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Faculty concert: Leslie Parnas and Tong-II Han, February 24, 1999

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*Boston University School for the Arts
Music Division*

—presents—

FACULTY CONCERT

LESLIE PARNAS

cello

TONG-IL HAN

piano

xx

Wednesday, February 24, 1999 at 8:00 p.m.
Tsai Performance Center
685 Commonwealth Avenue
Boston, Massachusetts

FACULTY CONCERT

LESLIE PARNAS, *cello*

TONG-IL HAN, *piano*

Wednesday, February 24, 1999

8:00 p.m.

PROGRAM

Sonata No. 1 in E minor, Op. 38

Johannes Brahms
(1833-1897)

Allegro non troppo
Allegretto quasi Menuetto - Trio
Allegro

Sonata in D minor, Op. 40

Dmitri Shostakovich
(1906-1975)

Allegro non troppo
Allegro
Largo
Allegro

—Intermission—

Sonata in G minor, Op. 19

Sergei Rachmaninoff
(1873-1943)

Lento - Allegro moderato
Allegro scherzando
Andante
Allegro mosso

Korean-born pianist **Tong-II Han** already enjoyed an impressive career when he was named the first prize winner of the 24th International Leventritt Piano Competition at Carnegie Hall by Leonard Bernstein, the chairman of the distinguished international jury. By the age of fifteen, he had appeared with the New York Philharmonic, Cleveland Orchestra, Denver Symphony, Montreal Symphony, Quebec Symphony, Indianapolis Symphony, and also appeared on *The Ed Sullivan Show*, *The Arthur Godfrey Show*, and *The Voice of Firestone*. In 1962, he was invited to perform in the East Room of the White House for First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy and other distinguished international guests, and in October 1973 he was awarded the Order of Civil Service Merit, Moran (Peony) by the President of the Republic of Korea.

Tong-II Han received his early musical training from his father beginning at the age of four. At age twelve he was accepted into the Preparatory Division of the Juilliard School of Music in New York, where he studied under Madame Rosina Lhevinne. From the summer of 1963, he also studied under Madame Ilona Kabos. He received both his bachelors and masters degree in music from Juilliard.

Mr. Han has performed over one thousand concerts in over twenty-five countries. He has performed with many leading orchestras around the world, including the New York Philharmonic, Chicago Symphony, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Cleveland Orchestra, Detroit Symphony, Minneapolis Orchestra, Cincinnati Orchestra, London Philharmonic, Royal Philharmonic, Scottish National Orchestra, Halle Orchestra, Oslo Philharmonic, Monte Carlo Philharmonic, Polish Radio National Orchestra, Budapest Radio Symphony Orchestra, and London Mozart Players.

Mr. Han has performed with many of the great conductors such as Herbert Blomstedt, Edo de Waart, Raphael Fruhbeck de Burgos, Charles Dutoit, Lukas Foss, Sir Alexander Gibson, Sir Charles Groves, Bernard Haitink, Eugen Jochum, Raymond Leppard, Sir John Pritchard, Stanislaw Skrowaczewski, Antoni Wit, and David Zinman.

The list of Mr. Han's recordings for Phillips (Korea), Sung-Eum (PolyGram, Korea), and the SKC Label includes Chopin's preludes, ballades and scherzos and works by Mozart, Franck and Schubert with violinist Ik-Hwan Bae. His most recent compact discs feature Beethoven's "Tempest", "Waldstein" and "Lebewohl" sonatas, as well as sonatas by Schubert and Brahms. Recordings of the last five Beethoven piano sonatas were released in 1994 and 1995, as well as the Brahms sonatas for cello and piano and Schumann's *Fantasiestucke*, performed with cellist Leslie Parnas.

As the artistic director of the Tong-II Han Piano Institute, Mr. Han holds annual summer piano festivals in different locations around the world. Mr. Han has taught at Indiana University, Illinois State University and North Texas State University. Currently he is a Professor of Music at Boston University.

MEET THE ARTISTS

Leslie Parnas enjoys a distinguished international career as one of the foremost cellists of his generation. Renowned not only for his technical prowess but also for the gorgeous depth of tone and profound musicality of playing, Leslie Parnas is loved and admired by audiences, critics and fellow musicians the world over.

Born in St. Louis, Missouri into a musical family, Mr. Parnas began studying the piano at the age of five and the cello at age eight. He progressed rapidly and made his first solo debut at age fourteen with the St. Louis Symphony. At sixteen, he entered the Curtis Institute, where he studied with Gregor Piatigorsky. For fourteen years, he was principal cellist of the Casals Festival Orchestra in Prades, France and Puerto Rico. In 1955, he became principal cellist of the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra. He made his major recital debut at Town Hall in New York City in 1959.

Leslie Parnas counts as his musical mentors two legendary cellists of our time: Pablo Casals, with whom he studied and worked closely for many years, and Gregor Piatigorsky. In 1957, he won the Geneva and Munich International Cello Competitions, as well as the first Prix Pablo Casals at the Paris Competition. In 1962, Mr. Parnas triumphed at the Tchaikovsky International Competition. In 1990 he returned to Moscow as a juror for this prestigious event.

Mr. Parnas has been honored with invitations to perform at the White House for Presidents Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan. He is much celebrated in Russia, where he has returned repeatedly for performances of chamber music as well as concerto appearances with the Leningrad Philharmonic. Mr. Parnas has performed with major orchestras such as the Chicago Symphony, New York Philharmonic, Philadelphia Orchestra, Boston Symphony, National Symphony, and St. Louis Symphony Orchestras, as well as the Hamburg and Moscow Symphonies. He has worked under the direction of eminent conductors such as Eugene Ormandy, Erich Leinsdorf, Henryk Szeryng and Lorin Maazel, and has collaborated with numerous prominent artists including, among others, Jean-Pierre Rampal, Isaac Stern, Yehudi Menuhin, Jaime Laredo, Josef Suk, Alexander Schneider, and Rudolf Serkin. He has recorded for the Arcadia, Columbia, and Vanguard labels.

Mr. Parnas has appeared at countless summer festivals such as Mostly Mozart, Marlboro, Tanglewood, Casals, London and Spoleto. He performs regularly as a charter member of the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center and tours widely with the Buswell-Parnas-Luvisi Trio. He was Artistic Director of the Kneisel Hall Summer Music School in Blue Hill, Maine for twelve years, and currently serves on the faculty of Boston University.

Mr. Parnas plays the celebrated "Rosette" Gofriller cello dated 1698. Named after its carved rosette decoration, this instrument is considered both the finest and the most unusual example of the master's work.

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