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## **The 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival celebrates Russian masters in opening night performance**

SOUTHFIELD, Mich. – The Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival will kick off two weeks of world-class chamber music performances with an opening night concert on Saturday, June 9 at Seligman Performing Arts Center starting at 8:00 p.m. With a theme of *White Nights: A musical journey through Russia*, the Festival’s opening night concert will feature works by three of Russia’s greatest masters - Prokofiev, Rachmaninoff, and Stravinsky.

Opening night will include a presentation of Stravinsky’s *Les Noces*, one of the largest performances ever presented by the Festival. The mesmerizing and thunderous *Les Noces* is scored for four vocal soloists, four pianos, a full chorus, and eight percussionists. Leading the vocal soloists will be soprano Molly Fillmore. Most recently, Fillmore joined the roster of The Metropolitan Opera, making her debut in the role of Helmwig and covered the role of Freia in the new *Ring Cycle* production for the opera’s 2010-2011 season.

Also coming together on opening night will be two favorite Festival artists, pianist Pei-Shan Lee and cellist Paul Katz in a performance of Prokofiev’s “Sonata in C Major for Cello and Piano, Op. 119.” Following Prokofiev’s stunning cello sonata, Festival Artistic Director James Tocco, piano, will join Russian pianist Sofja Gülbadamova in her Festival debut for a performance of Rachaminoff’s “Fantasy (Suite No. 1) for two Pianos, Op. 5.” Born in Moscow, Gülbadamova has been the top prize winner at multiple international competitions including:

France's International Piano Competition in Aix-en-Provence as well as France's 6<sup>th</sup> Annual International Francis Poulenc Piano Competition, Austria's Rosario Marciano International Piano Competition, and Belgium's International Piano Competition "André Dumortier."

The Festival's opening night performance will set the tone for the two-week Russian-themed festival. Upcoming concerts during the Festival's first week will include a Sunday, June 10<sup>th</sup> 3:00 p.m. performance at Grosse Pointe Memorial Church, and four concerts running Tuesday, June 12 through Friday, June 15 at Temple Beth El. The first week concerts will feature many of the opening night artists as well a number of new artists including: violinist Tai Murray, the Ariel Quartet, cellist David Geringas, violinist Kimberly Kaloyanides Kennedy, and violinist/violist Yehonatan Berick. The Festival's closing night performance will take place on Saturday, June 23. Find out more about these upcoming concerts by calling 248-559-2097 or going online to [www.greatlakeschambermusic.org](http://www.greatlakeschambermusic.org).

#### **JUNE 9 CONCERT INFORMATION**

- **"Sonata in C Major for Cello and Piano, Op.119"** by Sergei Prokofiev, artists will include: Pei-Shan Lee, piano; and Paul Katz, cello
- **"Fantasy (Suite No. 1) for 2 two Pianos, Op. 5"** by Sergei Rachmaninoff, artists will include: James Tocco, piano; and Sofja Gülbadamova, piano
- **"Les Noces"** by Igor Stravinsky, artists will include Molly Fillmore, soprano; Lauren Skuce, mezzo-soprano; Jason Wickson, tenor; Daniel Gross, bass; pianists Panayis Lyras, Deborah Moriarty, Pei-Shan Lee and James Tocco; David Rayl, conductor; the Michigan State University Chorale, and the Michigan State University Percussion Ensemble

#### **ABOUT THE FESTIVAL**

Tickets for the 2012 Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival are now available. Ticket prices for opening night on Saturday, June 9 are \$40 regular/senior and \$10 for students (25 and under). Tickets are five more at the door. Subscriptions to attend multiple Festival concerts are also

available. To learn more, please visit [greatlakeschambermusic.org](http://greatlakeschambermusic.org) or call 248-559-2097.

A secular event, the Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival is sponsored by Kirk in the Hills, St. Hugo of the Hills, Temple Beth El, and Detroit Chamber Winds & Strings. The 2012 Festival will take place June 9 – June 24 in venues across Metro Detroit. For more information, please visit [www.greatlakeschambermusic.org](http://www.greatlakeschambermusic.org).

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