAZER AT RADIANCE AESTHETICS & WELLNESS, NYC (FOR MEN OR WOMEN)

Radiance Aesthetics & Wellness is #1 medical Spa in NYC. Administered by Dr. Natalya Fazylova certified laser specialist, author of the Best Selling Book "Health and Wellness for Busy Women", member of the prestigious A4M (American Academy of Anti-Aging Medicine), located on Madison Avenue in midtown Manhattan. Enjoy the IPL (intense pulsed light) photo Facial with Clear Lift Laser, which lifts and plumps the skin.

Retail Value: \$1,300 Courtesy of Dr. Natalya Fazylova, Radiance Aesthetics & Wellness www.aestheticwellnessnyc.com

4. ALEX SOLDIER STAR CUFF

Alex Soldier Star Cuff with proprietary signature metalwork that creates and effect of inner diamond inlay. Made in sterling silver infused with 24-karat yellow gold and dark platinum. Handmade in NYC. One of a kind.

Retail value: \$2,500

Courtesy of Alex Soldier, www.alexsoldier.com

5. EXPERIENCE NEW YORK FASHION WEEK LIKE NEVER BEFORE: BE A GUEST OF A TOP MODEL AND VISIT ONE OF THE DESIGNER'S FASHION SHOW DURING NYFW IN FEBRUARY 2018

Estimated Value: Priceless!

Courtesy of Katia Kokoreva

6. AMBER NECKLACE WITH SILVER BEADS BY VALERIO 888

Estimated Retail Value: \$600

Courtesy of Valerio 888, tel. 212-631-8090, www.valerio888.com

7. PRP HAIR RESTORATION TREATMENT AT RADIANCE AESTHETICS & WELLNESS, NYC (FOR MEN OR WOMEN)

Radiance Aesthetics & Wellness is #1 medical Spa in NYC. Administered by Dr. Natalya Fazylova certified laser specialist, author of the Best Selling Book "Health and Wellness for Busy Women", member of the prestigious A4M (American Academy of Anti-Aging Medicine), located on Madison Avenue in midtown Manhattan. PRP Hair Restoration (Platelet Rich Plasma) treatment is a relatively new hair growth & cure treatment used for men and women with hair loss.

Retail value: \$1,250

Courtesy of Dr. Natalya Fazylova, Radiance Aesthetics & Wellness www.aestheticwellnessnyc.com

8. LADY'S HAT BY NATALYA BYTHEWOOD

Handcrafted art. Inspired by the Faberge Collection.

Courtesy of Natalya Bythewood, www.natalyabythewood.com

9. TWO LASER TREATMENTS (FOR MEN OR WOMEN)

PicoSure Focus laser treatments uniquely stimulate your natural skin refreshing processes to create brighter, healthier, younger-looking skin with virtually no downtime. Picosure effectively treats wrinkles and acne scars and also removes unwanted pigment without causing harm to the skin.

Retail value: \$1,700

Courtesy of Dr. Theodore Diktaban, FACS, www.dr.diktaban.com

10. MEN'S SHEEPSKIN BOMBER JACKET

With alligator print leather on the outside and 100% sheepskin on the inside, this black men's bomber jacket is a luxurious mash-up of toughness and comfort. Sporty yet sophisticated. Designed by Helen Yarmak fashion house, this bomber is size 50; features a full shearling lining, long sleeves, 39" length, full zip fastening, high collar and leather side pockets.

Estimated value: \$3,500

Courtesy of Helen Yarmak, www.helenyarmak.com

11. TWO LLADRO PORCELAN FLAMENCO DANCERS FIGURINES

Estimated value: \$500

Courtesy of Laurie Mygatt, www.lladro.com

List in progress



Special Thanks

Aeroflot-Russian Airlines

Alchemy Events

Blavatnik Family Foundation

Clé de Peau Beauté counter at Saks Fifth Avenue

Mr. Peter Gelb and the Metropolitan Opera

Elke Geacintov

Gourmanoff and NetCost Market

Susan Carmel Lehrman

Love Caviar Club

Steinway & Sons

Michael Rangini and BleuStorm Vodka

Russian Samovar

Mr. Peter Tcherepnine for underwriting the flowers expense

Mr. Valery Dantchenko and Mr. Ian Serjantov, Valerio 888

The Russian Children's Welfare Society expresses its sincerest thanks to those generous and wonderful people who have put in numerous hours and a valiant effort to make this evening not only possible, but also special:

Anastasia Aksakova

Veronika Arkhangel

Irina Bekkerman

Ekaterina Brody

Tatiana Geringer

Rajaa Chouairi

Adrian Fekula

Beatrice Fekula

Natasha Fekula

Peter Fekula

Kira Jordan

Katia Kokoreva

Yuri Pazelsky

Maria Ross

Tatiana Sarandinaki Kadaria

Constantine Schidlovsky

Dimitry Schidlovsky

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Olga Timoshenkova

Yana Worthman

Cover design by Dimitry Schidlovsky



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