The Schiller Institute, Russian-Danish Dialogue, The Russian House and The China Culture Center present

A MUSICAL DIALOGUE of CULTURES
February 17, 2017
The Russian Center for Science and Culture

plus Semjon Bulshem, pianist; Feride Istogu Gillesberg, soprano; and The Schiller Institute’s chorus
Welcome:
Tom Gillesberg, chairman, The Schiller Institute in Denmark

Hosts for the evening:
Jelena Nielsen, Russian-Danish Dialogue, and Tom Gillesberg

Russia: Folk music
The moon is shining, folk song
Smuglijanka, song
Umka, a night song
Katjusha, folk song, with soloist
The children’s balalaika orchestra “Svetit Mesjac” (The Moon is Shining), from The Russian House, Igor Panich, conductor
Valerij Likhachev, baritone

Indonesia:
Traditional Jaipong dance
Sarah Noor Komarudin

Europe: Classical music

Jean Sebelius (Finland)
Blåsippan
Vitsippan
Sippan
Törnet, all from Op. 88
Var det en dröm?, Op. 37
   Idil Alpsoy, mezzosoprano
   Christine Raft, piano

Beethoven (Germany)
Romance i F-major, Op.50
   Anika Telmányi Lylloff, violin
   Benjamin Telmányi Lylloff, piano

Schubert (Austria)
Gretchen am Spinnrade

Verdi (Italy)
Desdemona’s prayer Ave Maria, from the opera Othello
   Leena Malkki, soprano
   Benjamin Telmányi Lylloff, piano
Intermission:
Chinese refreshments, compliments of The China Culture center

China:
Traditional music
Bamboo flute solo: Strolling in Suzhou
Bamboo flute solo: Spring in Xinag River
Gourd flute solo: Under the Moon
Kangding Lovesong
   Kai Guo, flute and singer
   Feride Istogu Gillesberg, soprano
   Benjamin Telmányi Lylloff, piano

Ghana:
Traditional music
A religious song
A patriotic song
   Kwaku ne Kwaku
   Isaac Kwaku, song
   Fred Kwaku, piano

Europe: Classical music
Mozart (Austria)
Leperello’s list aria, from the opera Don Giovanni
Charles Gounod (France)
Mephistopheles’ couplets, from the opera Faust
   Valerij Likhachev, baritone
   Semjon Bolshem, piano

Dvořák (now Czech Republic), Rusalka’s song to the moon, from the opera Rusalka
   Gitta-Maria Sjöberg, soprano
   Christine Raft, pianist

Verdi (Italy)
Va pensiero, from the opera Nabucco (The text is on the back page.)
   Ensemble, with the addition of members of The Schiller Institute’s chorus
Sarah Noor Komarudin
Though born in Denmark, Sarah was taught by her parents to not forget her Indonesian roots. As a child, she started learning traditional Indonesian dances at the Indonesian Embassy in Copenhagen, and has also continued her studies in Indonesia.

Idil Alpsoy
Idil Alpsoy is a young Swedish mezzo soprano, with roots in both Hungary and Turkey. Her unique voice unites the pure timbre of the countries of the North, with the warmth and temperament of the South.
Throughout her carrier, she has been known for her enormous scenic presence, and her artistic integrity, which has led to cooperation with musicians such as Per Tengstrand, The Danish String Quartet, The Middle East Peace Orchestra, Tommie Haglund, Gitta-Maria Sjöberg, and Andreas Borregaard. She has performed with The Norwegian Opera, the Intermezzo Festival i Brugge, The Royal Danish Opera, Takkeloftet, the Copenhagen Opera Festival and the Tampa Opera (USA). Idil was educated at The Royal Danish Music Conservatory, and received her Master of Music in Opera Studies from the Manhattan School of Music, USA.

Valerij Likhachev
Baritone Valerij is a professional opera singer from Russia. Since 1998, he performed at The Royal Danish Opera. He has given 200 solo concerts in Sweden, Germany, France, Italy and Denmark. Valerij has sung with famous orchestras, such as The Royal Danish Orchestra, The Large Symphony Orchestra of the Russian Federation, and the State Russia Folk Orchestra. Currently, he is a leader of The Russian House in Copenhagen association. Valerij is the initiator of many cultural projects, with the cooperation of leading Russian artists.

The children’s balalaika orchestra “Svetit Mesjac”
The Russian children’s balalaika orchestra “Svetit Mesjac,” which means the moon is shining, has existed for about 5 years. They became laureats of three musical competitions in Berlin (Kleine Sterne), Moscow (The Rose of the Winds, and in Finland (Bravo Turku).
Christine Raft
Christine was educated as a pianist and soloist from The Royal Danish Music Conservatory. He finished her studies with a debut concert in May 2011. Christine’s soloist studies were with pianist Jens Elvekjær. She has also studied in Spain at the Escuela Superior de Musica de Reina Sofia in Madrid, in France with Professor Rena Shereshevskaya, and has played in concerts in Europa, USA and China. Christine has a beautiful tone, a natural flow in her phrasing, and a strong radiance on stage. Christine has a great interest in communicating classical music to a broader audience. She is an active chamber musician, and a founder of Trio Ismena and Duo Schmidt&Raft.

Anika Telmányi Lylloff
Anika is the daughter of the Hungarian violinist Emil Telmányi. She was a member of The Royal Danish Orchestra, and played in the The Royal Danish Opera orchestra for 41 years. She is currently the concert master of the Sinfonia Selandia.

Benjamin Telmányi Lylloff
Classical pianist, singer and composer. Educated at the Royal Academy of Music in Copenhagen and the Banff Centre for the Arts in Banff, Canada. Has performed as singer and pianist in Denmark, USA and Germany with the Schiller Institute of which he is also an associate. He has a duo with his mother Anika Telmányi.

Leena Malkki
As a child soloist, Leena received recognition at an early age. She was classicly educated in Paris, which she was the pupil of Robert Delmas, Raphael Sikorski and David Jones at the private Laboratoire de la Voix singing school. Leena has sung the roles of the Countess in The Marriage of Figaro, Donna Elvira in Don Giovanni, Elisabetta in Maria Stuart, Vitellia in The Clemency of Titus and the title role Gioconda in La Gioconda. She has sung as a freelance soprano, and the producer for Operafabriken in Malmø since 2011.
**Kai Gao**
Kai Gao is an exchange student from China at DTU’s photonic department. He plays many traditional Chinese instruments, including the bamboo flute, and the gourd flute since his childhood. He also plays classical music instruments such as the cello, which is his main instrument. Kai Gao is a member of the Euphrosyne Orchestra in Denmark. He has grown up in a musical environment, under the motto “live the music”. Kai is an active member of the Chinese Center for culture.

**Feride Istogu Gillesberg**
Feride is a soprano with roots in Kosova and Germany. She is the vice president of The Schiller Institute in Denmark.

**KWAKU ne KWAKU**
Isaac Kwaku (left) and Fred Kwaku (right) from Ghana perform traditional music.

**Gitta-Maria Sjöberg**
Gitta-Maria Sjöberg was born in Sweden and studied at the Opera Academy in Copenhagen with Finnish bass Kim Borg. She made her debut at the Royal Danish Theatre in 1987 as Mimi, and has since then performed both there as leading soprano and around the world as a much appreciated guest. In Copenhagen she had the honour of opening the new Opera House in 2005 as Aida, with Roberto Alagna as Radamés.

Extraordinary versatile she masters lyric as well as highly dramatic parts, imbuing all with complexity and inner life, in an impressive repertoire of more than 40 roles. Her previous appearances
in operas by Janácek include Emilia Marty The Makropoulous Case both in Düsseldorf, Stockholm, Copenhagen and newly with extraordinary success in Brno, opening the Int. Janácek Opera Festival – broadcasted in EU Radio and Czech TV. Her Kostelnicka in the Malmö production of Jenufa was acclaimed as: “one of the best ever”, and in August she will sing the part again in the Scottish Opera’s production at The Danish National Opera in Århus. She has also newly played Katerina Izmailova in Shostakovich’s Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk in Gothenburg, interpreting the part with a fascinating mixture of dramatic colours.

Gitta-Maria is even a highly gifted lied singer with solo recitals all over Europe, St Petersburg, Tokyo a.o. This great interest in lieder and songs as well as she is also a dedicated teacher at popular masterclasses, made her establish a new festival in Sweden Nordic Song Festival - which had its successful premiere in the summer 2014 goes on this year june 29th - July 7th. as an inspiring mixture of masterclasses, concerts and artistic research (www.nordicsongfestival.com).

Gitta-Maria has made many recordings, including Verdi and Puccini Arias (Dacord 2007); Nordic Trio: Nordic Folksongs and Ballads, arranged by her husband, the composer (and baritone) Matti Borg; Sieglinde in the Royal Danish Opera’s recording of Der Ring des Nibelungen, which was selected as DVD of the Year by Gramophone magazine; and the Kostelnicka on the Naxos DVD of the Malmö Production of Jenufa.

Since 2013 she has been the chairwoman of the Birgit Nilsson Society and artistic director and leading initiator of Nordic Song Festival, which now will hold its fourth consecutive festival in the summer of 2017. Gitta-Maria Sjöberg has received many awards and has been knighted in the 1. Degree by the Queen Margrethe II of Denmark. Read more: www.gittamaria.com.

**The Schiller Institute’s chorus**

Members of The Schiller Institute chorus will join in singing Verdi’s song Va Pensiero, a song which expresses the longing for freedom. They are all political activists in The Schiller Institute’s campaign for establishing a new, just, world economic order, and a scientific and cultural renaissance. They have also been candidates for political office in Denmark.

The German poet Friedrich Schiller was convinced that the road to political freedom is through beauty, which has the capacity to enoble the soul. The Schiller Institute, and cooperating musicians, perform and spread the knowledge of classical music, and the beautiful music of other cultures. The Schiller Institute would like to expand their chorus in Copenhagen. Please contact us if you are interested in joining, or coming to one session. 53 57 00 51; 35 43 00 33, si@schillerinstitut.dk
At a time when there is too much political tension in the world, and the nations of the world ought to, instead, work together for the common goals of mankind, it is extremely important that we build bridges, of every kind, between the nations of the world, and the many different cultures. When we experience the beauty of other cultures, mutual understanding is created, and a basis for cooperation and peace. Classical art is, therefore, an important key to such a dialogue between cultures, and that is why we are holding this concert!

Contact us:
The Schiller Institute: 53 57 00 51, si@schillerinstitut.dk, Danish: www.schillerinstitut.dk, English: www.newparadigm.schillerinstitute.com, www.schillerinstitute.org

Russian-Danish Dialogue: www.russian-danish-dialogue.dk

The Russian House in Copenhagen (see Facebook)

The China Cultural Center, opening soon on H.C. Andersens Boulevard