

HIIUMAA HOMECOMING MUSIC FESTIVAL BENEFIT CONCERT

Alexander Kobrin, piano

Wednesday, June 15, 2022
Kilbourn Hall
7:30 PM



EASTMAN
SCHOOL OF MUSIC

UNIVERSITY *of* ROCHESTER

PROGRAM

Fantasia, Op. 49

Frédéric Chopin
(1810-1849)

Sonata in A minor

Allegro ma non troppo

Adagio mosso

Moderato

Alexey Shor
(b. 1970)
Mikhail Pletnev
(b. 1957)

Pictures at an Exhibition

Modest Mussorgsky
(1839-1881)

Promenade

The Gnome

Promenade

The Old Castle

Promenade

Tuileries

Bydlo

Promenade

Ballet of the Unhatched Chicks

Samuel Goldenberg and Schmuyle

Promenade

The Marketplace at Limoges

Catacombs—Con mortuis in lingua mortua

The Hut on Fowl's Legs (Baba Yaga)

The Great Gates of Kiev

MEET THE ARTIST

The distinguished pianist **Alexander Kobrin**—heralded as the “Van Cliburn of today” by the BBC Russia—has placed himself at the forefront of today's performing musicians. His many prize-winning performances have been praised for their brilliant technique, musicality, and emotional engagement with the audience. Reviewing Mr. Kobrin's recital at the New School's Mannes College of Music, Allan Kozinn of The New York Times wrote:

“He surrendered neither the smoothness nor the dynamic fluidity that the modern piano allows, and he gave his sense of fantasy free rein, and created an almost confessional spirit.”

Mr. Kobrin has been an active guest soloist with leading orchestras throughout his career, including the New York Philharmonic, Tokyo Philharmonic, Russian National Orchestra, Belgrade Philharmonic, English Chamber Orchestra, Orchestra Verdi, Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, Moscow Philharmonic, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, Dallas Symphony, Berliner Symphony, Chicago Sinfonietta, Swedish Radio Symphony, Birmingham Symphony, Warsaw Philharmonic, and the BBC Symphony Orchestra. He has collaborated with such conductors as Mikhail Pletnev, Mikhail Jurovsky, Mark Elder, Vassiliy Sinaisky, James Conlon, Claus Peter Flor, Alexander Lazarev, Vassiliy Petrenko, and Yuri Bashmet.

He has appeared in recital at major halls worldwide, including Carnegie Hall and Avery Fisher Hall in New York, the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C., Albert Hall and Wigmore Hall in London, the Louvre Auditorium, la Salle Gaveau and Salle Cortot in Paris, Munich's Herkulesaal and Berlin's Filarmonia Hall in Germany, the Great Hall of the Moscow Conservatoire, Sheung Wan Civic Centre in Hong Kong, and the Sala Verdi in Milan, amongst others. Notable past engagements have included recitals under the aegis of the Cliburn Series, Washington Performing Arts Society, Chautauqua Institution Music Festival, La Roque d'Anthéron, Ravinia Festival, Beethoven Easter Festival, Busoni Festival, Klavier-Festival Ruhr, Festival Musique dans le Grésivaudan, and International Keyboard Institute & Festival, as well as annual concert tours in Japan, China, and Taiwan.

In addition to his international performing career, Mr. Kobrin has also been an active figure in music education for many years. From 2003 to 2010 he served on the faculty of the Russian State Gnessin's Academy of Music. In 2010 Alexander Kobrin was named the L. Rexford Distinguished Chair in Piano at the Schwob School of Music at Columbus State University, and from 2013 until 2017 was a member of the Artist Faculty of New York University's Steinhardt School. In July 2017, Mr. Kobrin joined the faculty of the renowned Eastman School of Music in Rochester, NY. His masterclass schedule has included engagements with the International Piano Series and the Conservatories of Japan and China, as well as jury participation for international piano competitions including the Busoni International Piano Competition in Bolzano, Hamamatsu International Piano Competition and others. Mr. Kobrin is currently a member of Van Cliburn International Piano Competition pre-screening jury. Alexander Kobrin has released recordings on the Harmonia Mundi, Quartz, and Centaur labels, covering

MEET THE ARTIST

a wide swath of the piano literature. Bryce Morrison of Gramophone Magazine endorsed his Cliburn Competition release on Harmonia Mundi, writing that “in [Rachmaninoff’s] Second Sonata, despite fire-storms of virtuosity, there is always room for everything to tell and Kobrin achieves a hypnotic sense of the music’s dark necromancy”.

Born in Moscow in 1980, Mr. Kobrin was enrolled in the world-famous Gnessin Special School of Music at the age of five, after which he attended the prestigious Moscow Tchaikovsky Conservatory. His teachers have included renowned professors Tatiana Zelikman and Lev Naumov. Mr. Kobrin is the winner of numerous international piano competitions—besides the Van Cliburn, he has garnered top prizes from the Busoni, Hamamatsu, and Glasgow International Piano Competitions.

HIIMUMAA HOMECOMING MUSIC FESTIVAL

“To send light into the darkness of men’s hearts – such is the duty of the artist.”

– Robert Schumann

Hiiumaa Homecoming Music Festival was founded in 2006 with the mission of promoting classical music and support young musicians' dreams to pursue their careers at the highest possible level.

Along with many people worldwide, the festival stands strong in solidarity with Ukraine against Russian aggression. This year, we decided to prioritize invitations to displaced Ukrainian students and provide the entire festival experience at absolutely no cost to them. But we need your help. 100% of your generous contributions will be used to cover their music lessons from world-renown artists, travel, and accommodation expenses.

Music has the power to bring peace in times of suffering, to bring hope to those in despair. At this time, many Ukrainians continue to suffer significantly as a result of the Russian invasion on their land. Due to this war, countless students have lost their homes and livelihood. We seek to provide solace and peace to young Ukrainian musicians through music and learning at our summer festival.

The highlight and trademark of our festival is the collaboration between guest artists and students who will share the stage in festival performances. This form of collaboration inspires and ignites a curiosity within students, teachers, and audience members alike, creating a bond between them and an unforgettable experience for all involved. During the past 15 years, we have presented over 50 performances of unique programs, including traditional and contemporary repertoire.

The festival presents world-renowned musicians from over 15 countries on a beautiful island in Estonia. Guest artists and professors from Tallinn Academy

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of Music, London Royal College and Guildhall School, Eastman School of Music, Hague Conservatory, Imola Conservatory, Tel-Aviv Buchmann-Mehta School of Music, Vienna University, members of London Philharmonic, Hague Philharmonic, Haydn Orchestra di Bolzano, world-leading soloists take part in concerts and masterclasses.

Our 2022 program is scheduled to take place during the last week of July. Students will participate in masterclasses and performances during the festival. For information on our guest artists and professors, along with other information please visit our website at <https://www.homecomingfest.com/en/welcome-2/>

Your Support

This festival needs your support to allow these young musicians to continue to bring joy and hope to the world through their music. With your help, students may attend this summer festival on the beautiful island of Hiiumaa in Estonia where they will receive guidance and share their stories and talent with us all.

In addition, the island offers much inspiration and beauty to those who visit. Hiiumaa Island is known for its lighthouses, unspoiled nature, and the sense of humor of its locals. It was created after a giant meteorite blast about 455 million years ago, making it perhaps one of the oldest islands in the world. Aside from lessons and rehearsals, this festival will provide a learning experience that ties music and nature together.

We ask everybody who wants to help talented young artists, many of whom have lost their homes, to allow them some relief from the horrors of war and to obtain a unique experience of world-class music making, to contribute towards making their dream a reality.

We invite all donors to become co-participants and patrons of our festival. We are looking forward to hearing from you.

"Life without music is unthinkable"
– Leonard Bernstein

Dmitry Bulgakov,
Founder of the Hiiumaa Homecoming Music Festival
Docent of oboe, Estonia Academy of Music and Theater

Alexander Kobrin
Co-director of Hiiumaa Homecoming Music Festival
Associate Professor of Piano, Eastman School of Music


SUPPORT FOR THE HIIUMAA HOMECOMING FESTIVAL

Donations from this recital benefit Ukrainian music students attending this summer's Hiiumaa Homecoming Music Festival in Estonia. This year, the festival is prioritizing invitations to displaced Ukrainian students; 100% of the contributions will be used to pay for their lessons, travel, and accommodation expenses.



We acknowledge with respect the Seneca Nation, known as the “Great Hill People” and “Keepers of the Western Door” of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy. We take this opportunity to thank the people on whose ancestral lands the Eastman School of Music of the University of Rochester currently occupies in Rochester, New York.

Information about upcoming Eastman concerts and events can be found at:
www.rochester.edu/Eastman/calendar

 www.facebook.com/ConcertsAtEastman

Kilbourn Hall fire exits are located along the right and left sides, and at the back of the hall. In the event of an emergency, you will be notified by the stage manager. If notified, please move in a calm and orderly fashion to the nearest exit.

Please note: The use of unauthorized photographic and recording equipment is not allowed in this building. We reserve the right to ask anyone disrupting a performance to leave the hall.

Restrooms are located on the main floor of Kilbourn Hall. Fully-accessible restrooms are available on the first floor of the Eastman School. Our ushers will be happy to direct you to them.

Supporting the Eastman School of Music:

We at the Eastman School of Music are grateful for the generous contributions made by friends, parents, and alumni, as well as local and national foundations and corporations. Gifts and grants to the School support student scholarships, performance and academic facilities, educational initiatives, and programs open to the greater Rochester community. Every gift, no matter the size, is vital to enhancing Eastman's commitment to excellence. For more information on making a gift, please visit www.csm.rochester.edu/advancement or contact the Advancement Office by calling (585) 274-1040. Thank you!