

STANFORD LIVELY ARTS

MEDIA ADVISORY

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PIANISTS VAKHO KODANASHVILI AND NIKITA ABROSIMOV TO MAKE BAY AREA DEBUT IN STANFORD LIVELY ARTS' *PROKOFIEV PROJECT*

Artists will replace ailing Alexander Toradze in Friday and Saturday performances

Stanford, CA, November 10, 2009—Stanford Lively Arts announced the addition of pianists **Vakho Kodanashvili** and **Nikita Abrosimov** as part of its *Prokofiev Project*, running November 12-15 on the Stanford campus. Both artists, who will be making their Bay Area debut, will be performing in place of the Russian pianist **Alexander Toradze** who has been forced to cancel his trip to Stanford due to emergency knee surgery.

The *Pianistic Prokofiev* recital, scheduled for Friday, November 13 at 8:00 p.m., will include former Toradze student Vakho Kodanashvili performing the Piano Sonata No. 6, op. 82 (in place of the previously announced Sonata No. 7). On Saturday, November 14 at 8:00 p.m., Nikita Abrosimov (a current member of the Toradze studio in Indiana University in South Bend) will perform the scheduled Piano Concerto No. 2 as part of that evening's *Orchestral Prokofiev* program, marking his first performance with orchestra in the United States. Both concerts will take place in Dinkelspiel Auditorium.

"When it became apparent that I might not be able to make it to Stanford because of emergency knee surgery, I had Nikita perform the Prokofiev Second Concerto at IUSB with a second pianist taking the orchestral part," says Toradze. "The response was electrifying, overwhelming, a standing ovation. I have already introduced Nikita to some of my important conductor friends, including Valery Gergiev. I am hoping his performance at Stanford will be a step toward future collaborations."

Toradze also commented: "Vakhtang Kodanashvili, who I taught for many years at IUSB, is one of the most brilliant and fascinating talents I have ever encountered." Kodanashvili has performed Prokofiev's Sixth Sonata in New York, London, Lisbon, and at Italy's Stresa Festival. Reviewing his performance of this sonata, the *New York Times* wrote that it was "as thunderous and rollicking as [Toradze's] own reading of the Seventh Sonata."

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Lively Arts' *Prokofiev Project*, a four-day festival of performances and conversation, will also include a free presentation by scholar/curator **Joseph Horowitz** on November 12 and a special family matinee of the *Romeo and Juliet* suite featuring life-size puppets on Sunday, November 15. For tickets and more information, call the Stanford Ticket Office at **650-725-ARTS (2787)** or visit <http://livelyarts.stanford.edu>.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Nikita Abrosimov is currently studying at Indiana University in South Bend with Alexander Toradze in the Toradze Piano Studio. From 2000 to 2007, Abrosimov studied in Russia with Natalia Fish. He has taken part in competitions and was awarded with first prize in Kiev, Ukraine (2000); Paris, France (2002); and Nizhny Novgorod, Russia (2004). During this time he also regularly performed in studio concerts and with orchestra. In May 2005, Abrosimov toured the Netherlands and Germany with Natalia Fish and two other students. Previously, he studied in Bowling Green, Ohio with Maxim Mogilevsky and Virginia Marks from 2007 to 2008.

Georgian-born pianist **Vakhtang Kodanashvili** moved to the United States in 1995 after being accepted to join the world-renowned Toradze Piano Studio at Indiana University South Bend, where he earned both his Bachelor and Master of Music degrees in piano performance. As a member of the Toradze Piano Studio, Mr. Kodanashvili frequently tours the world. He has performed in such prestigious music festivals as Hollywood Bowl, Sandpoint, Edinburgh, Ruhr, Stresa, Ravenna, Rotterdam, Salzburg Festivals and many others. Mr. Kodanashvili has appeared as soloist with numerous symphony orchestras, including South Bend, Elkhart, La Porte, Springfield, Spokane, Kingsport, Tbilisi, Orchestra Giovanile "Luigi Cherubini" and most recently the BBC Philharmonic. In February 2001, Vakhtang Kodanashvili made his New York City debut at Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall. He is the prize winner of several international competitions: The Hellam Young Artist Competition in Springfield, Missouri, USA; The Nena Wideman Piano Competition in Shreveport, Louisiana, USA; The Bartok-Kabalevsky-Prokofiev International Piano Competition in Radford, Virginia, USA; 8th International Piano Competition "Spanish Composers" in Las Rozas, Spain; The 20th New Orleans International Piano Competition, Louisiana, USA.

CALENDAR EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:

PROGRAM CHANGE

What: THE PROKOFIEV PROJECT: *Pianistic Prokofiev*
Program: *Sarcasms*, op. 17 (1912–14)
Cinderella, op. 45 (1940–44), as arranged for two pianos by Mikhail Pletnyev
Visions fugitives, op. 17 (1915–17), excerpts
Piano Sonata No. 6 in A Major, op. 82 (1939–40)
Where: Dinkelspiel Auditorium, Stanford University
When: Friday, November 13 at 8:00 p.m.
Tickets: \$40/\$46 (Adult); \$10 (Stanford student)

Description: This piano recital with commentary surveys the radical Prokofiev of 1914 (*Sarcasms*, performed by Arul), the patriotic wartime Prokofiev (the Sixth Sonata, **performed by former Toradze Piano Studio student Vakho Kodanashvili**), and the Romantic Prokofiev (*Cinderella*, in a two-piano version performed by Arul and Barth).

What: **THE PROKOFIEV PROJECT: *Orchestral Prokofiev***
Program: May Night: Intermezzo from *War and Peace* (1943, rev. 1952)
Piano Concerto No. 2 in G Minor, op. 16 (1912–13; revised 1923)
Romeo and Juliet (1935–36)—a symphonic suite extracted from Prokofiev’s three suites, and the newly available “happy ending” originally conceived by the composer.

Where: Dinkelspiel Auditorium, Stanford University

When: Saturday, November 14 at 8:00 p.m.

Tickets: \$40/\$46 (Adult); \$10 (Stanford student)

Description: Featuring the Second Piano Concerto **with Toradze Studio pianist Nikita Abrosimov (replacing an ailing Alexander Toradze)**, plus *Romeo and Juliet* performed by the Stanford Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Jindong Cai, with newly-commissioned life-size puppetry commissioned from puppet artist Robin Walsh

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