



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO
MAYOR JERRY SANDERS

Public Library

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Thursday, January 24, 2008

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Joanne Regenhardt to Narrate in Free Central Library Program about Rachmaninoff's Life and Music

Pianist James Frimmer and Mezzo-Soprano Janelle DeStefano to Perform

SAN DIEGO – The third concert of the 2008 Winter/Spring Concert Series of the City of San Diego Public Library will feature narrator Joanne Regenhardt, pianist James Frimmer, and mezzo-soprano Janelle DeStefano. The program will be held Sunday, February 24 at 2:30 p.m. in the third floor auditorium of the Central Library, 820 E St., in downtown San Diego.

The program is entitled *Rachmaninoff—Letters and Notes*, and consists of narration about the life of Russian composer Sergei Rachmaninoff interwoven with his music for piano and voice. The narration focuses on six aspects of his life: his love of landscape and planting; his friendships with the famous bass opera singer Feodor Chaliapin and with the poet Marietta Shaginyan; his relationship with his family; and the impact of two world wars on his creativity. The following musical works will be performed:

Piano Music

Sonata no. 2, B-flat minor, op.36, 2nd movement
Prelude, G minor, op. 23, no. 5
Prelude, B minor, op. 32, no. 10
Prelude, G major, op. 32, no. 5
Prelude, G-sharp minor, op. 32, no. 12
Prelude, B-flat major, op. 23, no. 2

Songs

Lilacs, op. 21, no. 5
Before My Window, op. 26, no. 10
Dark Eyes (a popular song of the day)
In the Silence of the Secret Night, op. 4, no. 3
To My Children, op. 26, no. 7
Oh Never Sing to Me Again the Songs of Georgia

Ms. Regenhardt has been known to San Diego audiences since 1955 when she represented San Diego in the San Francisco opera auditions and began singing with Starlight Opera, where she performed leading roles. She has sung concerts throughout Southern California both in oratorio and in solo performances with symphony orchestras and in recitals. She received critical acclaim for her narration of the Witch of Endore in Honneger's *King David* and in recent years has been heard as narrator in musical programs at La Jolla Presbyterian Church. In 1985 she returned to the piano, studying with Ilana Mysior, her accompanist for many years. In 2002 the publication

of her book of poetry, *Soundings*, led to poetry readings and the creation of *Four Women in the Life of Brahms*, in which she performed at the piano. She wrote and narrated *The Music of Chopin through the Eyes of the Women Who Loved Him. Rachmaninoff—Letters and Notes* is her latest work.

Ms. DeStefano recently made her debut in Granada, Spain with the Interpretation of Spanish Song Festival. A versatile performing artist, she has performed with San Diego Opera, Ash Lawn Opera Festival, Opera Festival of New Jersey and Jarvis Zarzuela Festival in Napa, California, as well as several regional symphonies including the Inland Valley Symphony, La Jolla Symphony and Chorus, and Grossmont Symphony. Ms. DeStefano has won several vocal competitions including the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, San Diego District, the National Association of Teachers of Singing, and the Musical Merit Foundation. This fall she will begin her doctoral studies at the University of Southern California (USC).

Mr. Frimmer received his Bachelor of Music and Master of Music degrees in piano performance from the University of Redlands, where he also served as staff accompanist. While attending the University of Redlands, he was a winner of the school's concerto competition, the Redlands Bowl Young Artists Auditions and the Young Artists competition sponsored by the San Bernardino Music Teachers Association. He has performed in master classes of Daniel Pollack, John McCabe and Jose Feghali. He is an active chamber musician in the San Diego Area.

The concert is free and open to the public. Free parking is available at the Five Star Parking lot adjacent to the Library on Broadway and 8th. In addition, parking meters are not enforced on Sundays, and other pay parking lots are available in the vicinity of the library.

For further information, please call the Library's Art, Music and Recreation Section at 236-5810, or visit the Library web site at www.sandiegolibrary.org.

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