

//PRESS RELEASE



CAL POLY POMONA



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**Shpachenko and Friends Chamber Music Festival “Romantic Gems” features special guest artists Benjamin Truchi, cello and Grace Fong, piano**

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Wednesday, February 13th, 8:00 PM in the Cal Poly Pomona Music Recital Hall. Tickets are \$15 general/\$10 student, available at <http://csupomona.tix.com> or through the Publicity Office, 24-142, (909) 869-3554

**SPECIAL EVENT: SHPACHENKO & FRIENDS CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL**

Please join the Music Department for the Winter 2014 Shpachenko & Friends Chamber Music Festival titled “Romantic Gems” on Thursday, February 13th at 8:00pm in the Music Recital Hall. Dr. Nadia Shpachenko, recognized across the globe for her solo and collaborative performances proudly welcomes prize-winning guest artists - American pianist Grace Fong and French cellist Benjamin Truchi to perform an exciting program of Romantic chamber works by Schumann and Brahms.

Describing the event, Dr. Shpachenko says “I first met Grace Fong in the 90s, when we both entered the piano studio of the legendary professor John Perry at USC. Dr. Fong is now an internationally acclaimed concert pianist and professor, with a busy schedule of performances in major venues and with major orchestras world-wide. I am very excited about our upcoming collaboration, performing 16 Waltzes by Brahms. Two more works for cello and piano by Schumann and Brahms will be performed by Grace Fong and award-winning French cellist Benjamin Truchi. This will be an engaging evening of 19th century music composed by two inspiring musical icons and close friends!”

Dr. Fong will also present a free Piano Master Class at 12 pm the same day.

**CONCERT PROGRAM**

- Robert Schumann • Adagio and Allegro, Op. 70
- Johannes Brahms • 16 Waltzes for Piano Four-Hands, Op. 39
- Johannes Brahms • Sonata for Piano and Cello in E minor, Op. 38

Cal Poly Pomona Music Department presents:  
*Shpachenko and Friends Chamber Music Festival*

# Romantic Gems

Performances by  
Benjamin Truchi, cello  
Grace Fong, piano  
Nadia Shpachenko, piano

Robert Schumann • Adagio and Allegro, Op. 70  
Johannes Brahms • 16 Waltzes for Piano Four-Hands, Op. 39  
Johannes Brahms • Sonata for Piano and Cello in E minor, Op. 38

February 13, 2014  
Concert 8:00pm  
Music Recital Hall  
Tickets \$15/\$10

Grace Fong

Benjamin Truchi

Free Master Class  
with Dr. Grace Fong  
12:00 pm Music Recital Hall

Tickets available at the Music Box Office  
or online at <http://csupomona.tix.com>

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Benjamin Truchi, cello and Grace Fong, piano**

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**ABOUT THE ARTISTS**



**DR. GRACE FONG** is a prize-winning pianist with an international career as a concerto soloist, recitalist, chamber musician, and contemporary keyboardist. Praised as “positively magical” (Cleveland Plain Dealer), and “immediately a revelation” (Arizona Central), American pianist Grace Fong has gained critical acclaim in the United States, Canada, Europe, and Asia. She has been featured at major venues from Weill Hall at Carnegie Hall, to the Kennedy Center, Phillips Collection, Hollywood Bowl, Great Hall in Leeds, UK, Reinberger Hall at Severance Hall, the Liszt Academy in Budapest, Konzerthaus Dortmund, Germany. Radio and television broadcasts have included British Broadcasting Company, “Performance Today” on National Public Radio, WCLV-FM 104.9 in Cleveland, KUSC 91.5 FM in Los Angeles, the “Emerging Young Artists” series in New York. She has performed as soloist with the Halle Orchestra in the United Kingdom, the Polish Chamber Orchestra, the Indianapolis Chamber Orchestra, the Indianapolis Symphony

Orchestra, Music Academy of the West Festival Orchestra, the Olympia Philharmonic Orchestra, among others.

Described by one critic as possessing “technical brilliance, infectious energy and sheer enjoyment of music making” (BC News), Dr. Fong is a prizewinner of numerous international competitions, including the prestigious Leeds in the United Kingdom, Bosendorfer, San Antonio, Viardo in New York, and Cleveland. Dr. Fong is also the winner of one of America’s most prestigious piano awards, the 2009 Christel DeHaan Classical Fellowship of the American Pianists Association, (the first female winner in 12 years). She also won the Grand Prize in piano from the National Foundation for the Advancement of the Arts, thereafter named a “Presidential Scholar in the Arts”, and presented with a medallion by the President of the United States at the White House.

Dr. Fong is currently the Director of Keyboard Studies at Chapman University Conservatory of Music where she was awarded the faculty excellence award at the Conservatory of Music. An enthusiastic supporter of the education of young musicians, Dr. Fong has served as guest artist and teacher at the Innsbrook Summer Festival, the New Hampshire Music Festival, the Salt Spring Piano Festival, the Montecito Summer Festival; Festival Les Recontres de Moita, Corsica; and the Schlern International Music Festival. As a distinguished chamber artist, she has been invited to perform at the Sitka Chamber Music Festival, Innsbrook Institute Festival, Chamber Music International, the Missouri River Arts Festival, the Callian Festival, France; Musica in Collina Festival, Italy. She is the Artistic Director of the Chapman University Hall-Musco Conservatory of Music President’s Piano Series.

Dr. Fong has embarked on a series of collaborations with dancers, filmmakers, fashion designers, artists, and also enjoys performing music that crosses the genres of classical, jazz and Latin lounge. She is a frequent guest artist with three-time Grammy nominee, Pink Martini, which has been described as the house band of the United Nations. Other collaborations have included: performance with Grammy-winning ensemble, the Parker Quartet; a filming in London for a music video by Oscar nominated & multi-award winning film Director Mike Figgis in collaboration with designers Jimmy Choo and Boudicca. Dr. Fong can be seen on BBC television, Alexander Toradze documentary on WNIT-TV and national PBS; she can be heard on the RED label, and on the Heinz label for Starbucks release.

Dr. Fong’s teachers and mentors include Sergei Babayan, John Perry, Louise Lepley, Paulina Drake, and Norberto Cappone. **For more information, please visit [www.pianistgracefong.com](http://www.pianistgracefong.com)**

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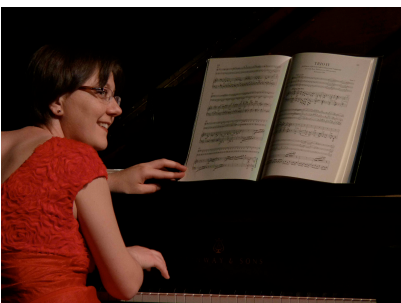
Described as “adventurous, rebellious, and passionate” and a performer who “stands out among the others,” French cellist **BENJAMIN TRUCHI** has established himself on the classical music scene as one of Europe’s most interesting young soloists. He has performed in France, Italy, Austria, Czech Republic, Israel, Belgium, United States, among others. Benjamin is recognized for his superlative artistry, his technical prowess, and his charismatic performing style. He began the cello at the age of 6 in Cannes, and entered the Nice Conservatoire, graduating with a 1st Prize in cello. He then joined the National Academy of Paris (C.N.R.) and obtained his *Perfectionnement* in cello and was thereafter accepted to the prestigious National Conservatory of Music in Paris (C.N.S.M.D.P.) where he graduated at the top of his class with a unanimous 1st Prize in cello.



Since then, he has performed as recitalist, chamber musician, and concerto soloist. He has performed as soloist with the Symphony Orchestra of Lysenko National Musical Academy of Lviv Opera Studio in Ukraine, Provence-Alpes-Cote d’Azur Orchestra, the *Orchestre Symphonique Azuréen*, Chamber Orchestra of Cote d’Azur, among others. He is the 2012 Grand Prize and Public Prize of the 2012 Brahms International Competition, Austria, the winner of the 2011 Schlern International Music Festival Competition, Italy, and the top prizewinner of the 2011 Eilat International Music Festival, Israel.

His teachers have included: Florence Laugenie, Philippe Cauchefer, Frédéric Audibert, Guillermo Lefever, Marc Coppey, Rolland Pidoux, Xavier Phillips, and he has taken part in master classes with internationally renowned cellists: Yvan Chiffolleau, Xavier Gagnepain, Jean Deplace, Marcel Bardon, Alexandre Ivashkin, Vagram Saradjian, Gary Hoffman, Pieter Wispelway, and Jérôme Pernoo.

Pianist **NADIA SHPACHENKO-GOTTESMAN** has performed extensively in solo recitals and with orchestras in major venues across North America, Europe and Asia. Described by critics as a “truly inspiring and brilliant pianist... spellbinding in sensitivity and mastery of technique,” she recently toured Mexico with Orquesta de Baja California, performed with the Kharkov Philharmonic, the Ukrainian National Symphony and the Ukrainian National Radio Symphony Orchestras in Ukraine and the San Bernardino Symphony Orchestra in California. An enthusiastic promoter of contemporary music, she has given world and national premieres of dozens of piano, string piano and toy piano works by composers such as Elliott Carter, Henry Cowell, George Crumb, Tom Flaherty, Yury Ishchenko, Leon Kirchner, Dave Kopplin, James Matheson, Adam Schoenberg, Iannis Xenakis, Peter Yates, and others. As a distinguished chamber musician, Dr. Shpachenko has most recently collaborated with such renowned artists as Emanuel Borok, Martin Chalifour, Maja Jasper, David Korevaar, Genevieve Lee, Julie Landsman, Ronald Leonard, Jerome Lowenthal, Victor Rosenbaum, Marek Szpakiewicz, and the Biava String Quartet.



Dr. Shpachenko is currently Associate Professor of Music at the California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, Adjunct Professor of Music at the Claremont Graduate University, and piano faculty at the Montecito International Music Festival.

In addition, she has recently served as visiting faculty at Pomona College, guest lecturer at the California Institute of the Arts, Artist in Residence at the University of Nevada Las Vegas, and Associate Faculty at the Sarasota International Music Festival. Winner of many international piano competitions, Dr. Shpachenko frequently gives master classes in conservatories and universities in the United States and abroad. She completed her DMA and MM degrees at the University of Southern California, where she was awarded the title of Outstanding Graduate. Her principal teachers included John Perry, Victor Rosenbaum, and Victor Derevianko. Please visit [www.ullanta.com/nadia](http://www.ullanta.com/nadia) to learn more about Dr. Nadia Shpachenko and listen to some of her performances.