



Kosminov in concert

'Rising star' draws inspiration from wide array of artists

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COURTESY DANIEL WASIL

Vladimir Kosminov during his performance in Cannon Beach.

Pianist Vladislav Kosminov, a native of Uzbekistan, performed an all-classical piano concert on Saturday, Nov. 11, at Cannon Beach Community Church, on the church's newly acquired 7-foot 2008 Steinway grand piano. Almost a full-house audience erupted in a standing ovation at the conclusion of Mr. Kosminov's brilliant classical piano performance sponsored by Cannon Beach Community Church and Portland Piano International.

Kosminov's program in Cannon Beach opened with Franz Schubert's lyrical and lovely Piano Sonata in A Major, Op. 120. The audience then heard four of Felix Mendelssohn's Songs Without Words (Nos. 1 and 3, Op. 19; Nos. 3 and 6, Op. 30), paired with the premiere of a new work by Oregon composer David Schiff, titled "Six Songs without Words," inspired by Mendelssohn's works. Kosminov concluded his performance with a flawless performance of Saint-Saens' very demanding Danse Macabre as transcribed by Franz Liszt and later arranged by pianist Vladimir Horowitz.

Well-known Oregon composer David Schiff was present at the Cannon Beach concert to introduce his world premiere composition. Schiff, a professor of music at Reed College, was commissioned by Portland Piano International to compose a new work inspired by a piece from the classical piano repertoire. Portland Piano International received a "Creative Heights Grant" from the Oregon Community Foundation to commission Oregon composers to create 12 new works for solo piano; Schiff's composition was the ninth.

Schiff spoke in Cannon Beach about his "Six Songs without Words," drawing inspiration from Mendelssohn, as well as from jazz pianist Bill Evans and American composer Aaron Copland. Schiff's new piano composition, played by Kosminov, will be professionally recorded and videotaped, and the resulting audio, video, and sheet music of these compositions will be available at Portland Piano International's website.

"Rising Star" Vladislav Kosminov came to the United States in 2013 to pursue a professional performance certificate at the Lynn Conservatory of Music as a student of Roberta Rust. Currently, he is pursuing his master's degree under the tutelage of the gold medalist of the 11th Van Cliburn International Piano Competition, Stanislav Ioudenitch, in Park University, Missouri.

Portland Piano International's "Rising Stars" series was launched in 2015, featuring up-and-coming pianists selected from universities and conservatories from around the world, performing recitals in Portland and in communities outside of the Portland Metro area including Cannon Beach. In October 2017, Portland Piano International contacted Cannon Beach Community Church, hearing that the church had recently acquired a concert-quality Steinway grand piano. There are plans for bringing additional free "Rising Stars" performances to Cannon Beach Community Church in 2018. Generous sponsors make this "Rising Stars" concert series possible, including the ESCO Foundation, the Herbert A. Templeton Foundation, and the Jackson Foundation.