

Contact: Martha Gellens at 718.549.3200 x232
marthag@wavehill.org or pressroom@wavehill.org

Wave Hill Presents Hudson River Historic Concerts Fall 2009

Hudson River Quadricentennial concerts explore the river as a highway of European culture through New York State

Bronx, NY, May 21, 2009—Wave Hill, a public garden and cultural center in the Bronx that overlooks the Hudson River and Palisades, journeys through the history of performance on the Hudson River in a new concert series. **Hudson River Historic Concerts** explore the tradition of touring European performers who made their mark on the American mind using the River as a highway through New York State. On select Sunday afternoons at 2PM in Armor Hall, pianists **Jeffrey Swann** and **Vassily Primakov**, violinist **Curtis Macomber** and pianist **Marija Stroke**, and actor **Reed Birney**, under the direction of **Steven Hamilton**, reinterpret landmark performances of the past.

Charles Dickens, Ignacy Paderewski, Josef Lhevinne and Fritz Kreisler provide heroic inspiration for virtuoso concerts presented by acclaimed, contemporary soloists as they recreate historic Hudson Valley performances from 1868 through 1922. With its natural port and deep channels, the Hudson was an ideal highway for imports, not the least of these being the lions of European music and literature. To accommodate a growing hunger for symphonies and soloists, lectures and sermons, cities from New York to Newburgh and Albany to Troy saw the birth of performing arts and literary organizations, while opera houses were built to frame and present the “sophisticating” arts. If Carnegie Hall boasted “all the best, all the time”, the Chromatic Concerts Club in Troy, and similar organizations on the shores of the Hudson, kept a steady parade of genius in view in these communities. They welcomed artists like Jascha Heifitz, Pablo Casals, Sergei Rachmaninoff, Sarah Bernhardt, Charles Dickens and William Makepeace Thackeray, many of them giving their American debuts along the Hudson.

With programming values and ideals markedly different in the early 20th century, the recitals of Fritz Kreisler and Josef Lhevinne, for instance, show a balance between great masterworks of the concert stage, on the one hand, and music that has the perfumes and light pastel shades of the salon on the other. Paderewski’s recital, with its focus on Chopin, seems “normal”, yet it was exceptional for its time. Indeed, it was the harbinger of a new recital ethic, one shared by Rachmaninoff but at odds with most virtuosi of the day, who played individual movements and arrangements of operatic airs and dances as often as sonatas. **Historic Hudson River Concerts** at Wave Hill offer full programs, all performed with intermissions, allowing us to experience music-listening the way our grandparents and great grandparents knew and loved it.

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To further illuminate this music-listening experience, three scholars are contributing essays about the cultural history of the Hudson Valley. Liz McEnaney looks at the great theaters built for high art. Dr. Andrew Appel, Performing Artists Programmer at Wave Hill, elucidates the musical development of the Valley and Prof. Duane Devries explores Charles Dickens' remarkable visits to the area, first as a tourist and finally as a performer.

Each scholar hosts a pre-performance discussion at 1:30PM.

Sunday, September 13, 2009 Vassily Primakov, piano

Original performer Ignacy Paderewski. Performed in 1922, in Troy, NY, and New York, NY.

All-Chopin Program:

Fantasia Op. 49; Five Préludes Op. 28; Two Nocturnes Op. 15; Ballade No. 3, Op. 47; Scherzo No. 2 Op. 31; Barcarolle Op. 60; Five Études Op 25; Sonata Op. 35, Mazurka No. 4, Op. 17; Valse; Polonaise in A-flat Major, Op. 53

Sunday, October 4, 2009 Jeffrey Swann, piano

Original performer: Joseph Lhevinne. Presented in 1910, Troy, NY, and Poughkeepsie, NY.

Program:

Prélude & Fugue, Op. 53	Anton Rubinstein
Sonata No. 26 in E-flat Major, "Les Adieux"	Ludwig van Beethoven
"On Wings of Song"	Mendelssohn—Liszt
Hark, hark! the Lark	Schubert—Liszt
Ballade; Mazurka No. 1 Op. 56;	Frédéric Chopin
Barcarolle Op. 60 and Étude No. 5, Op. 10	
"Air de Ballet"	Jules Massenet
Hungarian Rhapsody No. 11 and Faust Waltz	Franz Liszt

Sunday, October 25, 2009 Curtis Macomber, violin and Marija Stroke, piano

Original performers: Fritz Kreisler and Ernst Dohnányi. Presented in 1900 in Troy, NY.

Program:

Sonata No. 9 in A Major, Op. 47 ("Kreutzer")	Ludwig van Beethoven
Prelude and Fugue in E	Felix Mendelssohn
"Devil's Trill"	Giuseppe Tartini
Barcarolle No. 6 in C Minor	Anton Rubinstein
Hungarian Rhapsody No. 9	Franz Liszt
Sarabande	Bach—Sulzer
Chanson sans parole	Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky
"Scenes de la Csarda"	Jeno Hubay

Sunday, November 22, 2009 Stephen Hamilton, director, and Reed Birney, actor

Stephen Hamilton will direct **Reed Birney** in recreating a reading of Charles Dickens' "Doctor Marigold" and "Mr. Bob Sawyer's Party," originally presented at New York's Steinway Hall and in Albany, NY, in 1868.

Concerts take place on Sundays. Tickets for Wave Hill Members are \$15; Non-members pay \$24; Students and Seniors 65+ with ID pay \$21. All tickets include admission to the grounds. Advance purchase recommended. Purchase tickets at the Perkins Visitor Center, by calling 718.549.3200 x385 or by emailing concerts@wavehill.org.

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A 28-acre public garden and cultural center overlooking the Hudson River and Palisades, Wave Hill's mission is to celebrate the artistry and legacy of its gardens and landscapes, to preserve its magnificent views, and to explore human connections to the natural world through programs in horticulture, education and the arts.

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HOURS Open all year, Tuesday–Sunday and many major holidays: 9am–5:30pm
Closes 4:30pm, October 15–April 15.

ADMISSION \$6 adults, \$3 students and seniors 65+, \$2 children 6–18. Admission subject to change.
Free Tuesday and Saturday mornings until noon | Free to Members and children under 6.

DIRECTIONS Getting here is easy!
Located only 30 minutes from midtown Manhattan, Wave Hill’s free shuttle van transports you to and from our front gate and Metro–North’s Riverdale station, the 242nd Street stop on the #1 subway line, and our free offsite parking lot. *Limited onsite parking is available for \$8 per vehicle. Complete directions and shuttle bus schedule available at www.wavehill.org.*

Support for the performing arts is provided with public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts—a state agency, The Adele & Leonard Block Foundation, Melvin and Carol Taub, The Fan Fox & Leslie R. Samuels Foundation and The David G. Whitcomb Foundation. The concert program booklet is made possible by the New York Council for the Humanities.

Wave Hill’s Hudson River Quadricentennial projects are made possible by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services, the National Endowment for the Arts, the New York State Council on the Arts—a state agency, The Hudson River Improvement Fund, The Fan Fox & Leslie R. Samuels Foundation and The David G. Whitcomb Foundation. Sustaining support for Wave Hill is provided by the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs.



Target Free Days

Target sponsors free Tuesday and Saturday morning admission to Wave Hill, providing public access to the arts in our community.

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