

SYRINX CONCERTS TORONTO PRESENTS

ILYA POLETAEV, PIANO

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 2, 2014 3 P.M. HELICONIAN HALL 35 HAZELTON AVE

“Among the most significant pianists of his generation” (Süddeutsche Zeitung)



Ilya Poletaev is a multiple award winning pianist who is quickly becoming recognized as one of today's most original and compelling artists. He has a multifaceted career as a classically trained pianist and performer on early keyboards. Mr. Poletaev has performed at Carnegie Hall, and at major concert halls and festivals throughout Europe, don't miss the rare opportunity to hear Mr. Poletaev as he makes his debut with Syrinx Concerts Toronto in the intimate setting of the Heliconian Hall February 2, 2014 at 3 PM. Tickets \$25 for general admission or a student price of \$20

available from Syrinx Concerts Toronto at www.syrinxconcerts.ca

Mr. Poletaev will perform *Buczynski's Sonata #9*; Walter Buczynski, composer and pianist, is one of Canada's most esteemed musicians whose compositions comprise a prolific contribution to piano literature. His music has everything art must offer to satisfy a new generation of interpreters and music lovers alike; whether their first love is classical, jazz, or rock it is thoroughly satisfying both intellectually and emotionally. *Rameau's Gavotte with Variations*; Gavotte was a contemporary of Bach and Handel considered the most eminent French musician of his day many of his works were rather progressive and known as a composer who pushed the envelope. *Grieg's Ballade OP 22* is his truest masterpiece among his large-scale piano works. It is a harmonically complex melody in which Grieg turns the theme almost inside out and finally comes full circle. *Schumann's Humoreske OP 20* is an often misunderstood work, but the piece shows the composer forming his new aesthetic of the infinite.

Ilya Poletaev captured First Prize at the prestigious 2010 International Johann Sebastian Bach Competition in Leipzig and, as the winner, appeared in recital at the Leipzig Gewandhaus. A pianist with an inquisitive mind, he explores a wide range of repertoire ranging from the 16th-21st centuries. The Philadelphia Inquirer praised his concerto debut in Philadelphia's Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts (in both C.P.E. Bach's Harpsichord Concerto in D minor, Wq. 23 and Mozart's Piano Concerto in D minor) as "an interpretation of considerable individuality," singling out his "lively imagination" and "unfailingly gorgeous tone." *The Berkshire Eagle* has said, "An expert harpsichordist, he played Bach on the piano as well as any I have heard...All that he played was deeply considered...His intelligence was luminous." Mr. Poletaev gave an acclaimed performance at the Caramoor Festival with renowned mezzo-soprano Susan Graham and the Orchestra of St. Luke's under David Robertson. Other recent performances include Medtner's Piano Concerto No. 3 with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra under Peter Oundjian.

Mr. Poletaev began studying in Moscow at the age of six and continued his studies in Israel until he moved to Canada at the age of 14. He holds a Bachelor's degree from the University of Toronto, where he studied with pianist Marietta Orlov and harpsichordist Colin Tilney, as well as a doctorate and a Master's degree from Yale, where he studied with Boris Berman. Between 2005 and 2010 he also served on the faculties of the Yale Institute of Sacred Music, the Yale Department of Music, and the Yale School of Music as a lecturer in Early Music. In the spring of 2011 he was appointed Assistant Professor of Piano at the Schulich School of Music at McGill University in Montréal. A dedicated teacher, he has given numerous master classes and talks



on performance practice in many of the world's prestigious music schools, He is represented by Astral Artists (<http://astralartists.org/our-artists/current-roster/ilya-poletaevpiano>)

At the end of each concert we invite the audience to a post-concert reception carrying on the conversation between the audience and musicians after the performance.

Single Tickets are \$25 for General Admission or Student price of \$20 and be reserved online <http://syrinxconcerts.ca/tickets> or through Eventbrite www.eventbrite.ca

Orders can be sent by mail to: Syrinx Concerts Toronto 135 Arlington Avenue, Toronto, Ontario M6C 2Y9 or by phone: 416-654-0877 or purchased at the door (cash or cheque only).

Further information about Syrinx Concerts Toronto is available from www.syrinxconcerts.ca

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PROGRAM

Rameau: Gavotte with Variations (1675)

Grieg: Ballade op. 22 (1894)

Schumann: Humoreske op. 20 (1839)

Buczynski: Sonata # 9 (1968)



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