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School of Music

Boston University Concert Programs

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1995-04-03

# Faculty recital: Roman Totenberg and Shizue Sano, April 3, 1995

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*Boston University School for the Arts  
Music Division*

—presents—

FACULTY RECITAL

ROMAN TOTENBERG, *violin*

—with Guest Artist—

SHIZUE SANO, *piano*

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Monday, April 3, 1995 at 8:00 p.m.  
The Tsai Performance Center  
685 Commonwealth Avenue  
Boston, Massachusetts

ROMAN TOTENBERG, *violin*

—with Guest Artist—

SHIZUE SANO, *piano*

Monday, April 3, 1995

8:00 p.m.

**PROGRAM**

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Sonata in A major, Op. 100

Johannes Brahms  
(1833-1897)

Allegro Amabile  
Andante Tranquillo—Vivace—Andante  
Allegretto grazioso quasi Andante

Phantasy, Op. 47

Arnold Schoenberg  
(1874-1951)

Poëme

Ernest Chausson  
(1855-1899)

—Intermission—

Romance in F minor, Op. 11

Antonin Dvorák  
(1841-1904)

Fountain of Arêthus, Op. 30, No. 1

Karol Szymanowski  
(1882-1937)

“Chants d’Espagne”

Joaquín Nin  
(1879-1949)

Montañesa  
Tonada Murciana  
Granadina

Dance from *Lavida Breve*  
(*trans. Kreisler*)

Manuel De Falla  
(1876-1946)

## PROGRAM NOTES

The Brahms Second Sonata is often called the "Thun" Sonata because it was composed in the resort where Brahms spent some of his happiest summers with his friends. The music reflects this happy mood, and of the three violin sonatas, it is the most concise and perfect in its form.

Some of Brahms' friends noted that the opening theme is similar to "Meistersinger" to which the composer retorted "any donkey can see that."

Arnold Schoenberg's *Phantasy*, composed at the end of his life, was dedicated to Adolph Koldofsky. Mr. Totenberg played its first public performance in Santa Barbara, California, with Soulima Stravinsky at the piano and the composer in the audience.

Ernest Chausson, French composer, was a friend of Debussy and Ysaÿe to whom *Poème* is dedicated. Chausson was very close to the French Impressionist movement. After the first inspired performance of *Poème* by Ysaÿe, this composition became a favorite in the violin repertory.

Karol Szymanowski, the foremost Polish composer of his generation, was inspired by a trip to Greece to write the *Fountain of Aréthusa*, based on the myth of that name. From 1934-1937 Mr. Totenberg concertized in London, Paris and Copenhagen with the composer playing piano.

Spanish composers have a long tradition of love for string music. Joaquín Nin, as well as Manuel de Falla, gave us wonderful images of their national heritage.

## MEET THE ARTISTS

**Roman Totenberg** was born in Poland, and made his debut with the Warsaw Philharmonic when he was eleven years old. Soon after his Berlin debut, he performed with every major European orchestra, making recordings and eventually playing with major orchestras in the United States, also performing at the White House and the Library of Congress.

As a young artist he toured South America with Artur Rubenstein, and played joint recitals with the great Polish composer Karol Szymanowski. In 1933, Totenberg met composer Darius Milhaud after his Paris debut, which Milhaud had reviewed. More than two decades later, Totenberg, with the composer conducting, would play premiere performances of Milhaud's *2nd Violin Concerto* in Aspen, Colorado and with the Berlin Philharmonic.

These concerts were among a number of first performances that Totenberg would play over the years. These include the Samuel Barber *Violin Concerto* (new version), *Capriccio* by Krzysztof Penderecki with the Berlin Philharmonic, compositions for violin and orchestra by Gardner Read and Darius Milhaud commissioned by Boston Winterfest, and the sonatas of Hindemith, Honneger and Martinu.

Totenberg continues performing as a soloist with orchestra, in recital and in chamber music concerts. As his reputation for concert performances has grown, so too has his reputation for fine teaching and musical expertise. In 1983, he was named Artist Teacher of the Year by the American String Teachers Association. Currently teaching at Boston University, he headed the String Department there from 1961-1978 and was appointed co-chair of the String Department in 1994. He taught at the Mannes School of Music in New York, headed the string department of the Peabody Conservatory of Music, Baltimore, and the Longy School of Music, where he was Director from 1978-1985.

His summers have blended teaching and performing. Since 1975 he has played and taught chamber music in Kneisel Hall at Blue Hill, Maine. Prior to that he taught and played at the Tanglewood Festival, the Aspen Music Festival, the Music Academy of the West, and Salzburg's Mozarteum.

Mr. Totenberg has recorded under various labels, including Musical Heritage, Vanguard, Deutsche Grammophon (DGG), Telefunken, Philips and Da Camera. In 1989 a compact disc of the Brahms and Lipinski violin concerti was released under the Titanic label. It was on the list of that year's outstanding recordings. In 1992, two Totenberg compact discs were released: the Ernest Bloch *Violin Concerto* and Bartók's *Rhapsody for Violin and Orchestra* (Vanguard/Omega), and Beethoven's *Violin Concerto* with Szymanowski's *Violin Concerto, Opus 35 No. 1* (VQR).

In 1988, Mr. Totenberg was awarded a medal of merit by the Polish government for his life-long cultural contributions to Polish society.

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Pianist Shizue Sano, born in Nagoya, Japan, came to the United States after completing her undergraduate study at the Toho Gakuen School of Music in Tokyo. She went on to study at Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana, where she earned the Artist Diploma and Master of Music degrees both with high distinction. Her teachers include Sadako Matsuoka, Gyorgy Sebok, Edward Auer, Victor Rosenbaum and Roman Totenberg.

Ms. Sano has attended many national and international competitions and has won several important prizes, including the Simone Belsky Music Award (1991), the Liszt Special Prize, and second prize at St. Nom-la-Breteche, France (1990), and the JAA Music Award in New York (1989). In 1991 she received an award for her contribution to the cultural life of her native Tokai, Japan. Ms. Sano has appeared in recitals and as a featured artist with orchestras both in the United States and abroad. She has performed with the Tokyo Philharmonic and the Nagoya Philharmonic Orchestras. Her performances were broadcast on television and radio in the United States, Japan and Belgium. She has recorded Chopin's complete preludes on CD for the Victor label. Currently she lives in Methuen, Massachusetts, and teaches at the Longy School of Music.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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April 5  
8:00 p.m.

**Opera Scenes**  
**Will Graham, director**  
**Joy McIntyre, director**  
The Tsai Performance Center  
685 Commonwealth Avenue

April 10  
8:00 p.m.

**Time's Arrow**  
**The New Music Ensemble of Boston University**  
**Richard Cornell, director**  
The Tsai Performance Center  
685 Commonwealth Avenue

April 11  
6:30 p.m.

**Anne & Aaron Richmond**  
**Competition for Pianists**  
The Tsai Performance Center  
685 Commonwealth Avenue

April 13  
8:00 p.m.

**Boston University Symphonic Chorus and Orchestra**  
**Christopher Kendall, conductor**  
**Ann Howard Jones, conductor**  
The Tsai Performance Center  
685 Commonwealth Avenue

April 17  
8:00 p.m.

**Faculty Artist Series**  
**Andrés Díaz, cello**  
**Samuel Sanders, guest artist, piano**  
The Tsai Performance Center  
685 Commonwealth Avenue

April 18  
8:00 p.m.

**Faculty Recital**  
**Douglas Wright, trombone**  
The Tsai Performance Center  
685 Commonwealth Avenue

*for further information, please call 353-3349 or 353-TSAI.*

# *Boston University School for the Arts*

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