

One World to Another



Featuring Renowned Pianists
Julia & Irina Elkina

APRIL 26, 2005

Conant Performing Arts Center
Oglethorpe University

A benefit concert for



REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT AND
IMMIGRATION SERVICES OF ATLANTA
Hope for Life in a New World

Dear Concertgoer:

On behalf of Refugee Resettlement and Immigration Services of Atlanta (RRISA), it is my great pleasure to welcome you to “One World to Another: Hope for Life in a New World,” a benefit concert for RRISA.

RRISA is a non-profit agency with a multi-lingual, multicultural staff that provides an entry into the American culture for hundreds of refugees each year. Answering the humanitarian call to serve those fleeing from persecution, war, famine and extreme poverty, RRISA’s mission is to help refugees, asylees, and victims of human trafficking resettle in the United States and regain self-sufficiency.

Working with the community, RRISA tries to improve the plight of displaced and uprooted people who come with only a few belongings and in debt for the price of their transportation from countries in Africa, the former Soviet Union, Europe, Asia, and the Middle East. An affiliate of Church World Service and Episcopal Migration Ministries, RRISA acts as a bridge between local resources and refugees worldwide. RRISA meets immediate needs for shelter, food, clothes and medical care and offers services in the following areas:

- *Employment*
- *Education and cultural orientation*
- *Individual, family and community identity*
- *Long-term healing*

Your attendance tonight and your ongoing financial contributions assist RRISA in helping thousands of refugees throughout the Atlanta area. On behalf of RRISA, I express our sincere gratitude for your support now and in the future.

Enjoy the concert!

With appreciation,

David Ross

Chairman of the Board of Directors, RRISA



ABOUT THE PERFORMERS:

Russian-born identical twins Julia and Irina Elkina began playing the piano at age five, and were performing at major concert halls in their native St. Petersburg just two years later.

Graduates of the famed St. Petersburg Conservatory, the Elkinas won the top prize at the *Fourth Murray Dranoff International Two Piano Competition* right after their arrival in the United States in 1993. The sisters later studied under Professor Alexander Braginsky at the University of Minnesota, and have recently earned doctoral degrees in Piano Performance.

The Elkinas have performed throughout the U.S., sharing the stage with such respected conductors as Bobby McFerrin and Hugh Wolff. They are frequent guests on NPR's *Prairie Home Companion* and *St. Paul Sunday*, and recently completed 16 engagements at Lincoln Center.

The sisters' technique can best be described as vibrant rhythmic energy with a sense of drama—full of passion, color and imagination. Although they give contrasting interpretations, their individual playing is utterly synchronized so that it appears as one.

The Elkinas have released two CDs: *The Sisters' Version: Cinderella and Other Stories for Two Pianos*; and *At the Top of the Liszt: Greatest Hits by the Greatest Composers*.



REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT AND
IMMIGRATION SERVICES OF ATLANTA
Hope for Life in a New World

The proceeds from *One World to Another* will benefit the work of Refugee Resettlement and Immigration Services of Atlanta (RRISA).

For more than 30 years, RRISA has helped refugees who have been forced to flee their home countries due to war, social unrest or persecution as they struggle to make the transition to a new culture in the United States.

RRISA helps heal and rebuild the lives of displaced and uprooted people by assisting them in finding housing, employment, schools and transportation, in learning English and fulfilling other basic needs. RRISA's work has been hugely successful—within six months, 98 percent of the refugees have become self-sufficient members of the Atlanta community.

RRISA welcomes approximately 350 new refugees annually and provides continued support to an additional 900. RRISA works in partnership with more than 30 community agencies, churches and other religious organizations.



An affiliate of Church World Service
and Episcopal Migration Ministries



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*S*andra Mullins is the Director of Refugee Resettlement and Immigration Services of Atlanta.

Sandra's background includes serving as pastor for four congregations in Tennessee and Alabama. For 10 years, she was the Associate Conference Minister in the Southeast Conference for the United Church of Christ, covering a five-state area. During those years of service she worked with 90 congregations and designed, developed and implemented programs for local churches in the areas of education, stewardship, justice, and women's concerns.

Over the past 15 years, Sandra has coordinated a number of USAID-funded international nonprofit training and development programs. She assisted such organizations as Girls' Clubs, YWCA, Georgia State University Women's Center, the Friendship Force and Winrock International/NIS-US Women's Consortium to develop both strategic and long-range fundraising plans and to recruit and train volunteers. She was instrumental in the establishment of such groundbreaking violence against women programs as the first rape crisis center in Georgia at Grady Memorial Hospital and the first battered women's shelter in Atlanta.

Since 1998, Sandra has provided organizational guidance and administrative support to RRISA. Under her direction, the organization has experienced phenomenal growth in the number of refugees served and in the array of services provided.

One World ^{to} Another

PROGRAM

April 26, 2005

.....
Concert Paraphrase on the Themes TCHAIKOVSKY-PABST
of the Opera *Eugene Onegin*
.....

Suite No. 1 (Fantasy) for Two Pianos Op. 5 SERGEI RACHMANINOV
 Barcarolle
 Night of Love
 Tears
 Russian Easter
.....

Three Movements from the Ballet *Petrouchka* IGOR STRAVINSKY
(TWO PIANO ARRANGEMENT BY GREGORY KORCHMAR)
 RUSSIAN DANCE
 PETROUCHKA'S ROOM
 THE SHROVE-TIDE FAIR
.....

INTERMISSION

Concert Paraphrase on the Themes VERDI-LISZT
of the Opera *Rigoletto*
.....

Sposalizio (arranged for two pianos by A. Glazunov) FRANZ LISZT
.....

“I’ve Got Rhythm” Variations GEORGE GERSHWIN
(arranged for two pianos by the composer)
.....

PROGRAM NOTES

Concert Paraphrase on the Themes from the Opera, Eugene Onegin by Peter Ilitch Tchaikovski. Pabst used well-known themes from this beloved opera to compose the paraphrase. Tchaikovsky was born in Russia in 1840 and died in 1893. This three act opera was first produced in Moscow in 1881. Tchaikovsky is a romantic composer, best known for his ballets and symphonies. The opera is based on a poem by Pushkin, and it includes waltzes, mazurkas, and a polonaise.

Suite Number 1 (*Fantasy*) for Two Pianos, Op. 5, by Sergei Rachmaninov. Rachmaninov was born in Oneg, Russia in 1873 and died in Beverly Hills, CA in 1943. Rachmaninov, like Liszt, was one of the half dozen or so most formidable keyboard virtuosos in the history of music, and many of his own compositions were designed to showcase his own phenomenal abilities. Suite No. 1 was composed when Rachmaninov was only 20 years old, and he dedicated this *Fantasy* to Tchaikovsky. Each of the four movements is a musical interpretation of a short poem or excerpt. The *Barcarolle*, a boat song, was inspired by Lermontov and frequently repeats the main musical idea. *Night of Love* is a passionate representation in sound of a quotation from Byron. *Tears* is also the name of the poem by Fyodor Tyutchev. This sad piece is derived mostly from a four-note motive based on the sound of the bells at St. Sophia Cathedral in Novgorod. The last movement, *Russian Easter*, is based on Alexey Khomyakov's poem *Easter Festival* and incorporates the same Easter chant used by Rimsky-Korsakov in his *Russian Easter Overture*. Listen for the ringing of bells.

Three Movements from the Ballet, *Petrouchka*. Igor Stravinsky, 1882 – 1971, transcription for two pianos by Gregory Korchmar. Stravinsky composed the score for this ballet after writing the *Firebird*. *Petrouchka* is a puppet who is suddenly endowed with life. The movements reflect Stravinsky's irregular meters, harmonic pungency, rhythms gone crazily astray, picturesque Russianness, and clever wit. In 1921 Stravinsky transcribed the three movements as a solo piece for Arthur Rubinstein.

Concert Paraphrase on the Themes of Verdi's Opera, *Rigoletto*, by Franz Liszt, 1811 – 1886. Liszt had a dazzling way with paraphrasing 80 different works. However, this is not a paraphrase of the entire opera, but rather highlights one number, the Act III Quartet, where Gilda, heartbroken at the Duke's unfaithfulness, and her father desiring vengeance, join their voices to those of the amorous Duke and coquettish Maddelena in a way that preserves the character of each in music. The two piano paraphrase was arranged by Adolf Gottlieb.

Sposalizio, by Liszt and arranged for two pianos by A. Glazunov. Liszt was inspired by Raphael's painting, *Lo Sposalizio della Vergine* (the Marriage of the Virgin). Two lyrical themes are preceded by an improvisatory, undulating figure suggesting the ringing of bells. The themes ride to an impressive climax on the crest of joyously pealing bells, and then subside. Glazunov's arrangement infuses the music with even greater sonorous power than the original.

I Got Rhythm, by George Gershwin (1898 – 1937) The song, *I Got Rhythm*, is from the musical *Girl Crazy*, which was first performed in 1930. On a concert tour, where Gershwin was the piano soloist, he composed the *Variations*, as a showpiece for the orchestra. It is also a virtuoso piece for two pianos.

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of Atlanta is grateful for the support of

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Special Thanks to

John A. and Miriam H. Conant, Oglethorpe University, and the John H. and Wilhelmina D. Harland Charitable Foundation for the use of the Conant Performing Arts Center.	Killian Press Jerry Dilts and Associates (Catering) Joan Rubenstein's Flower Design A to Z Information Systems Whole Foods Market
PianoWorks of Duluth, Ga., for providing the two Bösendorfer concert grands	

Refugee Resettlement and Immigration Services Agency

W

e wish to thank the RRISA Board of Directors, staff and volunteers for their time and talents given so generously to support refugees in their transition From One World to Another.

Sandra Mullins and David Ross

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All Saints' Episcopal Church

congratulates RRISA on their work
to help refugees start new lives in
the United States and commends
our own **Brooke Dixon** for her
dedication to this concert project.

We invite you to worship with us
on Sundays at 8 a.m., 9 a.m.,
11:15 a.m. or 5:30 p.m.



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