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Program number 052 in the School of Music Events Series of the 2016-2017 academic year.

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School of **MUSIC**

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA / COLLEGE OF THE ARTS

Nikita Fitenko, piano
Guest Artist

Tuesday, February 7, 2017

7:30PM

Music Building 101

NIKITA FITENKO

The Seasons

January: *At the Fireside*
February: *Carnival*
March: *Song of the Lark*
April: *Snowdrop*
May: *White Nights*
June: *Barcarolle*
July: *Song of the Reaper*
August: *Harvest*
September: *The Hunt*
October: *Autumn Song*
November: *Troika*
December: *Christmas*

Two Preludes

G major, Op. 32 No. 5
B minor, Op. 32 No. 10

Pictures at an Exhibition

Promenade
The Gnome
Promenade
The Old Castle
Promenade
Tuileries - Children Quarreling at Play
Bydlo
Promenade
Ballet of the Unhatched Chicks
Samuel Goldenberg and Schmuyle
Promenade
Limoges - The Market Place
Catacombs
Con mortuis in lingua morta
Baba-Yaga
The Great Gate of Kiev

Peter Tchaikovsky (1840-1893)

INTERMISSION

Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873-1943)

Modest Moussorgsky (1839-1881)

Internationally acclaimed pianist and Yamaha Artist **Nikita Fitenko** has performed recitals and with orchestras in the former Soviet Union, Europe, Asia, and South and North America. He has appeared as a soloist with such orchestras as St. Petersburg Capella Symphony, Russian Chamber Philharmonic, Russian Philharmonic Orchestra of Moscow, St. Petersburg State Conservatory Orchestra, State Hermitage Orchestra, Slovak National Philharmonic, Corvallis Symphony Orchestra, Lewisville Symphony, Rapides Symphony, and Northeast Texas Symphony among others.

While performing a wide and diverse repertoire, Nikita Fitenko is an acknowledged master of Russian piano music. His three CDs series for Altarus Records of complete piano works by leading contemporary Russian composers Georgy Sviridov and Sergei Slonimsky have garnered rave reviews from the international music press. Fanfare Music Review wrote, "Fitenko plays magnificently!" Slonimsky himself described Fitenko's interpretation of his piano music as "outstanding." He also added, "It is very vivid, imaginative, virtuosic, fascinating, and pianistically brilliant." Mr. Fitenko's recording of Scriabin's Piano Concerto with the Russian Philharmonic Orchestra of Moscow was released internationally on Classical Records label. His latest recording of works by Bach, Beethoven, Mussorgsky, and Rachmaninov for Classical Records was released in 2014.

In addition to solo recitals, Nikita Fitenko performs extensively in piano duo with Katerina Zaitseva. Hailed by critics for their "superlative sound, superlative interpretation, and superlative pianism...", the duo has performed worldwide with most recent appearances at the Moscow State Conservatory Hall (Russia), Madeira Music Festival (Portugal), Kennedy Center's Millennium Stage (Washington, D.C.), Yamaha Hall (NYC), Piano Duo Series (Tokyo, Japan), *Nancyphonies* Music Festival (France), University of Florida Young Pianists Festival, and Berkeley University (California, USA). Their critically acclaimed CD featuring works for piano four hands by Robert Schumann and Johannes Brahms has been released internationally by the Classical Records label and is available through Amazon and iTunes.

Native of St. Petersburg, Russia, Nikita Fitenko graduated from the St. Petersburg State Conservatory with a citation for excellence given to only five other graduates in the last fifty years. After receiving the Anton Rubinstein Memorial Award he came to study to the US pursuing his master's and doctoral degrees from the University of North Texas. His principal teachers included Roman Lebedev, Igor Lebedev, and Joseph Banowetz. Dr. Fitenko has been invited to serve on many international piano competition juries, including 2015 Campillos International Piano Competition (Malaga, Spain), 2013 Schubert International Piano Competition (San Cristoforo, Italy), 2012 Nordic International Piano Competition (Malmo, Sweden), 2011 Chopin International Piano Competition (Hartford, CT), 2010 Scriabin International Piano Competitions (Grosetto, Italy), 2009 American Pianists Association's Classical Fellowship Awards (Indianapolis, IN), 2008 Rachmaninov International Piano Competition (Moscow, Russia), and 2003 World International Piano Competition (Cincinnati, OH) among others. He has presented master classes at the Verdi Conservatory of Music (Turin, Italy), Hochschule fur Musik (Cologne and Saarbrucken, Germany), Tokyo College of Music, Jose Iturbi Conservatory of Music (Valencia, Spain), Estonian Academy of Music (Tallinn, Estonia), Korean National, Yeonsei, Hanyang, Sejong, ChungAng Universities (South Korea), Sichuan Conservatory, Xinghai and Chengdu Conservatories, Jinan University, Changchun Pedagogical University, Hangzhou University (China), as well as at the 2010 Convention of the Maryland State Music Teachers Association, 2009 Chinese-American International Piano Institute (Chengdu, China), and 2009 University of Florida Young Pianists Festival (Gainesville, FL). Among his students are winners of national and international competitions including National MTNA Competition.

Currently, Dr. Fitenko holds a position of Associate Professor of Piano at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. and co-directs the Washington International Piano Festival. Prior to that he was Associate Professor and Coordinator of Keyboard Area at Northwestern State University of Louisiana. He is also the founder of the Louisiana International and Florida International Piano Competitions.