

RAF NEWS

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RNO to highlight two summer festivals

Founding Orchestra of Napa Valley Festival del Sole

“The Art of Life” is the theme of two festivals this summer: Festival Del Sole – which debuts this July in Napa Valley, California, and Italy’s Tuscan Sun Festival, now in its fourth year. The Russian National Orchestra will participate in both festivals, each featuring performances by the world’s most acclaimed musical artists, along with art exhibitions, discussions with top literary figures and culinary delights with the finest chefs and winemakers. The inaugural Festival del Sole will be held July 16-23, 2006, and will be followed by the Tuscan Sun Festival, based in Cortona, Italy, from August 5-20, 2006.

Among the headliners of the inaugural Festival Del Sole in Napa Valley are Renée Fleming, Anne Sofie von Otter, Joshua Bell, Piotr Anderszewski, Sarah Chang, Nina Kotova, Frederica Von Stade, Samuel Ramey, Christopher Taylor, Nikolaj Znaider and the Emerson Quartet. The Russian National Orchestra will be led by prominent conductors Alan Gilbert, Stéphane Denève and Carlo Ponti, Jr. Performances will take place at Lincoln Theater in Yountville and other venues reflecting the natural beauty of the region, including selected wineries.

COPIA: The American Center for Wine, Food & the Arts will curate the food and wine components of the Festival Del Sole. Leading chefs will offer their culinary magic through classes, lunches



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and pre- and post-concert receptions and dinners. Wine tasting events featuring Napa’s best, as well as comparative tastings with wines from Italy and other regions, will be among the offerings. The Napa Valley Museum will host a major exhibition in connection with the Festival, highlighting the link between the worlds of music and wine.

Festival del Sole’s Co-Founder and Director, Richard Walker said, “With the launch of Festival del Sole, the Napa Valley, already renowned for its fabled wine and cuisine, joins the ranks of the world’s leading cultural destinations as well. The spectacular roster of artists appearing on stages across Napa Valley next July will quickly establish the Festival del Sole at the front ranks of international summer festivals.”

With the charming Teatro Signorelli, the atmospheric medieval open-air Piazza Signorelli and Fortezza Medicea as venues for the Tuscan Sun Festival concerts, Cortona continues to distinguish itself as the ideal host of the annual Italian event. Frances Mayes, one of the Festival’s artistic directors and whose book and film, *Under the Tuscan Sun* helped introduce Cortona to the world, says, “The Tuscan Sun Festival is a wonderful way of bringing the joys of Tuscany to life. Those of us who love living in Cortona are delighted to help create a tradition that honors its heritage and celebrates its future.”

The 2006 Tuscan Sun Festival will include such distinguished artists as Anna Netrebko, Antonio Pappano, Dmitri

Hvorostovsky, Lang Lang, Joshua Bell, Susan Graham, Nina Kotova, Pinchas Zuckerman, Marcelo Alvarez, Vadim Repin, Sarah Chang, Piotr Anderszewski, Dmitry Sitkovetsky, and Nikolaj Znaider. The Russian National Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra of the Royal Opera House, and New European Strings Chamber Orchestra will all perform.

“We are extremely excited about creating these unique events that unite the world’s best and most adventurous music making in concert with the visual, literary and culinary arts. We could not imagine a better place than Napa Valley for the expansion of our concept already thriving in Tuscany,” said Barrett Wissman, Chairman of IMG Artists, founder of the Tuscan Sun Festival and co-founder of the Festival del Sole.

RNO 15th Anniversary Tour

The Russian National Orchestra inaugurated its 15th Anniversary Season in Moscow this past fall, and will soon be arriving in the United States for a 20 concert, 17 city tour. The full tour schedule is printed on page two of this edition of RAF News.

Firebird level members of the Russian Arts Foundation are entitled to a complimentary pair of tickets to the concerts marked on the schedule with [*], while supplies last. For information, phone 802-223-8444.

The concerts will be conducted by Mikhail Pletnev, Vladimir Jurowski and Carlo Ponti, Jr., and featured soloists are Yefim Bronfman, Alexander Mogilevsky, and Maxim Rubtsov.

Please visit www.rno.ru for concert listings and direct links to ticketing and venue web sites.

For the latest information, visit www.festivaldelsole.com

RUSSIAN NATIONAL ORCHESTRA

15TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR

MARCH 3 [*]

Anderson Center Concert Theater
Binghamton Univ. 6000
Binghamton, NY
Phone: 607-777-ARTS
anderson.binghamton.edu

MARCH 4 [*]

North Penn High School Auditorium
1340 Valley Forge Road
Lansdale, PA
www.npenn.org

MARCH 5, 6 & 8

Lincoln Center - Avery Fisher Hall
Columbus Ave and 65th St
New York, NY
Phone: 212-875-5030
www.lincolncenter.org

MARCH 10 [*]

Center for the Arts Concert Hall
George Mason University
Fairfax, VA
Phone: 888-945-2468
www.gmu.edu/cfa/tickets

MARCH 12 [*]

Memorial Hall
University of North Carolina
Carolina Union
Chapel Hill, NC
Phone: 919-962-1449
www.unc.edu

MARCH 13 [*]

Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall
777 N. Tamiami Trail
Sarasota, FL
Phone: 800-826-9303
www.vanwezel.org

MARCH 14

Kravis Center for the Performing Arts
701 Okeechobee Rd.
West Palm Beach, FL
Phone: 561-832-7469
www.kravis.org



MARCH 16 [*]

Jackie Gleason Theatre
1700 Washington Ave.
Miami, FL
Phone: 305-358-5885
www.gleasontheater.com

MARCH 17 [*]

Community Church
1901 23rd St.
Vero Beach, FL
Phone: 772-778-1070
www.verobeach.com/-
indianriversymphonicassociation

MARCH 18 [*]

Phillips Center for the Performing Arts
315 Hull Road 112750
Gainesville, FL
Phone: 352-392-ARTS
www.performingarts.ufl.edu

MARCH 19 [*]

Bob Carr Performing Arts Center
401 West Livingston Street
Orlando, FL
Phone: 407-839-3900
www.festivaloforchestras.com

MARCH 23 [*]

Copley Symphony Hall
1245 Seventh Ave.
San Diego, CA
Phone: 858-459-3728
www.la-jolla-music-society.com

MARCH 24 [*]

Artemus Ham Hall
University of Nevada
Las Vegas, NV
Phone: 702-895-2787
domino3.nevada.edu

MARCH 25 [*]

Arlington Theatre
1317 State Street
Santa Barbara, CA
Phone: 805-966-4324
www.camاسب.org

MARCH 26

Davies Symphony Hall
401 Van Ness Ave.
San Francisco, CA
Phone: 415-864-6000
www.sfsymphony.org

MARCH 27 [*]

Mondavi Center / Jackson Hall
1 Shields Ave.
University of California Davis
Davis, CA
Phone: 866-754-ARTS
www.mondaviarts.org

MARCH 28 & 29

Benaroya Hall [*]
200 University St.
Seattle, WA
Phone: 866-833-4747
www.seattlesymphony.org

[*] = Complimentary tickets (while they last) available to Firebird members.

Cruise the Volga

WITH THE RUSSIAN NATIONAL ORCHESTRA

April 25 - May 7, 2006

Join the Russian National Orchestra for an unforgettable trip!



Experience the wonders of Moscow...
Cruise the mighty Volga River...

Attend performances by Russia's finest classical musicians and travel with them through the heart of Russia...

Who better to show you the artistic treasures of Russia than the RNO, whose expert staff and local guides will give you a taste of the best in Russia's performing and visual arts.

On board the Glushkov, you will journey with the musicians of the world-famous Russian National Orchestra

(Russia's top symphony orchestra and the only one ever to win a GRAMMY) into the rich culture of the Russian heartland. You will see the majestic and beautiful towns where ancient Rus first took root, and will visit prosaic country churches, peaceful monasteries, bustling provincial marketplaces and artistic centers.

You will enjoy full orchestra and select chamber concerts. You will be treated to guided tours and specially-catered meals, and will socialize with the musicians in intimate gatherings. Receptions and events with civic leaders and the public are planned in several cities. In Moscow, you will spend two days on custom-designed cultural tours. There will also be special wine tastings and dinners on board.



The orchestra's eighth annual Volga tour features concerts conducted by Alexander Vedernikov, Artistic Director of the Bolshoi Theater.

Tour stops include Nizhny Novgorod, Kazan, Samara, Saratov and additional Volga towns. The ship selected for this tour is the Glushkov, a three-story cruise ship that carries 240 passengers. The ship was built in Germany in 1997 and therefore is one of the most modern cruise ships plying Russian rivers today. It has two restaurants and bars, a concert hall, sun deck, sauna, laundry, souvenir shop and a doctor on board.

As part of this special Volga River cruise, guests will be treated to the RNO's **Music & Arts of Moscow Tour**, featuring intimate tours of the best in the capital's visual and performing arts.

Prices for the 12-day RNO Volga River Cruise begin at \$3500 for a Main Deck cabin, with several upgrades possible.

Prices include: accommodation in outside cabins with private bathroom, individual climate control and large picture window; three full meals each day; Captain's Welcome Cocktail Reception; gala farewell dinner; sightseeing programs; nightly entertainment and dancing; prime seating at concerts and special events; open rehearsals on board the ship; daily aerobics classes; tour of the ship's bridge; visa invitation. Prices also include a contribution to the U.S. not-for-profit Russian Arts Foundation.

LATE BREAKING NEWS!

Britain's Prince Michael of Kent, Royal Patron of the RNO, will join the Volga Cruise for several days leading up to and including the visit to Kostroma on May 2. The concert in Kostroma will herald the inauguration of a new bass bell, weighing eight tons, which The Prince Michael of Kent Foundation is donating to Ipatiev Monastery in Kostroma, at the request of the city, Archbishop and the Governor of the region. The Ipatiev Monastery is closely linked with the Romanov dynasty, to which Prince Michael of Kent is related. The Monastery protected Prince Mikhail Romanov and his mother during the Time of Troubles and was the site of his acceptance of the crown as the first Romanov tsar in 1613.

A Memorial Concert to Russian-American journalist Paul Klebnikov, former editor-in-chief of the Russian edition of *Forbes*, will be given in Saratov on April 27. Klebnikov was gunned down in Moscow in July 2004, a tragedy with worldwide repercussions. The Saratov concert will be the first of a series of four memorial concerts, to be held also in Moscow, Tver and St Petersburg. Russian President Vladimir Putin is among the patrons of the memorial events.

ITINERARY

Date	Description	City Tour	Concert	Cruise Day
April 25	Arrive Volgograd			
April 26	Volgograd	●		●
April 27	Saratov	●	●	●
April 28	Samara	●		●
April 29	Samara	●	●	●
April 30	Kazan	●	●	●
May 1	Nizhny Novgorod	●	●	●
May 2	Kostroma	●	●	●
May 3	Yaroslavl	●	●	●
May 4	Uglich	●		●
May 5	Moscow	●		●
May 6	Moscow	●		
May 7	Depart Russia			

PHONE: 802-223-8444

Recent releases

For additional reviews and to order copies of these and other fine recordings, visit www.rno.ru



Tchaikovsky and Stravinsky

Tchaikovsky: Suite No. 3 in G, Op. 55 (1884)
Stravinsky: Divertimento (1934, rev. 1949)
Ballet Suite from *Le baiser de la fée* (*The Fairy's Kiss*)
Vladimir Jurowski, conductor
DSD recorded
PentaTone SACD (2005)

"Even by the high standards set by PentaTone, this is special. A wonderful disc in all respects.... This is my SACD of the year and a desert island disc."
SA-CD.net



Young America

Choral Works by Gordon Getty
Young America
Three Welsh Songs
Annabel Lee
Victorian Scenes
Jerusalem
San Francisco Symphony Orchestra (Michael Tilson Thomas, conductor) with the San Francisco Symphony Chorus • Russian National Orchestra (Alexander Vedernikov, conductor) with the Eric Ericson Chamber Choir
PentaTone SACD (2005)

"For any listener who enjoys robust choral writing, good tunes, lively rhythms, and ethereal beauty, this disc can be enthusiastically recommended.... All of the performances here are excellent... This is an extraordinarily engaging disc, one to which I shall return many times."
Fanfare Magazine



Russian Violin Concertos

Khachaturian: Violin Concerto in D minor
Prokofiev: Violin Concerto No. 1 in D Op. 19
Glazunov: Violin Concerto in A minor Op. 82
Julia Fischer, violin
Yakov Kreizberg, conductor
PentaTone SACD (2004)

Editor's Choice
Gramophone Magazine

January 2005
Winner, 2005 Echo Klassik Award
Concerto Record of the Year

"I don't believe I have heard a better performance of [the Khachaturian concerto], and with the hi-res surround sonics we have here a sure winner. The Prokofiev and Glazunov concertos prove excellent companions and also receive sparkling performances... You couldn't go wrong with this one."

Audiophile Audition

Montpelier, VT 05601-0248
PO Box 248
RUSSIAN ARTS FOUNDATION

The logo consists of the letters 'RAF' in a stylized, bold, serif font. The 'R' and 'A' are connected, and the 'F' is separate.