

The California State University
Long Beach

College Of The Arts

Department Of Music

Presents

EDITH HIRSHTAL, PIANO

*in a Faculty Series Recital
with*

JAY HASSLER, CLARINET
ELISABETH PEHLIVANIAN, SOPRANO
MARK ROBERTSON, VIOLIN

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29, 1995

4:00 p.m.

Gerald R. Daniel Recital Hall

Reception in lobby to follow concert

PROGRAM

I. Poems of Emily Dickinson

Aaron Copland
(1900-1990)

Nature, the gentlest mother

Dear March, come in!

There came a wind like a bugle

Why do they shut me out of heaven?

The world feels dusty

Heart, we will forget him

When they come back

ELISABETH PEHLIVANIAN, voice
EDITH HIRSHTAL, piano

II. Sonata for Clarinet and Piano, Op. 120,
No 2 in E flat major

Johannes Brahms
(1833-1897)

Allegro amabile

Allegro appassionata

Andante con moto

JAY HASSLER, clarinet
EDITH HIRSHTAL, piano

III. Sonata for Violin and Piano, Op. 80
in F minor

Sergei Prokofiev
(1891-1953)

Andante assai

Allegro brusco

Andante

Allegrissimo

MARK ROBERTSON, violin
EDITH HIRSHTAL, piano

ELISABETH PEHLIVANIAN

In 1987, when Elisabeth Pehlivanian made her Carnegie Hall debut, the *New York Times* wrote, "She made a vivid impression...her voice is strong, agile and pure, with...an exotic, emotive quality." In 1992, as a finalist in the Southern California Opera Guild Competition, one of the judges wrote of her performance of Debussy as "exquisitely ravishing."

A native of Beirut, Lebanon, Miss Pehlivanian received her Performer Diploma from Indiana University at Bloomington, studying with Margaret Harshaw and James King. She received the Diploma de Merito from the Chigiana Academy in Siena, Italy, where she was coached by Daniel Ferro. She was awarded three Certificats de Merite by the Conservatoire de Musique Nationale de Nice, France, where she specialized in French music under the tutelage of Gerard Souzay and Baldwin Dalton. She received her Bachelor and Master of Music degrees from California State University, Long Beach, under the guidance of Michael Carson and Natalie Limonick. She studied vocal interpretation with renowned artists and pedagogues Gwendolyn Koldofsky and Herta Glas at the University of Southern California, while also coordinating the newly established Armenian Music collection at the Doheny Library there. Miss Pehlivanian has also coached with masters and recognized artists, including Blanche Thebon, Martial Singher, James Low, and Armen Guzelimian.

Performing orchestral repertoire ranging from oratorios of Handel, Vivaldi, and Mozart to the music of Poulenc and Britten, Miss Pehlivanian has appeared with the Lakewood Philharmonic, the CSULB Symphony, the LBCC Symphony, the USC Chamber Ensemble, Musica Nuova Chamber Orchestra, and the Carmel Symphony. Miss Pehlivanian has sung major roles including Suzanna, Laetitia, Pamina, and Flora with the Long Beach Lyric Opera Theatre.

In the season of 1985-1986 Miss Pehlivanian made her European debut in London's New Art Gallery Auditorium. Since 1985, she has given over 75 concerts in the Palazzo Chigi Saracini, Siena; Musée des Arts Moderne, Nice; Queen Elizabeth Hall, London; Koerner Recital Hall, Vancouver; Salle Claude Champagne, Montreal; Music Academy Recital Hall, Philadelphia; Wilshire Ebell, Ambassador Auditorium, and USC's Hancock Auditorium recital halls in Los Angeles; and Rachham Auditorium, Ann Arbor. Her tours have included New York, London, Siena, Nice, Antibes, Alsace, Paris, Frankfurt, Munich,

Vancouver, San Francisco, Detroit, Philadelphia, Houston, Denver, Scottsdale, San Diego, Carmel, and Fresno.

In 1990 Miss Pehlivanian emerged the winner of the Outstanding Artist award from the Friends of the Chigiana Academy, Siena, Italy. She has been the recipient of numerous statewide awards and honors, including the first prizes of the California Young Artist Competition, the Vocal Arts Association Competition, the Mozart Festival, and the Armenian Allied Arts Competition.

Miss Pehlivanian has gained world recognition for pioneering performances of Avant Garde Armenian music and revival of medieval Armenian music and revival of medieval Armenian Liturgical music. Her recordings include three cassettes and two CDs, with another CD due to be released in 1996.

She has served on the Music faculty of the University of La Verne as assistant lecturer in music history.

She regularly conducts master classes at CSULB, and is currently a faculty member of the Mashdots College and the Armenian Academy for the Arts.

MARK ROBERTSON

Mark Robertson, young American violinist, started violin at the age of five in Fort Wayne, Indiana. He made his orchestral debut at age ten with the Indiana Chamber Orchestra. A short time after he was accepted into the Starling Preparatory Division at the Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, where he studied with Kurt Sassmannshaus. Mr. Robertson is a fellowship student at the Aspen Music Festival and School, which he has attended from 1986 to 1995 as a student of Dorothy DeLay. In August 1993, Mr. Robertson made his Aspen Music Festival debut as soloist with the Young Artists Orchestra. He has also performed with orchestras in Boston, Cincinnati, Fort Wayne, and Decatur, Indiana. In addition, he has given recitals around the United States, including at Harvard University, Boston University, The Juilliard School, Indiana University, and at the Aspen Music Festival. In 1994, he was featured on KNDK-Radio, Aspen, Colorado. In February 1995, Mr. Robertson performed his New York Recital Debut at Carnegie-Weill Recital Hall, where Edith Eisler, in *Strings* magazine, wrote that "his playing revealed flair and virtuosity." Also active as a conductor, Mr. Robertson conducted two concerts this past summer at the Aspen Music Festival, including a world premiere by Kenji Bunch.

An active orchestral performer, Mr. Robertson has been concertmaster of the Aspen Philharmonia, Concert, and Opera Orchestras, the Juilliard Orchestra, the Boston University Chamber Orchestra, and ensembles at the Caramoor Center for the Arts, Mannes College, Alice Tully Hall, Avery Fisher Hall, Weill Recital Hall, and the Music Tent and Wheeler Opera House in Aspen. He has also performed in Carnegie Hall as a member of the New York String Orchestra, under Jaime Laredo; and as a participant in the 1994 Solti Orchestral Project.

His past teachers include David Cerone at the Meadowmount School, Roman Totenberg at Boston University, and Nelli Shkolnikova at Indiana University. He has also performed in master classes with Dmitry Sitkovetsky, Mark Kaplan, and Peter Winograd. In addition to private studies, Mr. Robertson has studied chamber music with the Muir Quartet, Stephen Clapp, Jerome Lowenthal, Eugene Lehner, David Wakefield, Felix Galimir, Isidore Cohen, Todd Phillips, John Graham, Toby Appel, and Lillian Fuchs.

In 1992, Mr. Robertson received his Bachelor's Degree *cum laude* from the Boston University School for the Arts, and in 1994 received his Master's Degree from The Juilliard School, where he studied with Dorothy DeLay and Piotr Milewski; and conducting with Miguel Harth-Bedoya. Last year he served as concertmaster of the Juilliard Orchestra's tour of the Far East, and taught master classes at Mukogawa University in Nishinomiya. Currently, he is on the violin faculty at California State University, Long Beach, where he also teaches chamber music and is assistant conductor of the University Orchestra under Eugene Castillo.

EDITH HIRSHTAL

Edith Hirshtal, born in Austria of Polish-Jewish Holocaust survivors, has won enthusiastic responses from audiences and critics alike. The *New York Times* called her "...a pianist with something to say, and that alone makes her preferable to the majority of pianists today." The *Times* then went on to describe her performance at Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall as "...playing with heart, rich color, and drama..." In a review of Hirshtal's solo recital at the Japan America Theatre, the *Los Angeles Times* called her "...a strong addition to the Southern California musical community...a pianist of apparently eclectic tastes and commanding resources...(she) approached major works of Chopin and Mozart gamely and stylishly. (In the Chopin) b minor sonata, the pianist displayed

her reliable and charming facility in the Scherzo, her philosophical repose in the Largo, and her command of structure in the Finale." Soloist, chamber musician, and accompanist Miss Hirshtal has been heard in concert halls throughout the United States, including the Academy of Music in Philadelphia and New York's Lincoln Center. She has appeared with principal members of the Philadelphia Orchestra, the New York Metropolitan Opera Company, the Philadelphia Opera Company, the Sequoia Quartet, and as a soloist with several orchestras including the Women's Philharmonic, under the baton of JoAnn Falletta. In addition, she has been heard on radio stations in Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York, and Los Angeles, including the Los Angeles County Museum of Art's "Sundays at Four." Miss Hirshtal can be heard performing the music of Frederic Chopin on the recent recording, "Music Inspired by the film, IMPROMPTU", distributed by Dunhill Compact Classics.

The recipient of many awards, Miss Hirshtal was a prize winner in the University of Maryland International Piano Competition, for her performance of Beethoven's piano sonata, op. 109. In addition, she was awarded the Galica Prize by the Paderewski Foundation of New York City and was named a semi-finalist in the Young Concert Artists' International Auditions. Other honors include an Alumni Award from Temple University and numerous awards from the California State Universities. She is an active master class clinician, much sought after adjudicator, and recently gave a lecture/recital at the Boston Conservatory where she also judged their "Honors" Competition. Her students have gone on to graduate studies at some of America's most prestigious music schools and conservatories, including USC and The Juilliard School.

Her teachers have included such renowned figures as Leon Fleisher, with whom she received an Artist Diploma from the Peabody Conservatory of the Johns Hopkins' University, Adele Marcus of The Juilliard School, and Harvey Wedeen of Temple University. Miss Hirshtal has been on the faculties of Temple University, Bryn Mawr Conservatory, and the Downeast Summer Chamber Institute. She is currently Professor of Piano at California State University, Long Beach, where she founded the Long Beach Chamber Players.

JAY HASSLER

Jay Hassler began studying the clarinet at age ten while growing up in Anchorage, Alaska. He began his private studies with Crystal Lindsey at sixteen years of age. Shortly after, Jay began to work with local Anchorage professional groups including the Anchorage Opera, Symphony, and Civic Light Opera. Honors achieved while attending high school include twice being invited to the All-Northwest Honor Festival and the McDonald's All-American High School Band.

After being awarded a full tuition scholarship to Arizona State University, Hassler resided in Phoenix for two years. Performances during these years include two invitations to perform at the ASU Honors Convocation, two recitals, and numerous concerts with the Mesa Symphony.

Moving to Los Angeles in 1992, Hassler began his studies at California State University, Long Beach with Gary Boyer. Since arriving he has played principal clarinet in the CSULB Symphony Orchestra. He has twice been featured as a soloist with the CSULB Symphony Orchestra performing the Finzi Concerto in 1994 and the Copland Concerto in 1995.

Mr. Hassler performs with the Santa Monica Symphony and the La Primavera Orchestra located in Irvine. Other engagements include shows with the Downey Civic Light Opera and America Theatre West.

Acknowledgements

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