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The Celebration of Lithuanian Culture, February 17, 2010

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Boston University College of Fine Arts
School of Music presents

ONLINE



THE
CELEBRATION
OF
LITHUANIAN
CULTURE

MUSIC | DANCE | FINE ARTS

Wednesday, February 17, 2010
Tsai Performance Center
685 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston

**BOSTON
UNIVERSITY**

Founded in 1873, the **School of Music** combines the intimacy and intensity of conservatory training with a broadly based, traditional liberal arts education at the undergraduate level and intense coursework at the graduate level. The school offers degrees in performance, composition and theory, musicology, music education, collaborative piano, historical performance, as well as a certificate program in its Opera Institute artist and performance diplomas.

In 1954, the **College of Fine Arts** was created to bring together the School of Music, along with two new entities: the School of Theatre and the School of Visual Arts. The University's vision was to create a community of artists in a conservatory-style school offering professional training in the arts to both undergraduate and graduate students, complemented by a liberal arts curriculum for undergraduate students. Since those early days, education at the College of Fine Arts has begun on the BU campus and extended into the city of Boston, a rich center of cultural, artistic and intellectual activity.

Boston University, founded in 1839, is an internationally recognized institution of higher education and research. With more than 30,000 students, it is the fourth largest independent university in the United States. BU contains 17 colleges and schools, along with a number of multi-disciplinary centers and institutes that are central to the school's research and teaching mission.

**Boston University College of Fine Arts
School of Music**

The Celebration of Lithuanian Culture
The 145th event in the 2009–10 season

February 17, 2010
Tsai Performance Center

7:00 pm Exhibit of Artwork by Algimantas Jonas Švėgžda
Watercolors, Oil Pastels, Zincographs,
Lithographs and Pencil Sketches

7:30 pm GALA PERFORMANCE

Welcome

His Excellency Ambassador of the Republic of
Lithuania to the USA – Mr. Audrius Brūzga

The Lithuanian Folk Song Ensemble of Boston –
led by Gita Kupčinskienė:

“Praaušė dienele”

“Pragydo, gydo” – with kanklės and lumzdeliai

“Žemė Lietuvos” – with audience participation

Eglė Špokaitė (prima ballerina) and
Martynas Švėgžda von Bekker (violin):
Camille Saint-Saens – “Swan”

BU Students –

Julia Okrusko, Klaudia Szlachta,
Konstantin Rybakov:

Two Pieces for Three Violins

by Martynas Švėgžda von Bekker
from the cycle “Sound and Word”:

“Chrysanthemums” and “Imago”

Eglė Špokaitė and Martynas Rimeikis
from Sergej Prokofiev’s ballet –
“Romeo and Juliet”

Choreography: K. Simonov

Amber Flute Quartet

Ona Jonaitytė, Ilona Kudina
Agita Cerusa Arista, Bethanne Walker:
Jonas Tamulionis "Sea"

Mindaugas Baužys and Vilia Putrius dance:

Frederic Chopin's Waltz #7
from Ballet "Chopinguana"
Choreography: M. Fokin

Gabrielius Alekna (piano):

Vytautas Bacevičius
Two pieces from the cycle "Photographs"

Eglė Špokaitė and Martynas Rimeikis dance:

"Tango" by Astor Piazzolla
Choreography: A. Cholina

Martynas Švėgžda von Bekker (violin), Ginta Bistras (piano):

Maurice Ravel "Tzigane" Rhapsody

Eglė Špokaitė, Martynas Rimeikis, Mindaugas Baužys dance:

Georges Bizet – Rodion Shchedrine from ballet "Carmen"
Choreography: K. Pastor

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LITHUANIA MILLENNIUM

1009 – 2009

PERFORMERS

The Lithuanian Folk Song Ensemble formed for this special event from various Lithuanian singing groups in eastern Massachusetts. The singers are active participants in the following: the Boston Lithuanian Men's Sextet, Dolija Folk Ensemble of Worcester, Jaunos Širdys, Choir of St. Peter's Lithuanian Parish in South Boston and Sodauto, the Lithuanian Folk Ensemble of Greater Boston.

Gabrielius Alekna is the first Lithuanian to hold a Doctor of Music Arts degree from the Juilliard School. The winner of the second prize at the 2005 International Beethoven Piano Competition in Vienna, Austria, Mr. Alekna has appeared as a soloist with the Vienna Radio Symphony Orchestra (RSO Wien), and has been a featured soloist with the Juilliard Orchestra in NY and with the Belarus State Symphony Orchestra in Minsk. While in Lithuania, he appears regularly with major orchestras like the National Symphony, the State Symphony, the Lithuanian Chamber Orchestra and the Christopher Chamber Orchestra. Mr. Alekna has earned over a dozen top prizes in competitions on both sides of the Atlantic, such as Hilton Head (US), Maria Canals (Spain) and Čiurlionis (Lithuania). Currently, he is collaborating with producer Judith Sherman and pianist Ursula Oppens in recording the complete *Mots* of the Lithuanian composer Vytautas Bacevičius for the British "Toccat Classics" label.

Agita Arista Cerusa lives in Lincoln, Massachusetts, where she and her husband Miguel S. Arista, have founded the highly respected flute company "Miguel S. Arista Flutes." In 2008, she established "Agita Arista's scholarship" for Latvian flutists of all ages. Arista studied at the Music College of Jelgava, J. Vitols Latvian Academy. From 1999 to 2000, she studied flute at the Conservatory of Luxembourg. She has won prizes in national and international competitions, among them International Chamber Music Competition in Klaipėda, Lithuania (2003), 3rd International Duo Competition in Katrineholm, Sweden (2004), A. Tansman 5th International Competition of Musical Personalities in Lodz, Poland (2004). Agita has continued perfecting her flute and chamber music skills by attending classes under Craig Goodman, Anette Joffoldi and William Bennett.

Mindaugas Baužys was born in Ylakai, Lithuania. He studied in the ballet division of the National M.K. Čiurlionis Arts School in Vilnius. Mr. Baužys performed with the Lithuanian National Opera and Ballet Theater, Ballet Arlington (TX), and the Boston Ballet (MA). Currently, he is dancing and teaching at the Festival Ballet Providence (RI). Mr. Baužys has danced solo and principal roles in a variety of classical and modern ballets. He has toured in Europe, Asia and North America. Mindaugas is a winner of the International New York Competition and the Baltic Assembly in the arts category. He was awarded the Medal of Grand Duke Gediminas by the President of Lithuania.

Ginta Bistras received her Master of Music degree and completed postgraduate studies in Piano Performance at the Academy of Music of Lithuania.

She also completed additional studies at Mozarteum School in Salzburg, Austria. She was invited to serve on the Collaborative Piano faculty at the Academy of Music of Lithuania. After moving to the US, she taught piano at St. Xavier University of Chicago and continued her active concert life as a soloist and chamber music performer, specializing in vocal and violin repertoire. From 1986 to 1996, Ginta and Martynas Švėgžda von Bekker performed internationally as a duet. Currently, they have renewed their collaboration and will perform and record together again.

Ona Jonaitytė has won several flute competitions, including 1st prize at the 27th James Pappoutsakis Competition (Boston 2007), Yamaha Woodwind Competition (Lithuania 2008), and the International Juodkrantė Flute Competition (Lithuania 2005). In 2007, the Greater Boston Flute Association chose Ms. Jonaitytė as their New Horizon's Artist. In 2004, Ona studied in France, at the Lyon National Conservatory of Music and Dance with Mr. Philippe Bernold and Mrs. Emannelle Reville. In 2006, she graduated from the Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theater with a Master's degree in Performance and Teaching. Currently, Ms. Jonaitytė is an Artist Diploma student of Linda Toote at the Boston Conservatory, where, in 2008, she received a Graduate Performance diploma.

Ilna Kudina, the quartet leader, is an active freelance artist and educator, performing regularly in the Boston—New York area. She holds both a Master's degree in Flute Performance from the Latvian Academy of Music and also a Diploma in Jazz Flute Performance from the Berklee College of Music. Ms. Kudina is an artist with a creative mind, always open to new experiences. She founded the "Amber Flute Quartet", where she was joined by colleagues Ona Jonaitytė, Agita Cerusa-Arista and Indra Ozola, and with whom she has participated in other collaborations.

Julia Okrusko was born in Vilnius, Lithuania. She started her violin studies at the National M.K. Čiurlionis Arts School in Vilnius. Julia received her Bachelor's degree from the Lithuanian Music and Theater Academy, and her Master's degree and Performance diploma at Boston University, where she studied with Dana Mazurkevich. Julia is a winner of numerous international and national competitions. She has performed in Russia, Lithuania, Estonia, Latvia, Denmark, the Netherlands, Germany, France, Italy, Switzerland, Austria, Turkey, and the USA, as a soloist and member of various ensembles.

Vilia Putrius was born in Klaipėda, Lithuania. She is a graduate of the M.K. Čiurlionis Arts School in Vilnius, Ballet division. She has performed with the Lithuanian National Opera and Ballet Theater. This ballet troupe has toured the Netherlands, Denmark, Greece, Japan, Egypt, France and the USA. She has also performed with the Arlington Ballet Troupe and the Boston Ballet. Currently, she is dancing and teaching at the Festival Ballet, Providence. Her roles are: *Té chore*, G. Balanchine's ballet "Apollo", *Juliet*, P. Mejia's ballet "Romeo and Juliet", *Odeta/Odilia*, ballet "Swan Lake", *Zizel*, ballet "Zizel", and *Nurida*, E. Alievo's "A

Thousand and One Nights."

Martynas Rimeikis was born in Vilnius, Lithuania and is a graduate of the Vilnius Ballet School. Since 1999, he has performed with the Lithuanian National Opera and Ballet Theater. His repertoire has included *Jorgos* "Zorba the Greek", choreography L. Masin, *Espada* "Don Quixote", *Hans* "Zizel", *Prince* "Cinderella", *Prince* "Snow White and Seven Dwarfs", *Chose* "Carmen", choreography A. Cholina and *Othello* "Dezdemona", choreography K. Simonov.

Konstantin Rybakov began playing violin at the age of six. He studied at the special music school in his home town of Ekaterinburg, Russia, and afterwards enrolled at the Ural State Conservatory "M.P. Mussorgsky", where he graduated with honors in June 2009. Since September, he is pursuing a Performance Diploma at Boston University, with a full scholarship, under the supervision of Professor Mazurkevich. Konstantin has attended many international competitions in Europe and Russia, where he has performed chamber music and as a soloist.

Elga Špokaitė was born in Vilnius, Lithuania. She graduated from the Vilnius Ballet School. She has been a solo dancer of the Lithuanian as well as the Latvian National Opera and Ballet Theater. Also, she has been guest solo dancer at the Georgian Opera and Ballet Theater, Latvian and Finnish National Operas. She has won 1st prize at the competition of Open Russian Ballet Theater in Perm: Special Prize for the best duet performance – 1994, 1st prize at the International Ballet Competition in Helsinki – 1995, and 1st prize at the International Ballet Competition in Nagoya – 1996. Her roles are: *Svanilda* in "Copelia", *Giselle* in "Giselle", *Aurora* in "Sleeping Beauty", *Odetta/Odillya* in "Swan Lake", *Juliet* in "Romeo and Juliet", choreographies by V. Vasiliev and by K. Simonov, *Kitry* "Don Quixote", *Carmen* in "Carmen", choreogr. K. Pastor, "A Midsummer Night Dream" – K. Pastor, "Zorba the Greek" – L. Masin, "Le Sacre du Printemps", "Silver Veil" – K. Pastor, *Desdemona* in "Otello" (drama performance by Eimuntas Nekrošius), "Red Giselle", "Russian Hamlet" – B. Eifman, *Dezdemona* in "Dezdemona" – K. Simonov.

Martynas Švėgžda von Bekker is a famous Lithuanian violinist. He began playing violin at the age of five and studied at the M.K. Čiurlionis Arts School, the Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theater and Hochschule fur Musik und Theater, Hamburg. Since the early 90's he has performed solo with numerous orchestras throughout Europe and Russia, such as the Berliner Symphoniker under the direction of Hans Dieter Baum, the Georgian, Hamburg and Lithuanian Philharmonic orchestras as well as the Helsinki Chamber Orchestra. He is a winner of five international competitions, most notably, the Johannes Brahms. Martynas is a full time violin teacher at the Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theater and has collaborated with his master classes in the *Magister Musicae* project. He is also the artistic director of the Alternative Classical Music Festival in Vilnius. Since 1997, he has been appointed as

a Honorary Cultural Attaché of the Republic of Lithuania. Currently, he is on a Fulbright Scholarship, as a lecturer, at the Boston University College of Fine Arts, School of Music.

Klaudia Szlachta graduated from the Fryderyk Chopin Music High School in Cracov. She has won numerous awards and honors in Poland, including the First Prize and Grand Prix at the National Violin Competition in Elblag. She received a Bachelor of Music degree from the Boston Conservatory and Master's in Music degree from Boston University College of Fine Arts. She won the BU Bach Competition Violin Prize as well as a competition which led her to perform the "Szymanowski Violin Concerto" with the Boston University Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Mr. David Hoose. Currently, she is a doctoral candidate at Boston University, where she studies with Professor Yuri Mazurkevich.

Bethanne Walker, a native of Eugene, Oregon, currently attends the Boston Conservatory and plans to graduate in 2011 with a Bachelor of Music degree in Flute Performance. In 2006, she won the concerto competition with the Eugene Youth Symphony and in 2008, the Boston Conservatory Honors Chamber Music Competition. In the summer of 2009, she had the honor of performing with the celebrated modern music composer George Crumb's daughter, Ann Crumb, at the Bowdoin International Music Festival, in a performance of Crumb's "Night of the Four Moons." This year, Bethanne had the opportunity to perform with "Juventas New Music Ensemble" in Boston, playing works by composers under 35 years old.

Visiting dancers from Lithuania are sponsored by:
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February 18–20, 7:30pm

Sunday, February 21, 2:00pm

Così Fan Tutte
BU Theatre Mainstage

Monday, February 22, 7:30pm

Faculty Recital Series
It's All About Strings
Bayla Keyes, violin
Tsai Performance Center

Thursday, February 25, 7:30pm

Boston University Wind Ensemble
David Martins, conductor
Tsai Performance Center

Saturday, February 27, 4:30pm

Sunday, February 28, 6:30pm

Opera Marathon Weekend
Concert Hall

Tuesday, March 2, 7:30pm

ALEA III: Celebrating Lukas
Theodore Antoniou, conductor
Tsai Performance Center

Wednesday, March 3, 7:30pm

Muir String Quartet:
The Beethoven Cycle, Part 5
Tsai Performance Center

Thursday, March 4, 7:30pm

Boston University Symphony Orchestra:
In Memory of Lukas Foss
David Hoose, conductor
Tsai Performance Center

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