

Of special note:

- The St. PCP completes its seventh concert season!
- The finale concert of the 2008-2009 season marked the St. PCP's first appearance in the prestigious Musical Olympus Festival in St. Petersburg.



*Recording in the
Melodia Studios*

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The St. PCP completes its seventh Concert Season and embarks on its eighth!

Welcome to the Summer 2009 St. PCP newsletter! As you know, our activities take place almost entirely in Russia, and because many of our American supporters are not able to travel to see the fruits of their support, we provide this newsletter as a way for our friends and sponsors to keep up with the orchestra and its activities.

A lot has happened in the two years since our last newsletter in 2007! We presented a fascinating chamber music concert at the Political History Museum, were featured in both the 2007 and 2008 International New Music Festival "Sound Ways", mounted our first International Masterclass in Orchestral Conducting, brought Alisa Weilerstein to St. Petersburg for her Russian debut, performed five world premieres and four Russian premieres (including the Russian premiere of the Choruses from

the Death of Klinghoffer by Pulitzer-prize winner John Adams), completed a recording project of Baroque horn concertos in the space of the former Melodia Studios, and debuted at the Musical Olympus Festival among such venerable orchestras as the St. Petersburg Philharmonic and the Mariinsky (Kirov) Theatre Orchestra!

The St. PCP and its partner City Realty also offered its second "St. Petersburg Spring" tour in May of 2008 with great success. If you are interested in visiting Russia and hearing the orchestra, keep your eyes on our website for another possible tour in the near future!

I hope you enjoy reading about our activities and the art and education we bring to St. Petersburg, and that this newsletter helps bring you a little closer to the St. PCP. – Jeff Meyer

14th International Musical Olympus Festival

The St. PCP added another festival to its list in May 2009 when it performed in the opening concert of the 14th International Musical Olympus Festival. The Musical Olympus Festival's mission is well in step with the St. PCP's with its focus on introducing up-and-coming talent to St. Petersburg. During the festival, about 25 young musicians from more than 12 countries were presented in concert. Other orchestras represented in this prestigious festival were the St. Petersburg Philharmonic, the Capella Orchestra and the Marinsky (Kirov) Orchestra. It was an honor and a clear indication of how far this young orchestra has come since its founding in 2002 for the St. PCP to be performing along these venerable orchestras of the city.



The St. PCP in the Hermitage Theatre

International New Music Festival “Sound Ways”

The St. PCP was invited to perform in the International New Music Festival “Sound Ways” in both 2007 and 2008 and the concerts proved tremendously successful. In 2007, the St. PCP premiered a new work for piano and chamber orchestra, commissioned by the orchestra and written by American Timothy Dunne. Jim Giles, piano faculty at Northwestern University, performed the solo part. Dunne, who has recently moved back to New York City, lived and studied in St. Petersburg for his doctoral degree in composition with Sergei Slonimsky, one of the most

respected composers in the city. Dunne has also worked with the orchestra in the capacity of Artistic Advisor for several years now.

In 2008, the St. PCP had the opportunity of presenting two important premieres—the Russian premiere of John Adams *Choruses from the Death of Klinghoffer* and the world premiere of Alexander Radvilovich’s *Judah* for Chamber Orchestra, Soloists and Choir.

One particularly exciting aspect of this Russian-American concert was that several students and faculty from Ithaca College School



St. PCP performs “Judah” in 2008

of Music traveled to Russia to perform alongside the musicians of the St. PCP. It was an extraordinary international collaboration.



Alisa Weilerstein & Jeff Meyer

Alisa Weilerstein’s Russian Debut

Of the many young artists that the St. PCP has introduced to St. Petersburg audiences in the last two years, perhaps the most notable is Alisa Weilerstein. Weilerstein has in recent years shot to the forefront of the music scene in the United States. At 27 years old, she is already a veteran on the classical music scene having performed with the nation’s top orchestras and given recitals in music capitals throughout the U.S. and Europe.

The St. PCP featured her on a program entitled “The Russian and American Cello” performing a masterpiece of the 20th century, Shostakovich’s *Cello Concerto No. 2*, and a brand new American work commissioned by the orchestra by

young Philadelphian composer Joseph Hallman.

While she was in St. Petersburg, Weilerstein also gave a masterclass at the preparatory music high school for talented music students. It was tremendous to watch the classes with these young Russian players. Even though a translator was present, there was an obvious language barrier, but what was clear was how viscerally these young players responded to Alisa’s extraordinary playing. Their eyes lit up every time she demonstrated. Her sound, passion and conviction clearly communicated directly with these students, many of whom came to the concert and waited backstage to greet her after her performance.

International Masterclass in Orchestral Conducting

In February 2008, the St. PCP hosted its first annual International Masterclass in Orchestral Conducting to great success. The class featured two master teachers and conductors, Alexander Polishchuk of the St. Petersburg Conservatory and Leif Segerstam of Finland’s Sibelius Academy. Many young conductors from all over the world applied to participate in the course, and from this pool 13 conductors

from 11 different countries were chosen to participate in the classes with these esteemed teachers. The most outstanding students in the class were presented in a final public concert with the St. PCP. This coming season the St. PCP is proud to announce its second international masterclass with the world-renowned Neemi Järvi, Chief Conductor of the Residentie Orkest (The Hague).



Neemi Järvi

Sharing of musical cultures and ideas: a photo collage



Leif Segerstam (center) and the 2008 International Conducting Masterclass Participants



*Above:
Meyer and Ludmila
Polulyaschenko,
mezzo-soprano*

*Right:
Meyer and Diane
Reich, soprano*



Ning Feng (Winner 2006 Paganini Competition) and Meyer perform at Musical Olympus Festival



*Left: St. PCP
Recording Session*

*Foreground:
New York
musicians Nicholas
Walker and
Gabriel Shuford*

*Background:
Bruce Atwell and
Jeff Meyer*

2009-2010 Season and New Website

New website

We are very pleased to announce that the St. PCP has a new website, complete with new audio and video clips. The site was designed by the extraordinary young Russian artist, Marianna Levant, who has been living in the states since 1990. Levant was born in 1979 in Saint Petersburg, Russia, where her parents worked for the Bolshoi Drama Theater. She is currently living in Chicago.

2009-2010 Season

Plans for the 2009-2010 season are well underway. The St. PCP will bring several artists from the United States this year for their Russian debuts. Naomi Niskala will be performing in November 2009 with the orchestra, and the Icicle Creek Piano Trio comprised of Jennifer Caine (violin), Oksana Ezhokina (piano), Sally Singer (cello) will perform Beethoven *Triple*

Concerto with the orchestra in March 2010. The Icicle Creek Piano Trio has been receiving rave reviews for their recent debut recording of Schubert and Ravel piano trios, and Niskala has received equally impressive reviews for her complete recording of the piano music of Robert Helps. As always, the St. PCP will present several Russian and world premiere performances of new works by composers from United States and Russia. The St. PCP also plans to complete a recording of a new work written for the orchestra by a young Iranian composer living and studying in St. Petersburg, Mehdi Hosseini.



*Left:
Pianist Naomi
Niskala*

*Right:
Icicle Creek
Piano Trio*



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Please visit our website:

www.st-pcp.org

Support the St. Petersburg Chamber Philharmonic

During these difficult economic times, arts organizations need your help. The St. PCP is no exception. Please consider supporting the work that the St. PCP is doing in bringing young artists from all over the world to Russia and promoting American and Russian composers. There exists no other orchestra like the St. PCP in the

cultural capital of Russia, and you can help make its activities possible! Please contact us if you would like to join those who help the St. Petersburg Chamber Philharmonic. The St PCP would like to give a special thank you to our present donors and sponsors, all of whom can be found listed on our website!

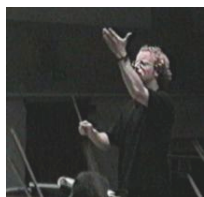


St. PCP in performance in May 2008, White Hall, Technological University

About the St. Petersburg Chamber Philharmonic

The St. Petersburg Chamber Philharmonic was founded in 2002 to create and encourage cultural exchange between the United States and Russia and has since become St. Petersburg's most exciting and innovative chamber orchestra. Since its inception, the St. PCP has performed in the major concert halls of the city and has been presented in its most important festivals. The orchestra's dynamic performances and progressive programming has distinguished it among the many orchestras of the city.

The St. PCP has performed over 130 works, including over a dozen world premieres, introduced St. Petersburg audiences to more than 30 young performers, conductors and composers from 15 different countries, and performed works by nearly 40 living American and Russian composers, including Russian premieres of works by Pulitzer Prize-winning American composers Steve Riech, Steven Stucky, and John Adams as well as new works by St. Petersburg's most distinguished composers.



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