



BREVARD MUSIC CENTER
SUMMER INSTITUTE AND FESTIVAL

NEWS RELEASE

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Season Finale August 9: Olga Kern plays Rachmaninoff

(Brevard, NC) – Critics have stated, “Kern... revels in scrupulously digging the notes out of Rachmaninoff virtuoso scores... She has a big, attractive tone and big technique and projects big emotions.” Van Cliburn International Piano Competition winner in 2001, Olga Kern, will join the Brevard Music Center Orchestra performing Rachmaninoff’s famed Piano Concerto No. 3 on Sunday, August 9 at 3 pm. This is the very piece that secured her Gold Medal win at the Van Cliburn Competition and made her the first woman to achieve this distinction in over 30 years.

Ms. Kern was born into a family of musicians with direct links to Tchaikovsky and Rachmaninoff and began studying piano at the age of five. Winner of the first Rachmaninoff International Piano Competition when she was seventeen, she is a laureate of eleven international competitions and has toured throughout her native Russia, Europe, and the United States, as well as in Japan, South Africa, and South Korea.

Ms. Kern has performed in many of the world's most important venues, including the Great Hall of the Moscow Conservatory, Symphony Hall in Osaka, Salzburger Festspielhaus, La Scala in Milan, Tonhalle in Zurich, and the Châtelet in Paris; she has appeared as soloist with the Bolshoi Theater, the Moscow Philharmonic, St. Petersburg Symphony, Russian National, China Symphony, Belgrade Philharmonic, La Scala Philharmonic, Torino Symphony, and Cape Town Symphony Orchestras. She has also performed with the Kirov Orchestra under the direction of Valery Gergiev at the Kennedy Center.

Andre Raphael Smith will conduct the Brevard Music Center Orchestra in Sunday’s performance, which will also feature Shostakovich Symphony No. 5. Smith is in his sixth season as Music Director of the Wheeling Symphony Orchestra and has appeared with most major American orchestras including Boston Symphony, Chicago Symphony, Cleveland Orchestra and the New York Philharmonic. He served as assistant conductor to Kurt Masur at the New York Philharmonic, assistant conductor of the Philadelphia Orchestra and Saint Louis Symphony where he worked under Leonard Slatkin.

Born in Durham, NC, Smith has studied at the University of Miami, Yale, The Curtis Institute and The Juilliard School. He makes his first appearance at the Brevard Music Center on Friday night conducting the Transylvania Symphony Orchestra in Berlioz’ *Symphonie fantastique*. Performance time Friday is 7:30 pm. Lawn tickets are available for all weekend performances. To purchase tickets visit brevardmusic.org or call 828-862-2105.

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