

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: March 23, 2011

“Poet of the Keyboard” Jon Nakamatsu plays Tchaikovsky Piano Concerto with Santa Rosa Symphony May 7-9

All-Russian program includes Mussorgsky’s *Pictures at an Exhibition*

(SANTA ROSA, CA) – Santa Rosa Symphony Music Director Bruno Ferrandis and the orchestra explore the works of three Russian composers—including one of the most respected voices in contemporary music, Sophia Gubaidulina—at Wells Fargo Center for the Arts on May 7, 8 and 9. The Symphony’s finale concerts of the 2010-2011 season feature “Poet of the Keyboard” Jon Nakamatsu, 1997 Gold Medal Winner in the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition, performing Tchaikovsky’s First Piano Concerto. Mussorgsky’s iconic *Pictures at an Exhibition* and Gubaidulina’s *Fairytales Poem* complete a year of programming of which Ferrandis said, “it is a world tour” that includes a living composer in five of the seven concert sets.

“Female composer Sophia Gubaidulina is the highest representation of what is creative in Russia today,” Ferrandis said. “It is part of my vision to promote contemporary composers, to show that the music is still alive and vital.”

About Guest Artist Jon Nakamatsu

The New York Times has written: “Nakamatsu has stunning technical control and can do anything at the piano he wants.” *Gramophone* hails Nakamatsu as “a remarkably wide-ranging and stylish artist” who performs widely in orchestral and chamber concert settings, as well as in the recording studio. His CD of Brahms Sonatas for Clarinet and Piano (with acclaimed clarinetist Jon Manasse), received the highest praise from *New York Times* Classical Music Editor James R. Oestreich, who named it “Best of the Year” for 2008. Nakamatsu’s all-Gershwin recording with

the Rochester Philharmonic featuring *Rhapsody in Blue* rose to number three on Billboard's classical music charts. Complete bio [here](#).

Get Cued in with Pre-Concert Talks and Online Notes

To hear Maestro Ferrandis' musings on, and insights about, the May program, come to "Conversations with the Conductor," a pre-concert talk with Q & A beginning one hour before each performance (excluding the Saturday Discovery Open Rehearsal). This is an open-seating event that is free to ticket holders. **Program Notes** for this concert are available online.

Concert Times

Concert times are Saturday, May 7 and Monday, May 9 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, May 8 at 3 p.m. at the Wells Fargo Center for the Arts, 50 Mark West Springs Road, in Santa Rosa. The popular, family-friendly Discovery Series of open rehearsals continues at 2 p.m. on May 7. The Discovery concerts, economically priced at \$10 for adults and \$6 for youth, offer a sneak peek into the final rehearsal process before each concert set.

Tickets

For tickets, call (707) 546-8742, purchase online at santarosasympphony.com, or come in person to the Symphony Patron Services Office at 50 Santa Rosa Avenue (north door entrance, off the elevator lobby), from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday-Friday, Wednesdays 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tickets may also be purchased at the door 1½ hours before each performance (based on availability.) Single tickets are \$28-\$55, with student and senior discounts available. \$10 Student Rush tickets (student I.D. required) can be purchased a half hour prior to curtain.

—Photo of Jon Nakamatsu available upon request. Brief bio of the artist follows calendar listing—

CALENDAR LISTING

Heading: Classical

What: Symphony Concert
Bruno Ferrandis, conductor
Jon Nakamatsu, piano

Date and Time:

Sat., May 7, 2011 at 8 p.m.
(Discovery Rehearsal, Sat., May 7 at 2 p.m.)
Sun., May 8, 2011 at 3 p.m.
Mon., May 9, 2011 at 8 p.m.

Program:

GUBAIDULINA: *Fairytale Poem*
TCHAIKOVSKY: Piano Concerto No. 1
MUSSORGSKY: *Pictures at an Exhibition*

The pre-concert talks start one hour before each performance (except Discovery Rehearsal).

Venue: Wells Fargo Center for the Arts, 50 Mark West Springs Road, Santa Rosa, CA

Cost: Single tickets \$28-\$55, with senior and student discounts available.

Tickets: Online santarosasympphony.com, by phone 54-MUSIC (707-546-8742) or in person at the SRS Patron Services Office, 50 Santa Rosa Avenue, Santa Rosa, 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Guest Artist Brief Bio

Since his dramatic 1997 Van Cliburn Gold Medal triumph, Jon Nakamatsu's brilliant but unassuming musicianship and eclectic repertoire have made him a clear favorite throughout the world both on the concert circuit and in the recording studio. He has performed widely in North America, Europe, and the Far East and has collaborated with such conductors as James Conlon, Philippe Entremont, Marek Janowski, Raymond Leppard, Stanislaw Skrowaczewski, Michael Tilson Thomas and Osmo Vänskä. His extensive recital tours throughout the United States and Europe have featured appearances at Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center in New York City, at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., and in cities such as Boston, Chicago, Cincinnati, Paris, London and Milan.

Nakamatsu maintains a nearly incessant touring schedule with orchestra performances, chamber collaborations and solo recitals. A highlight of the 2010-11 season was a first appearance at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. He also appeared with jazz pianist David Benoit in a special program mixing Gershwin with jazz and classical repertoire at the prestigious Montalvo Arts Center in Saratoga. In August of 2010, he performed a recital for the Chopin Institute in Warsaw at Warsaw's Philharmonic Hall and in October returned to China for a debut at the Beijing International Piano Festival.

He has been soloist with many leading orchestras including those of Dallas, Detroit, Indianapolis, Los Angeles, Rochester, San Francisco, Seattle, Tokyo and Vancouver. In February of 2010, he was the featured soloist for the highly acclaimed American tour of the Berlin-based Philharmonie der Nationen, conducted by Justus Franz, performing Brahms' First Piano Concerto and Rachmaninoff's Third Piano Concerto in twelve cities nationwide. Numerous summer festival engagements have included appearances at the Aspen, Tanglewood, Ravinia, Caramoor, Vail, Sun Valley, and Britt festivals. Complete bio [here](#).

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