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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release, January 8, 2010

Pianist Berenika plays Chopin at Santa Rosa Symphony Feb. 13-15 concerts

World Premiere Magnum Opus commission by Behzad Ranjbaran also on program

(SANTA ROSA, CA)— The Santa Rosa Symphony honors the 200th birthday of two classical masters by presenting Robert Schumann’s Fourth Symphony and Frederic Chopin’s Piano Concerto No. 2 at the Wells Fargo Center on February 13, 14 and 15. In addition, music director Bruno Ferrandis leads the orchestra in a world premiere by award-winning contemporary composer Behzad Ranjbaran, who is currently on the faculty of The Juilliard School. He has been hailed as “a master of the orchestra” by the *Dallas Morning News* and his pieces have been described as having “radiant luminescence” by the *Washington Post*. Full bio [here](#).

The Chopin concerto will be performed by Polish-born, rising star pianist Berenika, making her Santa Rosa Symphony debut. Hailed in Warsaw as a “gentle genius...who plays like a woman possessed,” Berenika won her first competition at age nine and has been a Leonard Bernstein Fellow at Tanglewood, winner of the Arthur W. Foote prize at Harvard, the John Knowles Paine Fellowship and the Canada Council for the Arts award. Full bio [here](#). Berenika’s recording of the Beethoven Piano Concerto No. 3 with Sinfonietta Cracovia will be available for purchase at the concert; the artist will sign CDs at intermission.

Behzad Ranjbaran’s world-premiere composition is titled “Mithra” and, according to the composer, was inspired by an ancient Persian mythology celebrated in pre-Islamic and Zoroastrian period (about 3000 years ago). This is the Santa Rosa Symphony’s seventh season participating in the Magnum Opus project, one of the largest commissioning projects of new symphonic works in the United

States. Ranjbaran will join Maestro Ferrandis in the pre-concert talks at 7 p.m. on Saturday and Monday, and 2 p.m. on Sunday.

Ferrandis noted, “Behzad is a modern composer but he writes in a style that is very neo-Romantic, very lyrical. He is a storyteller, who incorporates the ancient myths of Iran.”

Concert Sponsors

The February performances of the Santa Rosa Symphony Classical Series are underwritten by Faye Smith and the Dr. Larry Schoenrock Endowment Fund. Guest artist Berenika is sponsored by Exchange Bank.

Get Cued in with Pre-Concert Talks and Online Notes

To hear Maestro Ferrandis’ musings on, and insights about, this program, come to “Conversations with the Conductor,” a pre-concert talk with Q & A, beginning one hour before each performance (excluding the Saturday Discovery Open Rehearsal). This is an open-seating event that is free to ticket holders.

[Program Notes for this concert](#) are available at the SRS website.

Concert Times

Concert times are Saturday, February 13 and Monday, February 15 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, February 14 at 3 p.m. at the Wells Fargo Center for the Arts, 50 Mark West Springs Road, in Santa Rosa. The popular, family-friendly Discovery Series of open rehearsals continues at 2 p.m. on February 13. The Discovery concerts, economically priced at \$10 for adults and \$6 for youth, offer a sneak peek into the final rehearsal process before each concert set.

Tickets

For tickets, call (707) 546-8742, purchase online at santarosasympphony.com, or come in person to the Symphony Patron Services Office at 50 Santa Rosa Avenue (north door entrance, off the elevator lobby), from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday-Friday, Wednesdays 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tickets may also be purchased at the door 1½ hours before each performance (based on availability.) Single tickets are

\$28-\$55, with student and senior discounts available. \$10 Student Rush tickets (student I.D. required) can be purchased a half hour prior to curtain.

—Photos of Berenika and Behzad Ranjbaran are available upon request—

CALENDAR LISTING

Heading: Classical

What: Symphony Concert

Who: Santa Rosa Symphony

Bruno Ferrandis, conductor

Berenika, piano

Date and Time:

Sat., Feb. 13, 2010 at 8 p.m.

(Discovery Rehearsal, Sat., Feb. 13 at 2 p.m.)

Sun., Feb. 14, 2010 at 3 p.m.

Mon., Feb. 15, 2010 at 8 p.m.

Program:

RANJBARAN: *Mithra* (Magnum Opus world premiere)

CHOPIN: Piano Concerto No. 2

SCHUMANN: *Manfred* Overture

SCHUMANN: Symphony No. 4

The pre-concert talks, featuring Bruno Ferrandis and composer Behzah Ranjbaran, start one hour before each performance (except Discovery Rehearsal).

Venue: Wells Fargo Center for the Arts, 50 Mark West Springs Road, Santa Rosa, CA

Cost: Single tickets \$28-\$55, with senior and student discounts available.

Tickets: Online santarosasympphony.com, by phone 54-MUSIC (707-546-8742) or in person at the SRS Patron Services Office, 50 Santa Rosa Avenue, Santa Rosa, 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday-Friday.

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