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In Memoriam Gunda Hack

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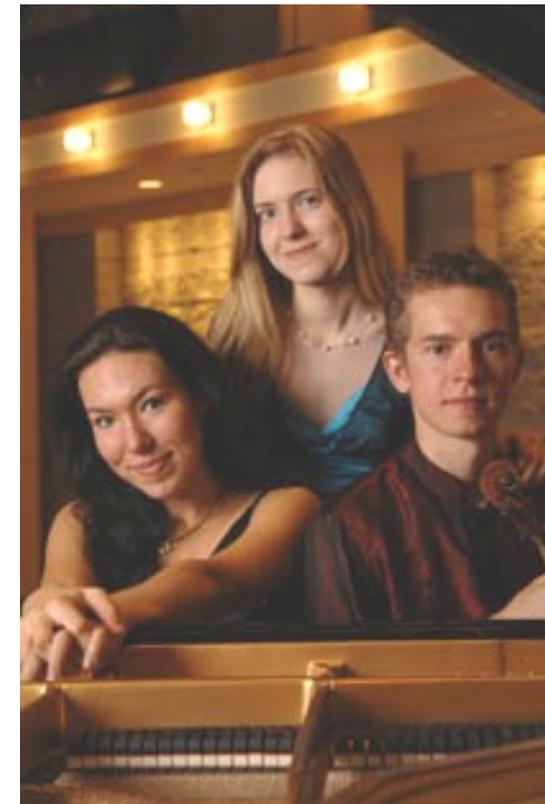
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The
The German Society of Pennsylvania
presents

American Virtuosi



Sunday, May 16, 2010 at 3:00pm

The German Society of Pennsylvania
www.germansociety.org

611 Spring Garden Street
Philadelphia, PA 19123

Calendar of Events

May

- Sat. May 1 Women's Auxiliary Annual Spring Luncheon, 12:00 noon
 Sat. May 8 Children's Book Presentation in the Library, 11am
 German Society Book Club, 1:30pm
Die Vermessung der Welt by Daniel Kehlmann
 Fri. May 14 Friday Film Fest, "Dresden" Part II of II, 6:30pm
 Sun. May 16 "Wister and More!" featuring American Virtuosi, 3pm
 Selections by Schumann, Chopin, Wieniawski and others
 Mon. May 17 German Society Board Meeting, 7pm
 Wed. May 19 *Konversationsabend*, "Germans in Southwest Africa", 7pm
 Book Discussion by Author Katie Thieck

June

- Sat. June 5 Women's Auxiliary Monthly Meeting, 10am
 Sat. June 5 German Society *Beer und Sommerfest*, 12pm-6pm
 Beer Tasting with Marnie Old, 12pm
Sommerfest, 2pm-6pm
 Sat. June 19 *Wandertag*, 10am - Details coming soon!

Save the Dates!

- | | |
|---|--------------------|
| <i>Oktoberfest</i> | September 18, 2010 |
| 246th Annual <i>Stiftungsfest</i> Gala | November 6, 2010 |
| Women's Auxiliary <i>Christkindlmarkt</i> | December 4, 2010 |

Preview of the 2010/11 Concert Series

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Commemorative Concert for 20th Anniversary of German Unification | Sunday, October 3, 2010 - 3pm |
| Keystone State Boychoir | Sunday, October 24, 2010 - 3pm |
| The Wister Quartet | Sunday, November 14, 2010 - 3pm |
| Duo Parisienne | Sunday, December 12, 2010 - 3pm |

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, Plattdeutsche, 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.

American Virtuosi

Hailed by the international press as "American Virtuosi," the Borowsky siblings have been praised world-wide for their outstanding musicianship.

Although young, these three young musicians have won their way into the hearts of millions of people through their concerts in North America, Asia, the Middle East, and Europe; radio and television performances; and CD and DVD recordings (Pearls of Music, Musical Favorites of All Times, Music for Peace, Chopin Recital, Postcards from Dilsberg, and Beethoven Triple Concerto).

In 2004 they jointly received the Erick Friedman Prize for Outstanding Young Musicians and performed their Carnegie Hall Debut.

Elizabeth, Emmanuel, and Frances Grace began performing at an early age and have accrued an impressive list of professional achievements and awards. They have performed Pre-Olympic concerts in China, resided as Artists-in-Residence at the Dilsberg Castle as recipients of a grant from the Rhein-Neckar Kulturstiftung (Germany), performed as soloists in the Beethoven Triple Concerto with the Young German Symphony Orchestra during their U.S. Concert Tour, and toured Ukraine, Poland, and Germany.

Most recently, on the invitation of the American Tribute to Chopin Consortium, they have been performing concerts in honor of the Chopin birthday bicentennial around the United States.



American Virtuosi

Frances Grace Borowsky, cello Emmanuel Borowsky, violin
Elizabeth Borowsky, piano

PROGRAM

Postcards from Dilsberg (2008)	The American Virtuosi
I. Morning in Dilsberg	
II. Ready for Battle	
III. The Legendary Sleeping Chamber	
IV. Rose of Dilsberg	
V. Triumphal March	
Adagio and Allegro, Op. 70	Robert Schumann (1810-1856)
Concerto in D minor	Henryk Wieniawski (1835-1880)
Romance: Andante non troppo in B-flat major	
Allegro con fuoco - Allegro moderato	
INTERMISSION	
Nocturne in C-sharp minor	Frederic Chopin (1810-1856)
Four Mazurkas, Op. 24	Frederic Chopin
Introduction and Polonaise Brillante	Frederic Chopin/arr. Leonard Rose
An American Tribute to Chopin (2010)	Elizabeth Borowsky (b. 1983)

There will be one 15-minute intermission. We offer refreshments from our bar during that time.

PROGRAM

By Elizabeth

Postcards from Dilsberg (Borowsky)

"Postcards from Dilsberg" is a collection of five musical postcards portraying the history, legends, and people of Dilsberg, Germany. The music was composed in July 2008 by Frances, Emmanuel, and Elizabeth Borowsky during their residency at the historic Dilsberg Castle in Germany. The first movement (*Morning in Dilsberg*) depicts their restful daily awakening at the top of the *Kommendantenhaus*, with the sun shining through the windows, the birds chirping, and their view of the Neckar River far below, slowly winding around the mountain.

The second movement (*Ready for Battle*) is a tribute to the numerous battles waged at or over the town and castle. The theme of "Dies Irae" is audible in the middle section.

The third movement (*The Legendary Sleeping Chamber*) creates a magical and mystical atmosphere and was inspired by the legend of the haunted room in the castle – it was said whoever slept in it would not wake again for fifty years. The theme of Johannes Brahms' *Lullaby* is the foundation of the movement, but is marked by rhythmic, melodic, and harmonic manipulations.

The fourth movement (*Rose of Dilsberg*) depicts the story of Rose, who chose death rather than marrying a man she didn't love. The story is performed by Dilsberg residents each Summer on an outdoor stage. A solemn version of Wagner's *Bridal Chorus* and a short fragment of Chopin's *Funeral March* permeate the middle section.

The final movement (*Triumphal March*) celebrates Dilsberg's 800th anniversary, which was celebrated in the year 2008 during the Borowsky's stay in Dilsberg.

Adagio and Allegro, Op. 70 (Schumann)

1849 was Schumann's most productive year – both by quantity and variety. He wrote choral pieces, songs, piano pieces, works for soloist(s) and orchestra, and several chamber pieces for solo instrument and piano. In several of these, he made use of the relatively new valve horn. *Adagio and Allegro* was written for horn and piano. The Adagio and is based on a melody that takes advantage of the valve horn's ability to play precise half-step notes, the Allegro (in rondo form) utilizes the full range of horn, varying virtuosity with poetic episodes. Schumann himself transcribed the work for cello and piano.

Concerto in D minor (Wieniawski)

Henryk Wieniawski's Concerto in D minor is considered one of the greatest violin concertos of the Romantic era, memorable for its moving melodies and lush harmonies. He began composing the work as early as 1856, and premiered it in 1862 in St. Petersburg with Anton Rubinstein conducting. It was published in 1870, dedicated to his friend (and fellow violinist/composer) Pablo de Sarasate. The slow movement is based on a lilting tune in 12/8 time and rises to a passionate climax. A rhapsodic passage leads to the third movement, a rondo in the "gypsy style."

NOTES

Borowsky

Nocturne in C-sharp minor (Chopin)

The simple form of Chopin's Nocturne in C-sharp minor (A-B-A- coda) belies the tremendous emotional depth and tragedy of this miniature masterpiece. It has been said that this nocturne is "one of the most personal utterances in the entire realm of piano music" (Alan Rich) and that "it embodies a greater variety of emotion and more genuine dramatic spirit on four pages than many popular operas on four hundred" (Henry Finck). Violinist Nathan Milstein arranged the work for violin and piano.

Four Mazurkas, Op. 24 (Chopin)

Chopin composed 58 mazurkas, and many of his other works of different genres are either inspired by or have parts of mazurkas within them. The temperamental range found amongst his mazurkas is astonishing; from deep sorrow to sheer exuberance, with many moods between those extremes. The stylistic and musical characteristics of Chopin's mazurkas differ from the traditional variety because Chopin in effect created a completely separate and new genre of mazurkas all his own. The four mazurkas of Opus 24 were composed in 1835, just a few years after Chopin made Paris his home, and exhibit a snapshot of the range of moods possible in this form.

Introduction and Polonaise Brillante (Chopin)

During the Fall of 1829, Chopin developed an affection for a young woman in Warsaw. Unfortunately for him, the love was unrequited. Chopin's father took his son on a week-long trip to visit the estate of Prince Radziwill (who had two pretty daughters) in the hopes of taking his mind off of this rejection. Chopin composed the Polonaise Brillante for one of Radziwill's daughters (Wanda) for her to practice with her cello-playing father. Chopin later wrote to a friend that he had written it in a manner so as to show off the young Wanda's pretty fingers!

The *Introduction* is lyrical and elegant, the *Polonaise* dances along with energy and bravado, building up to an exciting finish. The version performed today was arranged by cellist Leonard Rose, who took virtuosic sections from the piano part and "transplanted" them into the cello solo.

American Tribute to Chopin (Elizabeth Borowsky)

Written on the occasion of the 200th anniversary of the birth of Chopin, this two-movement work celebrates the ability of Chopin's music to transcend time, cultures, and styles. The first movement is based on Chopin's Mazurka Op. 24, No.1, the second on his Prelude in E minor. The work was premiered at The American Tribute to Chopin Gala Concert on March 6, 2010 and was originally composed for piano, six cellos, and percussion. This small tribute is but a token of appreciation to Chopin for the great music he has provided to pianists and music-lovers around the world.