

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Halloween Concert, Saturday, October 28, 2023, 2 PM

A trunk or treat event will follow the concert!

Edgcumbe Presbyterian Church, 2149 Edgcumbe Road, St. Paul

Coffee Concert, Tuesday, November 14, 2023 at 7:00 PM,

Featuring our Suzuki Cello Quartet

Fingal's Cave at MetroNOME Brewery, 385 Broadway Street,

St. Paul

Coffee Concert, Wednesday, November 15, 2023, Noon

Featuring our Suzuki Cello Quartet

Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, 285 Dale Street N, St. Paul

Livestream details are available through our website: www.thespcm.org



This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board, and through a Minnesota State Arts Board Operating Support grant, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.

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The SAINT PAUL CONSERVATORY of MUSIC

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Coffee Concerts 2023-2024

Mark Billy, baritone Osip Nikiforov, piano

Wednesday, October 11, 2023
12 Noon

Unity Church-Unitarian
733 Portland Avenue
Saint Paul, MN

ABOUT THE PERFORMERS

Osip Nikiforov is a Russian pianist, who studied under the tutelage of the world-renowned pianists—Yefim Bronfman at Manhattan School of Music and Jon Kimura Parker at Rice University. He is also a Third prize-winner of 2016 San Antonio International Piano Competition.

Born in the city of Abakan in Siberia to a family of musicians, Osip started studying piano with his father at age 6. At just 14 years of age, Osip performed Beethoven Piano Concerto No. 3 with the Minnesota Orchestra. Since 2010 Osip Nikiforov has been residing in the United States. In 2023 Mr. Nikiforov performed a series of all-Rachmaninoff solo programs in Texas and Minnesota, dedicated to the 150th anniversary of the composer. In 2020 he was awarded First prize at San Antonio Young Artist Tuesday Musical Competition. Osip is regularly invited to perform at concert series as well as festivals, including the Schubert Club Courtroom Concert Series in St. Paul, the Salon se Leve Concert Series in Minneapolis, the Dame Myra Hess Memorial Concert Series in Chicago, the Memorial Classical Music Series in Houston, and the Mozart Festival Texas in San Antonio. Besides the United States, he has given solo recitals in Spain, Israel, South Africa, Russia, and Japan. Osip has also frequently collaborated with national and international orchestras, including the St. Petersburg State Academic Capella Symphony Orchestra, the Minnesota Orchestra, the Khakass Philharmonic Orchestra, the Incarnate Word Symphony Orchestra, and the Golden Valley Symphony Orchestra. He is also the Second prize winner of 2014 Music Teacher National Association Competition in Young Artist Division in Chicago.

Osip Nikiforov has graduated from Shattuck St. Mary's School in Minnesota and the University of Minnesota, studying piano with Alexander Braginsky. In August 2023 Osip became a Doctor of Musical Arts at Rice University. He has also appeared on Minnesota Public Radio, Performance Today by YourClassical, WFMT Radio, GetClassical, Classical Connect, Star Tribune, and Houston Press. In Fall 2021 Osip's first piano solo album "Russian Elegie" was released by Orpheus Classical Label on all major digital platforms.

Mark Billy is a Verdi baritone of Native (Choctaw) ancestry from Oklahoma. His voice captivates and hearkens to the golden age of bel canto singing. Mark has a multi-faceted career in opera, recital, and concert work.

In November, Mark will make his [Madison Opera](#) debut singing the role of the Sacristan in Puccini's *Tosca* and covering the role of Baron Scarpia.

Mark is the recipient of numerous awards and performance grants including the Music in Action Grant from the Wagner Society of the Upper Midwest, Opera Reading Project's IDEA Fellowship, and first prize in the Schubert Club Competition. Mark has been a young artist with Hawaii Opera Theatre and Fargo Moorhead Opera and was a finalist for the Ryan Opera Center auditions at the Lyric Opera of Chicago. Mark was chosen as the first opera singer to open Minnesota Opera's new performance venue, the Luminary Arts Center in a solo recital.

In the 2023-2024 season Mark will be making his solo debut with local ensembles and opera companies such as the Mixed Precipitation, Duluth Superior Symphony, Exultate, Border Crossing, Mesabi Symphony, and Minnesota Orchestra performing pieces such as Messiah (El Mesías), Brahms Requiem, Carmina Burana, and Bach's Magnificat.

As a nearly full blood member of the Choctaw tribe, Mark is a champion of works by indigenous composers and works in indigenous languages. 2024 includes many important recital debuts including one in Seattle with the Music of Remembrance concert series and in New York City with National Sawdust in May.

In October of 2024 Mark will join the Oklahoma City Philharmonic and the Canterbury Choral Society to sing the roles he created in *Shell Shaker* by Jerod Impichchaachaaha' Tate.

Prologue "Si puo" from *Pagliacci* R. Leoncavallo
(1857-1919)

Prelude in C-sharp minor, Op. 3 S. Rachmaninoff
(1873-1943)

Ludwig's Alptraum (2007) L. Auerbach
(b. 1973)

Movement, from *Images I* C. Debussy
(1862-1918)

"Va Tosca!" (Te Deum) from *Tosca, Act I* G. Puccini
(1858-1924)

Break

vba isht taloa 112 (Choctaw hymn) (2021) C. Shadle
(b.1960)

Appropriation aria M. Newman
(b.1962)

Piano Sonata No. 8 in B-flat major, Op. 84 S. Prokofiev
II. Andante sognando (1891-1953)
III. Vivace

Heimliche Aufforderung, Op. 27, No. 3 R. Strauss
Zueignung, Op. 10, No. 1 (1864-1949)

Allerseelen, Op. 10, No. 8
Cäcilie, Op. 27, No. 2

"Colors of the Wind" from *Pocahontas* A. Menken
(b. 1949)

Mark Billy, baritone
Osip Nikiforov, piano

Thank you to Unity Church-Unitarian for the use of your beautiful sanctuary!