



# Chopin Notes

Chopin Society of Atlanta Quarterly

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## Upcoming Events:

**Sara Daneshpour, piano**

**September 29, 7:00 PM**  
Roswell Cultural Arts Center

See our website for  
information about the  
After-Concert Essay Contest

**An Evening with Chopin**  
The Annual Chopin Society's  
Fundraising Dinner

**November 17, 6:00 PM**  
Country Club of the South

Concert tickets are always  
discounted for members of  
the Chopin Society of Atlanta.  
To become a member, join  
online at  
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call 404-245-6133

### Chopin Notes Editorial Staff:

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## Introducing:



## Sara Daneshpour

**Admired for her electrifying  
performances, mesmerizing  
stage presence and warm  
personality**

“...she created transfixing poetry. And she found delightful details in passagework and incidents that other pianists treat as routine.”

—*The Washington Post* about her performance with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra

“Mozart’s *Piano Concerto No. 20* drew...pianism of rare poise, perception and warmth from soloist Sara Daneshpour. Her first- and third-movement cadenzas – beautifully phrased, emotionally searching and judiciously spare of pedal – were arguably the highlights of the concert. We need to hear more from this gifted young pianist.”

—*The Washington Post*

“[her performance was] sensational. Strength, finesse, passion; it was all there.”

—*San Jose Mercury-News*

“She exhibits all the requisites for a high voltage career and more: blazing technique, power, expressivity, imagination and a lovely stage presence.”

—*New York Concert Review*

**Sara Daneshpour** won first prize in the XII Concours International de Musique du Maroc (Morocco 2012), second prize in the 2007 William Kapell International Piano Competition, first prize and Gold Medal in the 2007 International Russian Music Piano Competition and first prize in the 2003 Beethoven Society of America Competition. She is a graduate of the Curtis Institute of Music, where she studied under Leon Fleisher. She presently studies under the direction of Dr. Yoheved Kaplinsky at the Juilliard School.

Ms. Daneshpour has performed extensively in the United States, Canada and Europe and has been heard on stages at such prestigious venues as the **Kennedy Center** in her native Washington, D.C., **Carnegie Hall** in New York and the **Great Hall of the Moscow Tchaikovsky Conservatory** in Moscow. She has also been featured nation wide on 160 public radio stations, including the venerable WGBH in Boston. In addition, she has been featured as a soloist in prestigious concert music series, including at the Werner Richard Saal in Munich, the Cleveland Museum of Art, Strathmore Hall in Washington, D.C., the Ventura Festival, the Frederic Chopin Society in St. Paul, Minnesota, the Gnessin School of Music in Moscow and the International Keyboard Institute and Festival in New York.

*Photo of Sara Daneshpour by Stephanie Lane*

**Chopin Society of Atlanta has grown a cult following among local piano mavens.**

– Pierre Ruhe, *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, November 2007

# Seriously?

Chopin Society of Atlanta Essay Contest for Young Listeners

Sometimes classical music is referred to as “serious.” Even in some East-European languages, they call it “serious” instead of “classical” – “ozbiljna” in Croatian, “poważna” in Polish or “vážná” in Czech. While a symphonic piece or a concerto can be solemn and provoke profound thoughts and emotions, a recital does not have to be so grave. The fantastic concert by Ilya Yakushev proved that “serious” music can be accompanied by humor and thus make the whole experience more enjoyable, especially for the young audience. Here are excerpts of the essays submitted to the CSA Essay Contest.

*When Ilya Yakushev took the spotlight on the evening of March 25, 2012, he captured the audience with dazzling smile and good humor. From the moment he came on stage, he created a more personal and friendly atmosphere in the seemingly formal and serious concert hall. However, when he sat down to make music on the beautiful grand piano, a whole new emotion was created in the*



Photo: Pawel Loj

*Chopin’s inspiration for the piece – his mistress, whom he loved very much, but with whom he could never be completely*

*Moreover, his seamless transition to the Ballade in F major made it look as if these pieces were written to be played together. By the end of these two amazing works of art by Chopin, I was ready to give Mr. Yakushev standing ovation, even though it wasn’t the end of the first part of the concert. All in all, through his kind and funny words and his exquisite piano playing, Yakushev brought illumination, emotion and even humor to an already beautiful Sunday night. —Bharat Sanders (16 years old)*



Photo: Pawel Loj

*audience. His trained ear, his careful fingers and his evident passion showed through in the beautiful music he created that night. My favorite piece was definitely Chopin’s Mazurka in A minor, op. 17, No. 4. Mr. Yakushev started by telling us Chopin’s tragic life story. He told us of*

*happy since their relationship was looked down upon by the society. When Mr. Yakushev started to play, the images of Chopin’s tragic life danced in my mind. His interpretation of this piece was so beautiful that I could feel the sadness that Chopin felt when he wrote the piece.*

*My favorite part of Mr. Yakushev’s recital was Pictures at an Exhibition. He played this piece so enthusiastically and with such passion. The “Catacombs” was my favorite movement of the piece. I felt like the music was taking me on an auditory tour of the chambers and corridors. The music made me feel like I was descending into an eerie darkness of the now empty catacombs....Until this performance I had only heard about the picturesque quality in music, but this evening I experienced it. Thank you, Mr. Yakushev, for sharing your talent with me! —Hunter Bailey Hadid (10 years old)*

The essay contest winners were awarded Barnes & Noble gift certificates. Excerpts have been edited for space and clarity.

# CHOPIN SOCIETY OF ATLANTA'S 2012 FUNDRAISER



We invite everyone to a

## **Gala Evening with Chopin**

**November 17, 2012, 6:00 PM**

**Country Club of the South**

4100 Old Alabama Road  
Johns Creek, GA 30022

### **Guest of Honor: Victor Ashe**

Former United States Ambassador to Poland, recipient of the Commander's Cross with Star of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland and the Bene Merito award for his contribution to Polish-American cooperation

#### **HONORED GUESTS:**

Lawrence Ashe, Honorary Consul to the Republic of Poland  
Michael Bodker, Mayor of Johns Creek

#### **In the program:**

Welcoming glass of champagne  
Piano recital by young artists  
Dinner prepared by the Club's famous chef  
Exciting door prizes  
A live auction  
And much more

**Hosted by  
WABE radio personality John Lemley**

**Call us at 404-245-6133  
or visit [www.chopinatlanta.org](http://www.chopinatlanta.org)**

Photos from Chopin Society of Atlanta's  
2011 Annual Fundraiser, by Pawel Loj



**Commemorative plaque at the Church of the Holy Cross in Warsaw, Poland, where Chopin's heart is placed. It reads: "Your treasure lies where your heart is...To Fryderyk Chopin from Fellow-Countrymen."**

*Photo: Bożena U. Zaremba*

## Chopin Trivia

- Chopin composed his first piece at the age of seven. It was the *Polonaise in B-flat major*.
- Chopin's *Concerto in F minor, No. 2* was written before his *Concerto No. 1 in E minor*.
- The mazurka is a musical form created by Chopin and based on Polish folk music.
- Chopin was a great admirer of the human voice. While in Paris, he regularly attended Paris Opera performances.
- Chopin was buried at the Père Lachaise Cemetery in Paris. His heart, however, was removed, brought to Poland by his sister Ludwika and placed at the Church of the Holy Cross in Warsaw.

**Johns Creek Center for the Arts & Design  
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[www.chopinatlanta.org](http://www.chopinatlanta.org)**

