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In Memoriam Gunda Hack

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The
The German Society of Pennsylvania
presents

Claire Huangci

Sunday, January 10, 2010 at 3:00pm

The German Society of Pennsylvania
www.germansociety.org
611 Spring Garden Street
Philadelphia, PA 19123
Calendar of Events

January
Jan. 4-March 31 Winter Session of German Classes for Adults (Weeknights)
Jan. 9-March 27 Winter Session of German Classes for Kids (Saturdays)
Sat. Jan. 9 Women’s Auxiliary Monthly Meeting, 11am
Sun. Jan. 10 “Wister and More!” featuring Claire Huangci, 3pm
Mon. Jan. 18 German Society Board Meeting, 7pm
Tues. Jan. 19 Konversationsabend, “Action Reconciliation Service for Peace”, 7pm
Fri. Jan. 22 Movie Night, “Buddenbrooks” 6:30pm
(Seminar with German subtitles)
Sat. Jan. 23 Horner Library Open from 10am-4pm
Sun. Jan. 31 “Wister and More!” featuring the Kreutzer Trio, 3pm
Selections by Haydn, Schubert and Brahms

February
Sat. Feb. 6 Women’s Auxiliary Monthly Meeting, 10am
Thurs. Feb. 18 Movie Night, “The Baader Meinhof Complex”, 6:30pm
(German with English subtitles)
Fri. Feb. 19 Konversationsabend, “Cultural Trip to the Major Metropolitan Cities of Germany”, 7pm
Presenter: Hardy von Auenmueller
Sun. Feb. 21 “Wister and More!” featuring the Invencia Piano Duo, 3pm
Selections by Brahms, Schumann, Kasparov, and Schmitt

March
Sat. March 6 Women’s Auxiliary Monthly Meeting, 10am
Sun. March 7 “Wister and More!” featuring the Wister Quartet, 3pm
Selections by Smith, Barber, Tchaikovsky
Fri. March 12 Movie Night, “Hilde” 6:30pm
(German with German subtitles)
Mon. March 15 German Society Board Meeting, 7pm
Fri. March 19 Konversationsabend, “Climate Change - Past, Present, and Future”, 7pm
Presenter: Prof. Hermann Plefferkorn, UPenn

April
Sat. April 10 Hamburger Abend, 7pm

History of the German Society of Pennsylvania

In 1683 thirteen families from Krefeld under the leadership of Frankfurt lawyer, Franz Daniel Pastorius, founded the first German colony in America: Germantown — today part of Philadelphia. Many of these immigrants formed clubs that enabled them to preserve their cultural heritage. They also formed clubs that emphasized a specific geographic area, such as the Swabians, Bavarians, Saxons, Danube Swabians, Platdeutsche, Tyroleans, and many others.

The German Society of Pennsylvania, founded in 1764, is the oldest German organization in the United States. It was founded to protect German immigrants from unscrupulous shipping agents and to ensure just treatment on their arrival here.

Since that time, the German Society has dedicated its efforts to preserving German heritage. This it does, for instance, by offering a full-fledged German language program as well as scholarships and prizes to students of German. In addition, the Society is a source of cultural programs, lectures, film series, and seminars. These events build bridges and strengthens relations among individuals, organizations, businesses, and governments.

The fine arts program also includes presentations that feature European music and literature as well as access to the Joseph P. Horner Memorial Library for education and research. The newly restored Library, holding over 70,000 volumes, is the largest private German library outside the Federal Republic of Germany.

In serving its members and the community, and in all its undertakings, the Society strives to benefit anyone in need of its resources.

Since the time of Pastorius, more than 8,000,000 Germans reached these shores. Today, 29% of the total population in the United States claims Germany ancestry.
Claire Huangci

Born in Rochester, NY, 19 year old pianist Claire Huangci astonishes all who hear her perform. Legendary pianist Vladimir Krainev has dubbed her the pianist with “the fastest fingers in the world.”

Claire received a grand piano for her sixth birthday, and after exploring the instrument herself, she was enrolled into Settlement Music School of Philadelphia when she was seven.

During her years at Settlement, she performed in the gala concert with the World Festival Orchestra in Cincinnati, OH, and performed a winner’s concert in Carnegie Hall.

In 2003, Claire was accepted by the Curtis Institute with a full scholarship from the Hirsig Family Foundation. She went on to win the Philadelphia Orchestra Competition and performed with the Philadelphia Orchestra under the baton of Wolfgang Sawallisch.

In April 2006, Claire won the first prize in the 57th Kosciuszko Chopin International Piano Competition in New York City. She has performed in numerous solo recitals and concerto appearances throughout the country in states including Colorado, California, Texas, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, and New York. In the same year, she was invited to join the Yamaha Artist Services, Inc. roster and became the youngest Yamaha Artist.

The 2007 season represented a milestone in Claire’s career. She made her first appearances in Europe with solo performances in Munich, Frankfurt, Paris, and other cities.

In May 2009, she gave a solo tour in Israel and was the guest star of the popular Israeli TV show ‘Intermezzo’.

Deutsche Welle, a German news program, will feature a video profile of Claire in February 2010.

During the current and upcoming seasons, Claire will perform in venues and festivals in France, Germany, Switzerland, and a return to Poland for the 2010 Chopin Duszniki Festival, as well as tours in America. She has also been given the honor of performing the opening concert at the Shanghai EXPO with Stuttgart Radio Symphony Orchestra and Sir Roger Norrington in May 2010, as part of the orchestra’s Asian tour, with additional concerts in Macao and Beijing’s National Theater of the Performing Arts.

Claire is supported with scholarships from DAAD as well as Deutsche Stiftung Musikleben for the past two years. Having completed four years of study at The Curtis Institute of Music, Claire is continuing her music education in Germany at the Hannover Hochschule für Musik under Professor Arie Vardi.

Claire Huangci, piano

PROGRAM

Partita No. 2 in C minor J.S. Bach (1685-1750)
Rage Over a Lost Penny L. van Beethoven (1770-1827)
Piano Sonata No. 28, Op. 101 L. van Beethoven (1770-1827)

INTERMISSION

Fantasie F. Mendelssohn (1809-1847)
Ballade No. 1 in G minor, Op. 23 F. Chopin (1810-1849)
Andante Spianato Grande Polonaise Brillante F. Chopin (1810-1849)
Johann Sebastian Bach’s Partita No. 2 was written in 1726, the same year he wrote the other five from the set. Each of these works consists of dances -- typically an Allemande, Courante, Sarabande, and Gigue -- and other pieces, forming a whole that could just as easily have been called a suite. They generally show Bach’s lighter side, though there is a fair share of serious music here, too.

The Rondo à capriccio in G major Op. 129 is a piano rondo often called "The Rage Over the Lost Penny" (translated from the German: Die Wut über den verlorenen Groschen). This nickname was not Beethoven’s own, and this work was first published after his death. Despite the late opus number, this piece dates from 1795 when Beethoven was 25 years old. It was left incomplete by Beethoven and subsequently finished by the publisher Anton Diabelli, who also gave the work its popular title.

The Piano Sonata No. 28, Op. 101, begins the series of Beethoven’s "Late Period" sonatas, when his music moved in a new direction toward a more personal, more intimate, sometimes even an introspective, realm of freedom and fantasy. In this period, he had achieved a complete mastery of form, texture and tonality, and was subverting the very conventions he had mastered to create works of remarkable profundity.

The Mendelssohn Fantasie in F# minor, Op. 28 is almost like a sonata. It is in three movements, although they are connected rather than separated as in a sonata. Mendelssohn was probably in his early twenties when he wrote it. It’s quintessential Mendelssohn. It starts off with a very melodic, introspective section with bursts of virtuosic piano writing that he really transforms into his own. The piece ends with all-out Mendelssohnian fireworks, scales, and exciting passages, but not without substance.

Chopin’s Ballade for Piano No. 1, is sometimes credited as one of his greatest compositions. Before Chopin, no one had ever created a piece of music called Ballade, a genre that is usually associated with poems. As a story teller, the Ballade's opening is full of darkness, uncertainty and hesitation. In the following few minutes, the tempo of the Ballade gradually increases. As the piece progresses, one of Chopin’s most romantic melodies emerges, and we hear the climax of the piece with an incredible amount of strength, passion and heroism.

Andante Spianato Grande Polonaise Brillante in E-flat major Op. 22, was composed by Frederic Chopin between 1830 and 1834. The Grande Polonaise Brillante in E♭, set for piano and orchestra, was written first, in 1830-31. In 1834, Chopin wrote an