

STANFORD LIVELY ARTS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:
Robert Cable
650-736-0091
rcable@stanford.edu

LIVELY ARTS PRESENTS *THE PROKOFIEV PROJECT*, NOVEMBER 12-15

Author-historian Joseph Horowitz leads multi-day exploration of composer Sergei Prokofiev, featuring pianist Alexander Toradze, the Stanford Symphony Orchestra, Stanford music faculty, puppet artist artist Robin Walsh

Stanford, CA, October 22 (Revised: November 3)—The enigmatic composer/pianist Sergei Prokofiev will be celebrated with a four-day festival of performances and conversation presented by Stanford Lively Arts, November 12-15. In the spirit of 2008's *Stravinsky Project*, this season's *Prokofiev Project* brings visiting pianist **Alexander Toradze** and scholar/curator **Joseph Horowitz** to the Stanford campus in collaboration with faculty pianists **George Barth** and **Kumaran Arul**, the **Stanford Symphony Orchestra** led by **Jindong Cai**, and puppet artist **Robin Walsh** to interpret of Prokofiev's seminal works.

The festival will open on Thursday, November 12 with *Interpreting Prokofiev Through Music + Conversation* (7:30 pm at Campbell Recital Hall). Joined by pianists Kumaran Arul and George Barth, Alexander Toradze and Joseph Horowitz will explore Prokofiev through discussion, film and recordings, and a live performance of *Visions fugitives*. Admission is free.

On Friday, November 13, the *Pianistic Prokofiev* recital (8:00 pm at Dinkelspiel Auditorium) will survey the composer's piano works, including the Seventh Piano Sonata performed by Toradze, and a two-piano *Cinderella* suite with Arul and Barth.

The festival continues with *Orchestral Prokofiev* on Saturday, November 14 (8:00 pm at Dinkelspiel Auditorium) featuring the Second Piano Concerto with Toradze, plus the *Romeo and Juliet* Suite performed by the Stanford Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Jindong Cai, with newly-commissioned life-size puppetry by Robin Walsh. This symphonic suite is extracted from Prokofiev's three suites, and includes the newly available "happy ending" originally conceived by the composer. There will be a pre-performance talk with Horowitz at 7:00 pm.

Concluding the series on Sunday, November 15 will be a special *Family Prokofiev* concert featuring the *Romeo and Juliet* Suite (2:30 pm at Dinkelspiel Auditorium). Maestro Cai and the Stanford Symphony—along with Robin Walsh—will reprise the work with the addition of narrator Erin Knyt.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Joseph Horowitz is one of today's most prolific writers on musical topics. As an orchestral administrator and adviser, he has been a pioneering force in the development of thematic programming and new concert formats. Horowitz was a music critic for the *New York Times* from 1976 to 1980. His *Conversations with Arrau* (1982), published in six languages, won an ASCAP Deems Taylor Award. His *Understanding Toscanini* (1987) was named one of the most distinguished books of the year by the New York Book Critics Circle. His *Wagner Nights* (1994) received the Society for American Music's Lowens Award, widely regarded as the highest honor for books about American music. He is the author of the articles on classical music for both *The Oxford Encyclopedia of American History* and *The Encyclopedia of New York State*. As a consultant for orchestras and arts presenters throughout the United States, he has curated more than three dozen thematic, interdisciplinary festivals.

Pianist **Alexander Toradze** is universally recognized as a masterful virtuoso in the grand Romantic tradition. His recording of the five Prokofiev concertos with Valery Gergiev is acclaimed by critics as definitive, and the third was singled out by *International Piano Quarterly* as "historically the best on record." Born in Tbilisi, Georgia, Toradze graduated from the Tchaikovsky Conservatory in Moscow. In 1983, he moved permanently to the United States and in 1991 was appointed as the Martin Endowed Professor of Piano at Indiana University, South Bend, where he has created a renowned teaching environment. Members of the multinational Toradze Piano Studio have developed into a worldwide touring ensemble that performs projects presenting the piano and chamber works of Rachmaninoff, Prokofiev, Dvorák, Scriabin, Shostakovich, and Stravinsky in the United States, the United Kingdom, Italy, Germany, Switzerland, and Russia.

Robin Walsh created the puppets that were seen in the *Firebird* performance during Lively Arts' 2008 Stravinsky festival. Walsh has worked in puppetry for nearly 20 years in the United States, Europe, and, most recently, China. She has designed, made, and performed everything from sock puppets, to marionettes, and Hollywood movie monsters. Highlights of her work include *Book of Pooh*, *Men in Black*, and *Team America*.

The Prokofiev Project is *presented in partnership with Stanford Continuing Studies and Music at Stanford. Generously funded by Applied Materials Excellence in the Arts Grants, a program of Arts Council Silicon Valley, and Generously supported by Bonnie and Marty Tenenbaum and by Stanford Federal Credit Union.*

-More-

TICKETS

Tickets for *The Prokofiev Project* range from \$40-\$46 (adults) for each of the Friday and Saturday concerts, and \$20-\$24 (adults) for the Sunday family matinee (\$10-\$12 for youths 18 and under). Admission is free for the Thursday and Friday discussions and pre-performance events. All performance tickets are \$10 for Stanford students and half-price tickets are available for young people age 18 and under. Discounts are also available for groups and non-Stanford students. Call **650-725-ARTS (2787)** or visit <http://livelyarts.stanford.edu>.

VENUE INFORMATION

Dinkelspiel Auditorium is located on the Stanford University campus at 471 Lagunita Drive, adjacent to Tresidder Union. Parking on campus is free of charge after 4:00 p.m. and on weekends at all times and may be found in the lot off Lagunita Drive near Tresidder Memorial Union and on Abbott Way. Maps and directions maybe accessed at <http://livelyarts.stanford.edu>.

Campbell Recital Hall is located in the Braun Music Center, 541 Lasuen Mall, adjacent to Tressider Union. Parking on campus is free of charge after 4:00 p.m. and on weekends at all times and may be found in the lot off Lagunita Drive near Tresidder Memorial Union and on Abbott Way.

The Oak Lounge is located on the second floor of Tresidder Memorial Union at 459 Lagunita Drive. For a searchable map of the Stanford campus, visit <http://campus-map.stanford.edu/>.

ABOUT STANFORD LIVELY ARTS

Stanford Lively Arts curates experiences that engage artists' and audiences' imagination, creativity, and sense of adventure. Founded in 1969 at Stanford University, we produce and present music, theater, dance, spoken word, and multi-media events. We place a special focus on innovation and risk-taking, and through commissions and premieres are an incubator and destination for new work. Stanford Lively Arts plays a leading and collaborative role in the university's thriving vision of a sustained culture of creativity—one in which the arts integrate with the academic disciplines, flourish as a vital part of campus and community life, and inspire new perspectives on our lives and culture.

High-resolution images can be accessed at <http://livelyarts.stanford.edu/presscenter>

CALENDAR EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:

What:	THE PROKOFIEV PROJECT: <i>Interpreting Prokofiev Through Music + Conversation:</i>
Program:	An evening of historic recordings and film, discussion, and live piano music.
Where:	Campbell Recital Hall, Stanford University
When:	Thursday, November 12 at 7:30 p.m.
Tickets:	FREE

-More-

Description: Curator and scholar Joseph Horowitz kicks off Stanford Lively Arts' four-day-long Prokofiev festival with a free evening of live music, recordings, and discussion. Joined by Stanford pianists Kumaran Arul and George Barth, Alexander Toradze and Horowitz explore Prokofiev.

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. 7, op. 83 (1939–42)
Where: Dinkelspiel Auditorium, Stanford University
When: Friday, November 13 at 8:00 p.m.
Tickets: \$40/\$46 (Adult); \$10 (Stanford student)

Description: Following 2008's wide-ranging *Stravinsky Project*, visiting artist Alexander Toradze, scholar/curator Joseph Horowitz, and Stanford pianists George Barth and Kumaran Arul will collaborate on a program around the seminal piano works of Prokofiev. This piano recital with commentary surveys the radical Prokofiev of 1914 (*Sarcasms*, performed by Arul), the patriotic wartime Prokofiev (the Seventh Sonata, performed by Toradze), 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 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

What: **THE PROKOFIEV PROJECT: *Family Prokofiev—Romeo and Juliet***
Program: *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: Sunday, November 15 at 2:30 p.m.
Tickets: \$20/\$24 (Adult); \$10/\$12 (Youth 18 and under); \$10 (Stanford student)

Description: The Stanford Symphony Orchestra led by Jindong Cai will present a family matinee of Prokofiev's Suite from *Romeo & Juliet*, featuring newly-commissioned puppetry by Robin Walsh and a narrator.

#