

Children's Education and Outreach Program
of Performing Arts Fort Worth
at Bass Performance Hall

presents

VAN CLIBURN: AN AMERICAN HERO

produced by The Cliburn

for Fourth Grade

Bass Performance Hall Fourth & Calhoun Streets Fort Worth, Texas 76102

Van Cliburn: An American Hero 2018

Mozart	Sonata K 330, First Movement	
Beethoven	Sonata Opus 10, No. 2, Third Movement	
Chopin	Étude Opus 10, No. 12	The Revolutionary
	Étude Opus 25, No. 11	The Winter Wind
	Étude Opus 10, No. 5	Black Key
Sousa	Stars and Stripes Forever	

Van Cliburn

(July 12, 1934 – February 27, 2013) was an American pianist who became a superstar at the age of 23 and called Fort Worth home.

Mr. Cliburn was born in Shreveport, Louisiana, but when he was six years old his father moved the family to Kilgore, Texas. His father worked in the oil business and his mother was a pianist and music teacher. At age three his mother discovered Van could play *by ear* what he had heard her older students play and she began to teach him immediately. By the age of 12 Van had won a state piano competition; his prize was a concert with the Houston Symphony Orchestra. He played the first movement, or section, of **Tchaikovsky's** Piano Concerto #1. His performance was such a success that very soon he became well known in the state.



At the age of 17 he moved to New York City to study with the famous piano teacher, Rosina Lhevinne, at the Juilliard School. Ms. Lhevinne had grown up in Russia, had studied at the Moscow Conservatory and was good friends with Sergei Rachmaninoff, the famous Russian composer. She taught Cliburn to play Russian music, especially Tchaikovsky and Rachmaninoff, in the grand romantic Russian style. He had had a lifelong fascination with Russia and the Russian people; even as a young boy he was attracted to pictures of Saint Basil and the Kremlin in Russia.



Cliburn studying with Ms. Lhevinne

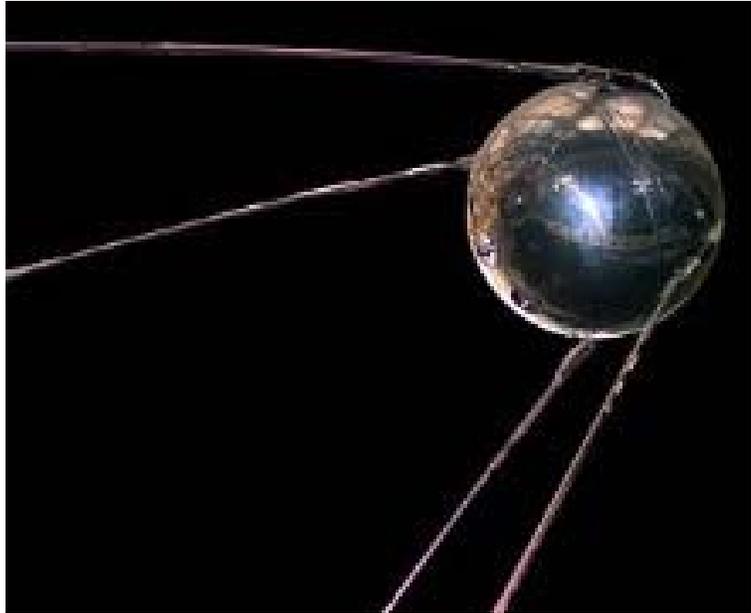
At the age of 20 he won several major competitions; his prize for one was an appearance at Carnegie Hall with the New York Philharmonic Orchestra. He performed Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto, #1, the same concerto he had played as a 12 year old with the Houston Symphony Orchestra. He went on to play many concerts with major symphony orchestras around the country, which built his growing reputation as a pianist.



Peter Tchaikovsky, Russian composer of such classics as *The Nutcracker*

It was his success at the first **Tchaikovsky Piano Competition** in Moscow that won Cliburn international fame. The competition was created in 1958 and named after the great Russian composer to demonstrate their cultural superiority during the Cold War between Russia and the United States.

In 1957 Russia had launched the first man-made satellite, **Sputnik**, into space to orbit around the earth. It was only 23 inches in diameter (so it was a little like a soccer ball in space) and had only four antennas, but it provided valuable information about space and the world. It also challenged the idea that the United States was still the world leader in science, industry and military power.



The Tchaikovsky Piano Competition was supposed to do the same for music—make Russia #1 in the arts. The Russians *assumed* that Russian pianists would win.



Cliburn playing at the Tchaikovsky Piano Competition with adoring fans watching

However when Mr. Cliburn played Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto #1 and Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto #3 at the competition he received a standing ovation lasting eight minutes. The judges didn't know what to do. A Russian was supposed to win!



Cliburn was a hit every time he played the piano in Russia during the Tchaikovsky Competition



When it was time to announce a winner, the judges asked permission from **Nikita Khrushchev**, the Soviet Premier, or “president,” to give first prize to an American.

“Is he the best?” Khrushchev asked.

When they assured him that Mr. Cliburn was, he said, “Then give him the prize!”

Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev with Van Cliburn after the Tchaikovsky Competition



Mr. Cliburn returned home to a ticker_tape parade in New York City, which was the only time the honor has been given to a musician—classical or otherwise. Ticker tape parades are usually reserved for winning sports teams, astronauts, and war heroes. The Mayor of New York City proclaimed that “with his two hands, Van Cliburn struck a chord which has resounded around the world, raising our prestige with artists and music lovers everywhere.”

On the cover of *Time* magazine, he was proclaimed "The Texan Who Conquered Russia." In the article, he was also compared to a rock star.

The Tchaikovsky Competition had come at a time when American morale had been shaken; Cliburn’s win gave Americans pride in their country again.

Nothing like this had ever happened before in American history. A musician—an artist—was a national hero!

His recording of the Tchaikovsky Piano Concerto #1 was the first classical recording to go platinum and was the best-selling album for more than a decade; it eventually went triple platinum, selling over three million copies. In many ways he had become not just a musical star but he helped to promote understanding among all people through his music.



After his win in Russia, he was in demand around the world. He played for people in this country, too. In fact, Van Cliburn played for every living president in the White House—from Harry Truman to Barack Obama.



Visiting with President Harry Truman, the 33rd president of the United States. Harry Truman was a pianist himself and loved music. Mr. Truman was president from 1945-1953.

With President Dwight Eisenhower, the 34th president of the United States. He was president from 1953-1961.



He played hundreds of solo concerts and programs with orchestras all over the world. He was given awards and honors and performed for kings and queens everywhere.



Cliburn with President Ronald Reagan, the 40th president, when Cliburn played at a summit to promote peace with Russia in 1987. Mr. Reagan was president from 1981-1989.

Once when Cliburn was to play a concert in Washington DC, his tux was lost by the airlines. He borrowed fellow Texan President Lyndon Johnson's tux to wear for the concert, which was much too large for him. Mr. Johnson was president from 1963-1967.



President George W. Bush, the 43rd president, presented Van Cliburn the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor. Mr. Bush was president from 2001-2009.



President Barack Obama presented Van Cliburn the National Medal of Honor. Mr. Obama was elected in 2009 and is our current president.

Perhaps his greatest honor was the creation of the **Van Cliburn International Piano Competition** in Fort Worth. It is considered by many to be the most prestigious music competition in the world. It is held every 4 years (since 2001 at the Nancy Lee and Perry R. Bass Performance Hall) and during the competition the music world is focused on Fort Worth. Pianists from all over the world come to compete, and **the best** are recognized and given prize money to launch careers, as well as opportunities to perform in hundreds of concerts everywhere. Many of the prominent pianists performing in the world today got their start with the Van Cliburn Piano Competition. It is always an exciting time in Fort Worth!





Van Cliburn and his competition have become ambassadors for the importance of classical music in the lives of young people. He said when he was recognized, after winning the Tchaikovsky Competition,

*“I appreciate more than you will ever know that you are honoring me, but the thing that thrills me the most is that you are honoring **classical music**. Because I’m only one of many, I’m only a witness and a messenger. Because I believe so much in the beauty, the construction, the architecture invisible, the importance for all generations, for young people to come that it will help their minds, develop their attitudes, and give them values. That is why I’m so grateful that you have honored me in that spirit.”*

Mr. Cliburn died in February, 2013, at the age of 78 after battling bone cancer. He was considered a great musician, and also a great humanitarian by all who knew him.

*He began every performance playing
The Star Spangled Banner.*

The Piano

The **piano** is a percussion instrument with a keyboard. It is widely used for all kinds of performances.

The sound-producing parts of a piano are the **soundboard** and metal **strings**. The metal strings are struck when the keys are pressed down. When the particular key is released by the pianist, the strings' vibration will come to a stop, ultimately putting a stop to the sound made by that key. The note can be prolonged by the use of the pedals attached at the bottom of the piano near the pianist's feet.



The word *piano* is Italian; it was originally called *pianoforte* [soft-loud] which meant that the instrument was capable of playing both soft and loud—one of the most important characteristics of the instrument. If you think about it, that is a perfect name because it has a **dynamic** range of everything from very soft to very loud. Unlike the tuba, for instance, which is always pretty loud, or the acoustical guitar, which is always fairly soft, it can play those dynamics and everything in between—with NO added amplification.

You will hear both very soft and very loud sounds from the piano played by Mr. Golka. Observe carefully to figure out how those different levels of sound—soft and loud—are made.

For this concert you will see and hear Mr. Golka play a Concert Grand Piano made by Steinway. It is one of the most famous and important of pianos.

Facts about the Concert Grand Piano—

- 9 feet long
- Made of 12,000 pieces but only has 3 legs
- Weighs 1,000 pounds
- Takes 400 people one year to make
- Took over 800 years to develop
- Originally invented by Cristofori in 1721

All Pianos—



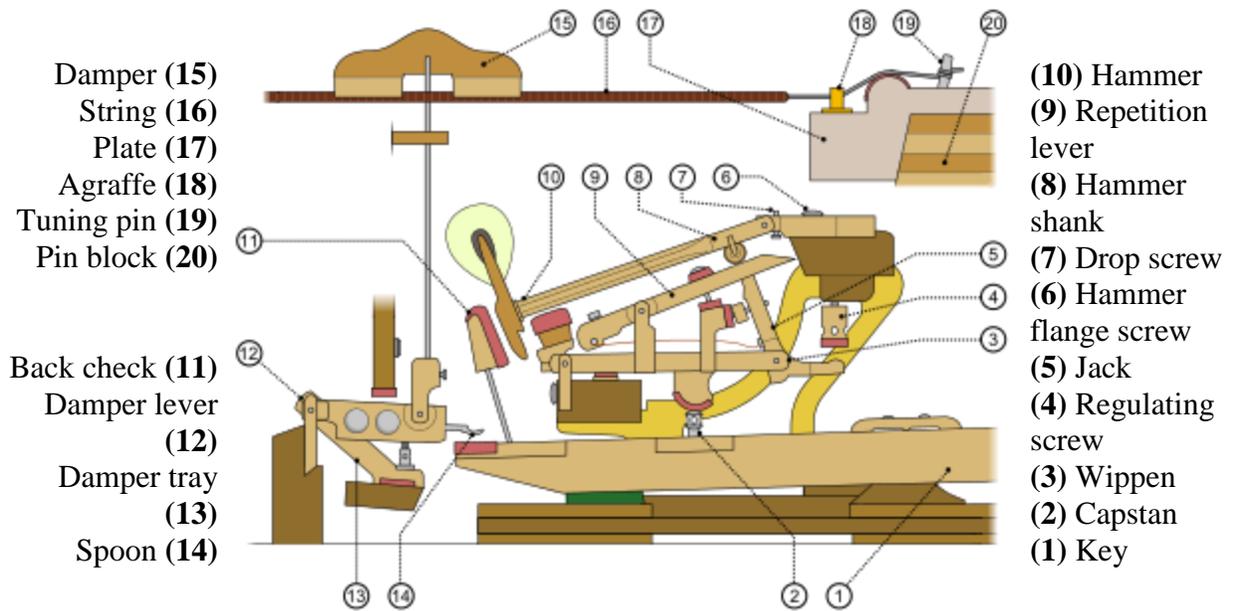
- All pianos have 88 keys—some black and some white. They are in series of 2 and 3 notes
- Pianos can play several notes at one time to make a chord—one of the few instruments that can do so.



- The piano has the widest range of any instrument (except the organ).
- The piano has the greatest capability of any instrument—it can be a solo instrument, play in or with an orchestra, serve as an accompaniment, or act as a teaching tool for learning basic music skills.
- The piano can be used to play classical music of all kinds, dance music, jazz and even pop music.



The ACTION of a Grand Piano Key



What is amazing is that all of the parts above are necessary for **each** key (of 88 keys) of every piano! No wonder it takes 400 people over a year to build one piano.

Mozart Sonata #10 K330

First Movement

Allegro moderato in C Major

This sonata was written when Mozart was 27 years old.

A **sonata** is a piece of music written for a solo instrument in three sections, or movements. We will hear the first movement, which is also in 3 parts. Those three parts of the sonata movement have fancy names:

A: **Exposition**, or the section where the themes are *exposed* or stated for the first time.

In this sonata, the exposition is in C Major.

B: **Development**, or the section where those ideas are developed or changed up, usually is in a different key. In this sonata, the development is in the dominant key, or G Major.

C: **Recapitulation**, or the section where the ideas of the A section are re-stated. And, as in most sonatas, it goes back to the original key of C Major.

This form creates balance but still gives the listener different interesting things to listen for. It became the standard form for sonatas for hundreds of years.

Look at the picture of Mozart. He is wearing a powdered wig, which was the style for cultured men and women when they were dressing to go to a concert or appear at court. Also notice that he is wearing a fancy dress coat trimmed in gold braid with a lace ruff at his neck that is elegant and refined. When you listen to the Mozart sonata, doesn't it *sound* as if it would have been written and played by someone who dressed that way? The keyboard that he played might be trimmed in gold. His wife would wear a long, silk dress and carry a jeweled fan. They would have perfect manners and bow or curtsy to each other as a greeting.

As you listen to the first movement of this sonata, listen for the lyrical, cheerful melody in the right hand.



SONATE

Köchel Nr. 330

Allegro moderato

10

Mozart is famous for his lovely melodies, accompanied by a simple accompaniment in the left hand. Notice the melody has a sense of proportion, polish and balance. It is a **two** measure melody, which is then repeated. The melody is answered by two measures of arpeggios going in the opposite direction, there are a few turns on those same notes, followed by a scale passage outlining that same area and then it starts all over again. It is light, clear and sparkles. This is a typical *Classical* melody from the Classical period.

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was born in 1756 and died in 1791. He was considered a child prodigy because he began playing the keyboard at age three and composing short pieces by age five. He wrote his first formal piece of music at age nine; by the time he was 12 he had written his first opera. He played both the violin and piano and when he was still a child, his father took Wolfgang and his sister, Anna Maria, or Nannerl, on tours all over Europe to play for counts and princes. He was considered a *virtuoso* on the keyboard.

Although he died at the age of 35, in his brief life he wrote over 600 compositions. Among them were

- 12 operas
- 21 piano concertos
- 24 string quartets
- 17 choral masses
- 41 symphonies



Wolfgang at the keyboard, accompanying his sister and father on tour

Mozart was a genius and great composer. In those days, composers were supported by wealthy patrons and nobility. Because there were no CD players, iPods or radios, composers and musicians were often hired to provide music at court and in palaces. However, Mozart did not like being treated as a servant of wealthy patrons and tried to survive as a freelance composer and performer. Unfortunately while he was always composing masterpieces and performing, his personality and lack of good management skills meant that he and his family often went hungry. He died at an early age, but is not forgotten.

Today his music is performed by symphony orchestras all over the world, his operas are some of the most popular and most often performed, and every pianist is judged by his ability to play Mozart piano sonatas and concerti. Choirs perform his masses and requiem and his sacred music, and chamber music ensembles perform his many compositions written for small groups.



Frédéric Chopin

Polish Composer

1810-1849

Romantic Period

Frédéric Chopin was an interesting composer. While considered the world's greatest Polish composer, he lived the last half of his life in France. He was a great pianist but he rarely performed concerts in public. He was one of the ultimate Romantic composers, full of passionate emotions and excesses, but liked better the music of the Baroque composer, Bach, and the Classical composer, Mozart.

Chopin was a nationalist composer who loved his homeland fiercely. Because of the Russian takeover of Poland when he was 20, he left Poland to visit Vienna and then Paris and never returned. However, Poland was so dear to his heart that he took a container of Polish soil with him when he left and instructed that it be poured on his grave when he died. And while his body was buried in France after his death, his heart was sent back to Poland to be buried. Many of his compositions—polonaises, mazurkas and waltzes—were influenced by Polish folkdances he had known growing up.

He was hailed as a great pianist who produced new effects on the piano—new pedaling, new fingering and a new sense of rhythm and color from the keyboard. All of his elegant music was written entirely for the piano or centered around the piano. Most of his music was small in format so that there were no Chopin symphonies, ballets or operas like most Romantic composers wrote. Many of his most popular compositions, in fact, are for *solo* piano; he wrote only two piano concertos for piano and orchestra. He earned much of his living from teaching piano lessons and it is fitting that he wrote many *études*, or study pieces, to perfect a particular skill on

the piano. Chopin's études were also recognized as beautiful *works of art* and are often performed for audiences.

Most Romantic composers were greatly affected by contemporary books, poetry and paintings; these had little effect on Chopin. He was friends with some of the great Romantic composers of the day—Liszt, Berlioz and Schumann—but was not influenced by their music and didn't particularly like it. In fact, unlike most Romantic composers, he was not even inspired by the music of Beethoven.

Chopin died at age 39, having been sick with tuberculosis* for many years.

- **Chopin was a child prodigy: at age eight he played a piano concerto in public and had already composed a number of compositions.**
- **At age 21 he was publicly hailed as "a genius" by Robert Schumann, who was to become a famous composer and pianist himself.**

**Tuberculosis is an infection of the lungs. In the 1800s it was a deadly disease which caused its victims to waste away; today it is treated with antibiotics.*

Étude=Study

An étude is an exercise composition originally written as a “lesson” to practice a particular technical skill. Just as students have worksheets, pianists have études. However, Chopin’s études were so beautiful that they are some of his most famous compositions played in formal concerts today.

The Winter Wind Étude

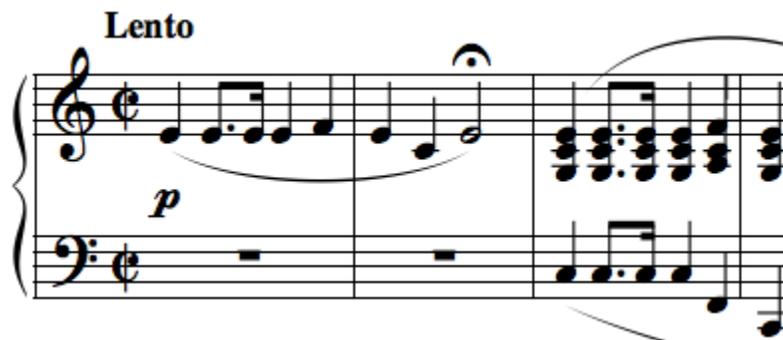
Opus 25 #11

The Winter Wind étude contains soaring lines in the right hand, up and down the



keyboard. In fact, just looking at the notes on the page one can imagine the wind whistling around buildings, blowing leaves or snow. The study was written to practice dexterity in the right hand, playing rapid scales and arpeggios all over the keyboard. At the same time, the left hand must maintain flexibility and remain independent. In other words, each hand must be treated as a separate performer; together they perform a kind of duet to paint a pretty stormy picture.

We can tell that it is a blustery, cold winter wind because it starts off seriously with



Lento means slow and those first two measures in a minor key seem to say this is going to be a serious gust! The music ends loudly and the entire composition requires stamina and dexterity. No sunshine here!



Battle of Warsaw 1831

Revolutionary Étude

Opus 10 #12

The Revolutionary Étude is one of Chopin's most famous compositions. It was written after Chopin learned of the bombardment of his beloved Warsaw by Russia and the fall of Poland. After that battle in 1831, Poland as an official country no longer existed. It had been partitioned or divided up among Russia, Prussia and Austria.

This étude begins with a loud chord which some writers have said sounds like a gun shot. It is dramatic and passionate. The marking above the chord is *allegro con fuoco* or "fast with fire." Listening to it we can tell how much rage Chopin felt for his beloved Poland's struggle.

If you look at the painting and listen to the étude you can hear the swords clanging and see the plumes of smoke from cannons in the right hand; you might even hear the horses galloping while carrying men into battle. It is full of conflict and passion. It is written in C minor, Chopin's stormiest key which seems to depict the dark sky

in the painting above. See the melody below which he wrote in the right hand. He told the pianist to play it “with fury.”



Look at the left hand! It is all over the keyboard--full of arpeggios and runs up and down the keyboard. It paints a picture of tumult and drama.

Three systems of musical notation for the left hand in 4/4 time, key of B-flat major. The first system starts with a tempo marking of quarter note = 120. The left hand plays a series of arpeggiated chords and runs. The second system continues the arpeggiated pattern. The third system shows the left hand playing a series of eighth notes, then a quarter note, and finally a quarter rest. There are accents over many of the notes.

[It wasn't until after World War I (1916) that Poland regained its freedom and became a country again.]

Ballade #3, Opus 47

A Ballade [ba-lád] is a short, lyrical piece of music written for the piano.

Chopin wrote four ballades and was a pioneer in the form. His ballades are written in a 6 meter.



This ballade begins in A flat Major and travels through C# minor in its turbulent middle section before returning to A flat Major for the close. It is elegant throughout and while it has moments which are stormy and dark, it is basically optimistic and ends triumphantly.

The overall form is **A-B-C-B-A Coda**, so that it forms a kind of arch.

Sergei Rachmaninoff

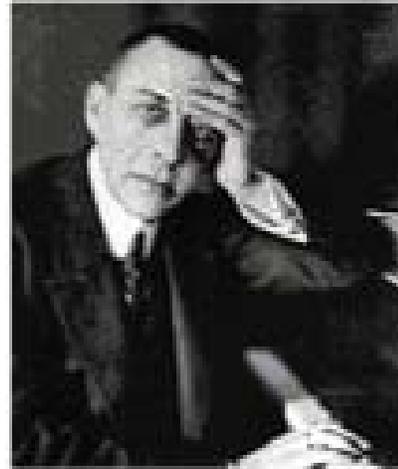
Russian Composer

1873-1943

Sergei Rachmaninoff was an important Russian composer, pianist and conductor. Most of his compositions were written for the piano, or piano and orchestra.



Caricature of Rachmaninoff's large, powerful hands



He was a very fine pianist with very large, powerful hands.

As a result, most of his compositions require true technical mastery.

Van Cliburn also had large, powerful hands. Mr. Cliburn had a special attraction to Russian music, in part due to his teacher, Ms. Lhevinne's influence—she was a product of the Moscow Conservatory. Tchaikovsky and Rachmaninoff were two of Cliburn's favorite and most successful composers.

We are drawn to Rachmaninoff's music because it is expressive and filled with rich melodies. He lived at the end of the Romantic period, in which composers had many tools in which to express emotion. The Prelude we will hear is only 2 ½ minutes long and is written in a minor key, but its haunting, moody quality is clearly established very quickly. The strong, dramatic melody in the left hand sounds like a sad Russian folksong, accompanied by shimmering arpeggio accompaniment in the right hand. Listen to the melody in the left hand alone and identify the falling figure down by a half step, then a third and eventually down to G#. In fact, if you follow the melody throughout, it generally leads down a sequence. The overall form is A-B-A, so after a great deal of excitement in the middle section, it goes back to the falling figure in the left hand.

If you were to paint a picture inspired by this piece of music, what colors would you use?

Johann Strauss

The Waltz King
1825-1899



Although Johann Strauss was the son of a composer, his father hoped he would become a banker. In fact, his father disapproved so vehemently of his becoming a musician that as a child Johann had to take violin lessons secretly. A career in music was obviously his destiny--by age 19 he was conducting his own orchestra!

Johann was so popular as a conductor in Vienna (in spite of his silly facial hair), that he usually had three or four orchestras performing at the same time and would race from one to another, to conduct them all. While he wrote several operettas, he was most famous as a composer of waltzes. In fact, he wrote over 500 dances, mostly waltzes and polkas during his lifetime—and earned the title “The Waltz King.”

A **Waltz** is a ballroom dance in $\frac{3}{4}$ meter in which the couples spin or rotate around the room. The Strauss family perfected the dance and made it extremely popular throughout Vienna, and later all of Europe. We will hear “The Blue Danube Waltz.”

The Danube River is Europe’s second longest river, flowing through 10 countries. It begins in the Black Forest of Germany, flows through Austria

(and Vienna, the capital), Hungary, and ends in the Ukraine, where it flows into the Black Sea.



“The Blue Danube” is one of Johann Strauss’ most famous waltzes. In fact it is considered to be the unofficial national anthem for Austria.

This version of the Blue Danube was transcribed for piano by composer Adolf Schulz-Evler. The complete title is “Arabesques on Themes from the Blue Danube.” An arabesque is “an ornamental design consisting of intertwining flowing lines.” That is a perfect name for the composition, don’t you think? And even though there are many intertwining, flowing lines, it always remains graceful.

Glossary

- Arpeggio** a group of notes played one after another. They usually outline a chord, such as do-mi-sol-do'-sol-mi-do
- Ballade** a short lyrical piece of music for piano
- Coda** a coda is the final, closing or “summing up” part of a composition. If you were making a speech, the coda might be where you would say, “And so, in closing, I would like to say...”
- Concerto** a composition written for a solo instrument accompanied by orchestra
- Dynamics** loudness or softness of a piece of music
- Étude** a composition written to improve a technical aspect of playing
- Movement** A movement is a formal section of a composition, such as a symphony, a sonata or a concerto. There is usually a pause between movements.
- Prelude** A Prelude is a brief musical composition usually based on a short musical idea. Composers have labeled their compositions “preludes” from Bach to Chopin to Debussy and Rachmaninoff.
- Sonata** A sonata is a composition written for a solo instrument in 3 or 4 movements or sections. Each section has a distinct spirit, a different tempo and can stand alone.
- Virtuoso** a person who possesses exceptional technical ability in an art or musical field; a person who is superior in singing or playing a musical instrument
- Waltz** An elegant gliding ballroom dance for partners in $\frac{3}{4}$ meter which became especially popular in Vienna

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www.rennerusa.com/VirtualActionModel.asp. At this internet site, one can play a
note and see the action of a grand piano note “work.”

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<http://encarta.msn.com> © 1997-2006 Microsoft Corporation. All Rights Reserved.



Adam Golka, Pianist

Born and raised in Texas to a family of musicians from Poland, 27-year-old pianist **Adam Golka** has won widespread critical and popular acclaim with his “brilliant technique and real emotional depth.” His playing has garnered international prizes including the 2008 Gilmore Young Artist Award, first prize in the 2003 China Shanghai International Piano Competition and the 2009 Max I. Allen Classical Fellowship Award of the American Pianists Association.

With his extensive concerto repertoire, beginning with Rachmaninoff, Ravel and Liszt, and now fully embracing Beethoven, Mozart, Brahms and Bartok, Golka has appeared as a soloist with the Atlanta, Houston, Dallas, Indianapolis, Milwaukee, Phoenix, San Diego, Fort Worth, Syracuse symphonies as well as orchestras around the world.

Adam Golka was appointed Artist-in-Residence at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Massachusetts in the 2014/2015 season.

Mr. Golka will play music of Mozart, Chopin, Rachmaninoff, Strauss and Sousa.

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The Collini Charity Fund
Andrew & Kathy DuBose
Fash Foundation
Fifth Avenue Foundation
Glenn Forbes
Linda & Mike Groomer
Joe T. Garcia's Mexican Restaurant
J.W. Pepper & Son., Inc.
Dr. Patricia A. Linares
Luther King Capital Management Staff
Nan & Mark Matson
Letha Grace McCoy
Pati & Bill Meadows
Dinah Menger
Mimi & Robert Nimocks
William Oglesby
Olive Pelich
Gail Rawl
Carol Ray
Shannon & Breck Ray
Mary & Dwayne Smith
Sara & Peter Sterling
Dr. & Mrs. William E. Tucker
Rinda & Jeff Wentworth
Martha & J.R. Williams
Diane Zubalsky