



Cal Poly Pomona Music Department

3801 W. Temple Avenue, Pomona, CA 91768

Phone: 909-869-3554 Fax: 909-869-4145

Website: <http://www.cpp.edu/~class/music/>

For Release: March 25, 2015

For Details, Contact:

Teresa Kelly, Music Department Publicist

Email: tkelly@cpp.edu

Phone: 909-869-3554

**Shpachenko & Friends Chamber Music Festival Features Special Guest Artists
Charisse Baldoria, The Lyris Quartet, and Dmitry Rachmanov**

Page 1 of 4

Renowned artist and music department professor, **Nadia Shpachenko**, welcomes a variety of guest artists to present master classes and concert performances as part of the Spring 2015 Shpachenko & Friends Chamber Music Festival.

On April 16th **Charisse Baldoria**, an international prizewinning Filipino pianist, presents a free piano master class at 10am. That same evening at 8pm Baldoria presents an evening recital entitled *Musical Crossroads: Spain and Southeast Asia* where she negotiates with her Filipino identity, juxtaposing the indigenous with the colonial, and performing music from and inspired by Southeast Asia and Spain, of which the Phillipines was a colony for 333 years.

The Lyris Quartet, described as “radiant....excellent....and powerfully engaged” by Mark Swed of the LA Times was founded in 2008, the culmination of years of collaboration between its members in many different ensembles in Los Angeles. The quartet, comprised of violinists Alyssa Park and Shalini Vijayan, violist Luke Maurer, and cellist Timothy Loo, presents a free chamber music master class at 4pm on May 18th and an evening performance with Nadia Shpachenko, piano at 8pm, performing Brahms Piano Quintet in F minor and other works.

Pianist **Dmitry Rachmanov**, who has garnered much acclaim for his passionate performances, refined musicianship and brilliant pianism, will present a free piano master class at 12pm on May 20th and an evening recital at 8pm. A founding member of the Scriabin Society of America, Rachmanov will present a program entitled *Alexander Scriabin: In Memoriam (1915-2015)*.

SHPACHENKO & FRIENDS CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL

Thursday, April 16 @ 10:00am - **Piano Master Class with Charisse Baldoria** - Free

Thursday, April 16 @ 8:00pm - **Charisse Baldoria Piano Recital** - \$15/\$10

Musical Crossroads: Spain and Southeast Asia

Monday, May 18 @ 4:00pm - **Chamber Music Master Class with The Lyris Quartet** - Free

Monday, May 18 @ 8:00pm - **Lyris Quartet with Nadia Shpachenko Performance** - \$15/\$10

Brahms Piano Quintet in F minor and other works

Wednesday, May 20 @ 12:00pm - **Piano Master Class with Dmitry Rachmanov** - Free

Wednesday, May 20 @ 8:00pm - **Dmitry Rachmanov Piano Recital** - \$15/\$10

Alexander Scriabin: In Memoriam (1915-2015)

All events are in the Music Recital Hall. Tickets: <http://csupomona.tix.com> or the Music Box Office #24-188.

**Shpachenko & Friends Chamber Music Festival Features Special Guest Artists
Charisse Baldoria, The Lyris Quartet, and Dmitry Rachmanov**

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

CHARISE BALDORIA

Charisse Baldoria is an international prizewinning Filipino pianist whose repertoire ranges from the traditional classics to Hispanic and Southeast Asian music. At home as a soloist and collaborative musician, she also incorporates dance, poetry, and the visual arts into some of her concerts. Originally a Fulbright scholar from the Philippines, she has given concerts in five continents and was a prizewinner at the San Antonio International Piano Competition. She was also among the top pianists of the Sydney International and Hilton Head Island International piano competitions, first prize winner of the Society for Musical Arts competition, two-time winner of the University of Michigan concerto competition, and first prize winner of numerous competitions in the Philippines.

In her recent programs, she negotiates with her Filipino identity, juxtaposing the indigenous with the colonial, and performing music from and inspired by Southeast Asia and Spain, of which the Philippines was a colony for 333 years. Her new CD called *Evocación* (under the Blue Griffin label) features music inspired by flamenco and tango, with pieces by Albéniz, Piazzolla, Falla, Scarlatti, and Buencamino, a Filipino composer. Her next one will feature music inspired by Southeast Asia with works by Lou Harrison, Colin McPhee, Godowsky, Debussy, Gareth Farr, and others.



She has given a solo recital at the International Festival of Spanish Keyboard Music (FIMTE) in Almería, Spain, a series of concerts sponsored by Spain's Ministry of Culture and the Instituto Cervantes, and concerts in Argentina. Awarded a grant by the Cuban Research Institute, Dr. Baldoria did research at Florida International University's Díaz Ayala Collection, the world's most comprehensive Cuban music collection. Her musical explorations have also taken her to Cuba, Brazil, and Indonesia. She has appeared with orchestras in United States and the Philippines and has also performed in Japan, Australia, Thailand, Myanmar, the Czech Republic, Spain, and Argentina. She was also part of the Satori and Cantatica chamber ensembles.

She has performed with poetry, video, live drawing, and dance in recent concerts, collaborating with dancer Julie Petry, video artist Ron Lambert, visual artist Lisa Corine von Koch, and performance artist Hunter Fine. She was artistic director of "Lumina" which explored the experience of light and darkness as inspired by Southeast Asian folklore, using video art, lighting effects, and dance, and piano music by Harrison, McPhee, Debussy, and Piazzolla. In "*Evocación: Visions of Spain, Cuba, and Southeast Asia*," she juxtaposed pieces from Albéniz' Iberia and music inspired by the Southeast Asian gong ensemble, with live drawing and with poetry by Federico García Lorca and Rainer Maria Rilke. Gifted with perfect pitch, Charisse taught herself to play the piano at age four. She begged her parents to buy a piano, and when it was delivered, sat down and learned how to play, improvising and learning complete songs on her own. She later started formal lessons with Filipino pedagogue Nita Abrogar Quinto, winning numerous competitions since she was eight. While in the Philippines, she also worked as a professional composer-arranger of songs and commercials for companies like Philippine Airlines, PLDT, and the Department of Energy.

As a Fulbright scholar, she studied with Logan Skelton at the University of Michigan, where she also earned a full scholarship for doctoral studies and a \$22,000 Barbour Scholarship on top of a full tuition waiver and stipend. She has taught at the University of the Philippines and Kutztown University and is currently a professor at Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania where she directs the piano area.

Charisse also loves photography, travel, and food. She has gone hang-gliding in Rio, skydiving in Pennsylvania, scuba-diving in the Tubbataha reefs, and enjoys fine cuisine and exotic dishes. [CharisseBaldoria.com]

**Shpachenko & Friends Chamber Music Festival Features Special Guest Artists
Charisse Baldoria, The Lyris Quartet, and Dmitry Rachmanov**

THE LYRIS QUARTET

The Lyris Quartet, described as "radiant...excellent... and powerfully engaged" by Mark Swed of the LA Times, was founded in 2008. The founding of Lyris was the culmination of years of collaboration between its members in many different ensembles in Los Angeles. The individual members of the quartet have won top prizes at such competitions as the Tchaikovsky International Competition and Aspen Music Festival as well as collaborated with renowned artists Natalia Gutman, David Geringas, Martha Argerich, Alban Gerhardt, Boris Pergamenschikov, Guillame Sutre, Myung-Whun Chung, and Richard Stoltzman.

They have collaborated with composers Steve Reich, Krystof Penderecki, Oliver Knussen, Steven Mackey, John Adams, Paquito D'Rivera, Wadada Leo Smith, Gerard Schurmann, and Billy Childs.



They have appeared throughout North America, Europe, and Asia in a diverse range of ensembles including Grammy nominated groups Absolute Ensemble and Southwest Chamber Music, and Orchestra Ensemble Kanazawa as well as solo and chamber appearances in various festivals such as Ravinia, Brahms Festival in Madrid, Music Academy of the West, Banff Centre for the Arts, Czech SommerFest, and Oregon Festival of American Music among others.

In Los Angeles, Lyris has performed at the Bing Theater at Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the Broad Stage, Zipper Hall at The Colburn School, Royce Hall, and Disney Hall. They opened the Long Beach Opera's production of Janacek's Cunning Little Vixen with a featured performance of the "Intimate Letters" quartet and performed the west coast premiere of David Lang's "The Difficulty of Crossing a Field." Other performances have included the South Bay Chamber Music Series, Los Angeles Music Guild, Annenberg Series, and Chamber Music Palisades. This year will mark their third season as the resident ensemble for the critically acclaimed series Jacaranda:Music at the Edge.

The Lyris Quartet also helps to curate the new music series "Hear Now" which helps to promote the music of Los Angeles composers. They have just completed their first album for Toccata Classics which will be released next year. [lyrisquartet.com]

DMITRY RACHMANOV

Dr. Dmitry Rachmanov is Professor of Piano at California State University, Northridge, where he serves as Chair of Keyboard Studies. Hailed as an "indisputable musician" by the Brussels' *Le Soir* and "suave and gifted pianist" by the New York Times, Rachmanov has played at venues such as New York's Carnegie Hall, Washington DC's Kennedy Center, London's Barbican and South Bank Centres, Beijing Concert Hall and Shanghai Oriental Art Center, and his tours have taken him to Mexico, Europe, Russia, Turkey and the Far East. He has recorded for Naxos, Omniclassic, Master Musicians and Vista Vera labels and collaborated as a soloist with Manhattan Philharmonia, Brooklyn Philharmonic, Indianapolis Chamber Orchestra, Orlando Symphony, London Soloists Chamber Orchestra, Ukraine National Symphony, National Orchestra of Porto, Portugal, among others. A strong proponent of the Russian repertoire, he gave the US premiere of Boris Pasternak's Piano Sonata, broadcast nationwide by NPR, and his recital "The Art of the 19th Century Russian Character Piece" was noted by the *New York Times* for the "considerable color and focus" he brought to each work. His most recent world recital tour, featuring works by Alexander Scriabin in commemoration of the composer's



**Shpachenko & Friends Chamber Music Festival Features Special Guest Artists
Charisse Baldoria, The Lyris Quartet, and Dmitry Rachmanov**

100th memorial anniversary, included an appearance at Zankel Hall at Carnegie Hall. The *New York Concert Review* called it “indeed a ‘poem of ecstasy’ in every sense: giant in conception, quantity, quality, execution, thoughtfulness, and sensitivity.”

A sought-after masterclass clinician and lecturer, Dr. Rachmanov has served on the faculties of Manhattan School of Music and Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University. He has appeared as a guest artist at schools such as Royal Northern College of Music, UCLA, University of Chicago, Indiana University at Bloomington, University of Michigan, University of Iowa, University of Oklahoma, University of South Carolina, Shanghai Conservatory and Beijing Central Conservatory. Dr. Rachmanov has been a frequent competition adjudicator in the US and Europe. Rachmanov is a graduate of The Juilliard School and holds a DMA from Manhattan School of Music. His teachers include Nadia Reisenberg and Arkady Aronov, and he coached with Yvonne Lefebure, Karl Ulrich Schnabel, Menahem Pressler and John Browning. He won prizes at the Kapell, Senigallia and Awerbuch competitions, received the ArtsLink grant, was awarded a fellowship from the American Pianists Association, and he was named Jerome Richfield Memorial Scholar of the Year at California State University Northridge. Dmitry Rachmanov is a Steinway Artist. [dmitryrachmanov.com]

NADIA SHPACHENKO

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,” Nadia enjoys bringing into the world things that are out of the box – powerful pieces that often possess unusual sonic qualities or instrumentation. Nadia’s concert highlights include solo recitals at Carnegie Hall, Concertgebouw, and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, as well as numerous appearances as a soloist with orchestras in Europe and the Americas.



As a distinguished chamber musician, Nadia frequently collaborates with prominent artists, most recently including Emanuel Borok, Martin Chalifour, Justin DeHart, Kevin Fitz-Gerald, Maja Jasper, Genevieve Lee, Timothy Loo, Jerome Lowenthal, Marek Szpakiewicz, and Nick Terry. An enthusiastic promoter of contemporary music, she has been chosen to give world and national premieres of various piano, string piano and toy piano works by Elliott Carter, George Crumb, Tom Flaherty, Yuri Ishchenko, Leon Kirchner, Dave Kopplin, James Matheson, Harold Meltzer, Adam Schoenberg, Diego Vega, Iannis Xenakis, Peter Yates, and others. Described as “an exceptional recording of newly composed piano works” (*Textura Magazine*), her World Premieres CD “Woman at the New Piano: American Music of 2013” was released worldwide on the Reference Recordings label in November 2014, featuring four solo and two duet compositions (with pianist Genevieve Feiwen Lee) by Tom Flaherty, James Matheson, Adam Schoenberg, and Peter Yates. Nadia is currently touring her *Woman at the New Piano* program across the United States. With more than 30 performances to date, upcoming performances include *Bargemusic* in New York and *Piano Spheres* in Los Angeles.

Nadia Shpachenko is currently Associate Professor of Music at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona and Adjunct Professor of Music at Claremont Graduate University. Winner of more than a dozen piano competitions, she frequently gives master classes and presents contemporary music workshops in conservatories and universities worldwide. Nadia 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. Nadia Shpachenko is a Steinway Artist.

Please visit www.ullanta.com/personal/nadia to learn more about Nadia Shpachenko and to listen to some of her performances.