

Date: Monday, January 16, 2012

Contact:

[Tim Northcutt](#) – (317) 262-4904

[Jessica Di Santo](#) – (317) 229-7082

**Fiery Pianist Khatia Buniatishvili Makes Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra Debut in Lilly
Classical Series Concerts Jan. 26-28 at Clowes Memorial Hall**

2008 Arthur Rubinstein Competition prize winner performs Rachmaninoff Second Piano Concerto

INDIANAPOLIS – As one of the fast-rising young stars in classical music, pianist Khatia Buniatishvili will make her Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra debut in performances of Sergei Rachmaninoff's passionate and colorful Second Piano Concerto to highlight Lilly *Classical Series* concerts Thursday through Saturday, January 26-28, at Clowes Memorial Hall, located at 4602 Sunset Avenue on the Butler University campus.

Originally scheduled for the Hilbert Circle Theatre, the venue change was prompted by the needs of the National Football League and the Indianapolis Super Bowl XLVI Committee to reserve large venues in the downtown area that are capable of hosting various Super Bowl events and activities. Preparations to host NBC's *Live with Jimmy Fallon* during Super Bowl week will be underway at the ISO's home that weekend.

This all-Russian classical weekend, conducted by Princeton Symphony Orchestra Music Director Rossen Milanov, will open with Dmitri Shostakovich's *Festive Overture*, a light and celebratory piece that the composer wrote to mark the anniversary of the Bolshevik overthrow of the Russian government in 1917. Buniatishvili will introduce herself to Indianapolis audiences in performances of one of the crown jewels of the piano repertoire, Sergei Rachmaninoff's popular Second Piano Concerto. This glittering and melodic work showcases the technical artistry of the soloist with many rhapsodic moments spotlighting the pianist. Themes from this concerto have been extracted for films scores and the popular tune "Full Moon and Empty Arms" and it remains as a favorite of classical music lovers.

Following intermission, Milanov and the Orchestra will perform the 1947 revision of Sergei Prokofiev's Symphony No. 4 in C Major ("The Prodigal Son"), which was altered so extensively from the original version that the composer gave it a new opus number. The original Symphony was not well received when it premiered in 1930 and was panned in subsequent performances, thus warranting the changes by the composer. The revised version, which received critical acclaim, contains many powerful and expressive passages derived from a ballet titled *The Prodigal Son* that the composer wrote for Russian ballet impresario Sergei Diaghilev. Only the first movement of Symphony No. 4 will be performed in the Thursday 11 a.m. concert. These will be the ISO's first performances of this work.

Ticket prices for the Thursday morning KeyBank *Coffee Classical Series* program range from \$20-\$46 each with Friday and Saturday evening prices from \$20 to \$75 each. To order tickets, call Ticketmaster at (317) 239-1000 or visit the Ticketmaster website at www.Ticketmaster.com. Performance times are at 11 a.m. Thursday, 8 p.m. Friday and 5:30 p.m. Saturday.

Eli Lilly and Company is the Title Sponsor of the entire 2011-2012 Lilly *Classical Series* and ExactTarget is the Premiere Sponsor for the Lilly *Classical Series*. KeyBank is the Title Sponsor for the Thursday morning KeyBank *Coffee Classical Series* and Indianapolis Power and Light Company is the Premiere Sponsor for the Thursday morning program. The pre-concert "Words on Music" presentations are sponsored by Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield.

Artist Biographies:

Rossen Milanov currently is in his second season as Music Director of the Princeton Symphony Orchestra and previously served for 11 years as Associate Conductor of The Philadelphia Orchestra, where he conducted many subscription concerts and other outreach initiatives for that venerable orchestra. A strong advocate of youth and music, he is Music Director of the New Symphony Orchestra (a youth orchestra in his native Bulgaria) and Symphony in C, one of America's top training orchestras. In North America, he has conducted many of America's major orchestras and internationally, Milanov has worked with the BBC Symphony Orchestra, Scottish Chamber Orchestra, Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, Tokyo Symphony Orchestra, and regularly tours the Far East with appearances in Japan, China, Hong Kong and South Korea as well as visits to New Zealand and Australia. He received an Award for Extraordinary Contribution to Bulgarian Culture and in 2005 was Bulgaria's Musician of the Year.

Khatia Buniatishvili burst onto the international music scene in 2008 when she was a prize winner at the Arthur Rubinstein International Piano Master Competition, followed by her selection as a BBC New Generation Artist in 2009 and the prestigious London Borletti-Buitoni Trust Award in 2010. She has appeared with many of the world's top orchestras, including The Philadelphia Orchestra, Israel Philharmonic, St. Petersburg Philharmonic, Munich Philharmonic, Orchestre de Paris and NDR Hamburg Symphony Orchestra, among others, and has performed at the Musikverein, Concertgebouw and Wigmore Hall in her still-rising career. Recognizing Buniatishvili's skilled artistry, Vienna's Musikverein has nominated her for the European "Rising Star" Award, which has brought further performance invitations and re-engagements from leading presenters on the continent.

In Brief:

Pianist Khatia Buniatishvili makes her ISO debut in performances of Rachmaninoff's Second Piano Concerto to highlight this *Classical Series* concert weekend at Clowes Memorial Hall

Performers: Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra

Conductor: Rossen Milanov

Soloist: Khatia Buniatishvili, Piano

Location: Clowes Memorial Hall, 4602 Sunset Avenue

Dates & Times: Thurs., Jan. 26, 11 a.m.; Fri., Jan. 27, 8 p.m.; Sat., Jan. 28, 5:30 p.m.

Repertoire:

SHOSTAKOVICH *Festive Overture*, Op. 96

RACHMANINOFF Piano Concerto No. 2 in C Minor, Op. 18

PROKOFIEV Symphony No. 4 in C Major, Op. 112 ("The Prodigal Son")

Tickets: \$20-\$46 (Thurs. a.m.); \$20-\$75 (Fri. & Sat.); (317) 639-4300; Toll Free (800) 366-8457; online at www.IndianapolisSymphony.org

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