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## **NEWS RELEASE**

For Immediate Release: September 30, 2010

### **Santa Rosa Symphony celebrates Franz Liszt with guest soloist Valentina Lisitsa November 6-8**

#### **Ukrainian-born pianist plays Liszt's Piano Concerto No. 1 and *Totentanz***

(SANTA ROSA, CA) –Music Director Bruno Ferrandis and the Santa Rosa Symphony offer a program of Eastern European composers at the Wells Fargo Center for the Arts on November 6, 7 and 8. They open the concert with Enesco's *Romanian Rhapsody* No. 1 and close with Bartok's Concerto for Orchestra. In between, guest soloist Valentina Lisitsa has two opportunities to show her "combustible virtuosity" at the keyboard as she performs Franz Liszt's *Totentanz* and his first piano concerto. The 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Liszt's birth falls in 2011, and the composer will be well-represented in this second concert set of the Symphony's 83<sup>rd</sup> season. The *Baltimore Sun* has described guest soloist Lisitsa as having "infallible fingers, imagination and a control of dynamics little short of electrifying." Valentina Listisa's [full bio here](#).

#### **Get Cued in with Pre-Concert Talks and Online Notes**

To hear Maestro Ferrandis' musings on, and insights about, the November 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 online.

#### **Concert Sponsors**

Santa Rosa Symphony's November concert set is underwritten by Drs. Charles and Deborah Eid and Faye Smith. Guest artist Valentina Lisitsa is underwritten by Evelyn Niemack Truman and Betty Witchey-Ryer.

## Concert Times

Concert times are Saturday, November 6 and Monday, November 8 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, November 7 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 November 6. 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](http://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.

## Guest Artist Brief Bio

The Ukrainian-born **Valentina Lisitsa** has been receiving rave reviews since making her Mostly Mozart Festival debut at Lincoln Center's Avery Fisher Hall. Lisitsa is at ease with a vast repertoire ranging from Bach and Mozart to Shostakovich and Bernstein. Her orchestral repertoire alone includes more than forty concerti, all of which have been performed.

Her 2008 recital debut in Vienna's Musikverein Golden Hall received multiple standing ovations from the highly discerning Viennese audience. Her 2008-09 season spanned more than 80 performances world-wide, including a debut with the Chicago Symphony, her second appearance with the Festival International de Lanaudière, and a recital tour of California. She has performed with the National Philharmonic of Russia, Warsaw Philharmonic, Sao Paulo Symphony, New Zealand Symphony, and Prague Chamber Orchestra.

An avid chamber music player, she has performed with Lynn Harrell, Jimmy Lin, Roberto Diaz, and Ida Haendel. But her most important musical partnership has been with the superb violinist Hilary Hahn. Lisitsa has recorded 8 CDs on the Audiofon label and 3 independently released DVDs, including her set of Chopin's 24 Etudes, which long held the #1 spot on Amazon music video list.

Born in Kiev, Lisitsa began to study piano at the age of three and performed her first solo recital at four. After her studies—first in Lysenko School of Music and then in Kiev Conservatory—she moved to the United States and shortly thereafter became a citizen. She makes her home with her husband (and duo piano partner) Alexei Kuznetsoff and their son.

—Photos of Valentina Lisitsa and Bruno Ferrandis available upon request—

### **CALENDAR LISTING**

**Heading:** Classical

**What:** Symphony Concert  
Bruno Ferrandis, conductor  
Valentina Lisitsa, piano

**Date and Time:**

Sat., November 6 at 8 p.m.  
(Discovery Rehearsal, Sat., October 6 at 2 p.m.)  
Sun., November 7, 2010 at 3 p.m.  
Mon., November 8, 2010 at 8 p.m.

**Program:**

ENESCO: *Romanian Rhapsody No. 1*  
LISZT: Piano Concerto No. 1  
LISZT: *Totentanz*  
BARTÓK: Concerto for Orchestra

The pre-concert talks 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](http://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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