

Steinway Society Launches Fall 2020 Home Concert Hall Series

Innovative series brings outstanding artists to classical music lovers

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San Jose, CA—Four outstanding international classical piano artists will be performing for Steinway Society – The Bay Area this Fall through an innovative Home Concert Hall virtual series.

Steinway Society's 26th season launches in October with Italian pianist Federico Colli, followed by Russian performers Zlata Chochieva in November and Vyacheslav Gryaznov in December, as well as American pianist Andrew Li in January 2021. The series will be sponsored by the Music Teachers' of America (MTAC) Santa Clara County Branch in memory of long-time member Frieda Ann Murphy.

"We were so disappointed to have to cancel concerts this spring because of the COVID-19 pandemic," said Kathy Yu Wilson, Steinway Society president. "When we realized we would still not be able to host live performances in the Fall, we decided if we couldn't bring patrons to a concert hall, we'd bring the concert hall to them instead."

Unique Video Performances Watched at Your Leisure

The series will consist of recordings produced specifically for Steinway Society – The Bay Area that will not be available elsewhere on the Internet.

Each month's concert will be released at a given date. Viewers will be able to view the recording as many times as they would like during the four-day performance window. Each artist has been invited to give a short talk before the performance about their choice of pieces, their musical lives, and how the pandemic has impacted them. A recorded pre-concert lecture by Bay Area classical music expert Dr. Gary Lemco will be available for download as well.

Prices Set Low to Allow Greater Participation

While tickets to in-person concerts of Steinway Society artists typically cost between \$40 to \$60, Home Concert Hall virtual tickets are priced at \$20 per household per concert. Or, the entire four-concert series is available at the special promotional price of \$60.

"With our virtual Home Concert Hall series, every seat is a front-row seat, and there's only one charge per household," said Kathy Yu Wilson. "We hope this will encourage classical music lovers in the Bay Area and around the world to join us for these exceptional performances, while we provide much needed support to outstanding artists whose livelihoods have been severely impacted by the pandemic."

Sponsored by MTAC Santa Clara County Branch

This season's concerts are presented in memory of Frieda Ann Murphy by the Music Teachers' Association of California (MTAC) Santa Clara County Branch. Frieda Ann Murphy was a native Californian who was an accomplished concert organist, as well as a member of PEO, the American Guild of Organists, and the Music Teachers Association of California (MTAC). In 2019, the MTAC Santa Clara Branch established annual keyboard performances in her memory.

Tickets Available Now

Tickets for the performances may be purchased in advance by going to **LINK HERE**, or by contacting the Steinway Society box office at 408-300-5635.

Performance Details

Who: Steinway Society - The Bay Area presents

What: The Home Concert Hall

When: October 2020 through January 2021

Artists:

- Federico Colli - October 30-November 2, 2020
- Zlata Chochieva - November 13-16, 2020
- Vyacheslav Gryaznov - December 18-21, 2020
- Andrew Li - January 22-25, 2021

Where: Online at www.steinwaysociety.com

Tickets: \$20 per concert, or \$60 for the package of four concerts

www.steinwaysociety.com

About the Artists

Federico Colli - October 30-November 2, 2020

Federico Colli, whose concerts have been broadcast live throughout Europe, was scheduled to make his West Coast Debut as the featured artist in the final concert of Steinway Society —The Bay Area's 25th Anniversary Season last May.

Born in Italy, Colli has studied at the Milan Conservatory, the Imola International Piano Academy, and the Salzburg Mozarteum. In 2014, he was selected by *International Piano* magazine as one of the "30 pianists under 30 who are likely to dominate the world stage in years to come." Colli achieved international prominence after winning both the 2011 Salzburg Mozart Competition and the 2012 Leeds International Piano Competition. He has concertized throughout Europe, Russia, Japan, and the Americas, and his two CDs have received wide acclaim.

"His beautifully light touch and lyrical grace make the music shine."

—The Daily Telegraph

"Colli brings out the joy of the pieces, taking the listener through adventures."

—American Record Guide

Photo by Sarah Ferrara

Zlata Chochieva - November 13-16, 2020

Gramophone describes Zlata Chochieva as "the possessor of a comprehensive technique who brings an inner glow to every bar."

Zlata made her first stage appearance at age five, and gave her debut with an orchestra two years later performing Mozart's Concerto No. 17 at Grand Hall of Moscow State Conservatory. When she was 12, the Moscow-born prodigy gave a full recital at the Rachmaninov Hall of the Moscow Conservatory, broadcast on Russian television, which prompted an enthusiastic newspaper critic to write, "One was impressed with no means childish contents of the concert programme. And yet—the meaningfulness of style, combined with the technical boundlessness."

She then caught the attention of Mikhail Pletnev, and was invited to play with the Russian National Orchestra and study with Pletnev as one of only two students at that time. In 2005, Zlata was named Honorable Artist of the North Ossetia Republic, becoming the youngest ever artist to hold such a distinction. In 2012, she graduated with distinction from Moscow State Conservatory under the instruction of Pavel Nersessian.

Zlata Chochieva continues to gain fame and recognition, including top prizes in 14 international competitions. She has played in the world's leading concert halls as a soloist and with major orchestras including the Russian National Orchestra, the Danish Tivoli Orchestra, and the Slovak Radio Symphony Orchestra.

"... the possessor of a comprehensive technique who brings an inner glow to every bar. [. . .] Poetic and pianistic command could hardly go further."

— **Gramophone**

"...one of the most interesting and unusual pianists today. She has superb technical abilities, but it is her personal intuition in the music she plays that is special. I would be interested to hear anything she does and that is rare."

— **Grammy-nominated pianist Stephen Kovacevich**

Photo by Evgeny-Evtyukhov

Vyacheslav Gryaznov - December 18-21, 2020

Vyacheslav (called Slava by his friends) thrilled the audience in his West Coast debut with the Steinway Society in 2016, receiving three encores. He has performed to great acclaim throughout the U.S., Russia and Europe, including Carnegie Hall and the Berlin Philharmonie. Gryaznov studied at the Moscow State Conservatory for his undergraduate and postgraduate degrees and he earned the Yale School of Music's Artist Diploma in 2018. He is on the teaching faculty of the Moscow Conservatory's piano department. In 2014, Gryaznov signed with Schott Music, where his work is the publisher's top ten best-selling piano editions.

"... Vyacheslav Gryaznov... is a brilliant pianist and composer. The virtuosity and inventiveness of his transcriptions fascinate and enthrall." --Musical Life magazine

Photo courtesy of Steinway Society

Andrew Li - January 22-25, 2021

Andrew Li has shown his gift for and love of music since early childhood. He won first prize in the Bay State Piano Competition for five consecutive years from the ages of 7-12 year, and first prize for two consecutive years at the Steinway Competition in Boston. In October 2014, Andrew joined his older brother, George, in a performance at the recital series of Hamilton College.

Since giving his first solo recital at the First Presbyterian Church in Utica, NY when he was ten, Andrew has won prizes in multiple piano competitions, including first prize at the Boston Symphony Orchestra youth concerto competition, second prize at the Hilton Head International Piano Competition, and third prize at the Minnesota Piano-e-Competition. In April 2018, he won first prize at the Harvard Music Association Achievement Awards.

"Andrew's technique is brilliant and assured. He's a serious musician but not a showy or an unnecessarily flashy one. Li trusts his ideas about the music and places them front-and-center."

—**Telegram & Gazette**

Photo: Katie Li

About the Steinway Society - The Bay Area

Steinway Society - The Bay Area is a nonprofit organization based in Silicon Valley. Now in its 26th season, this dedicated group of musicians, pianists, teachers, and arts lovers promotes excellence in piano performance and music education. Each season, Steinway Society presents a series of classical piano concerts featuring international award-winning pianists, as well as an active school music program. For more information on season subscriptions, individual tickets, the artists, and Steinway Society, go to www.SteinwaySociety.com or contact (408) 300-5635.

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