



HOSTED BY JAMES AND ELENA RECTOR

*A Tribute to
Frédéric Chopin*

FEATURING
PERFORMANCES BY
NARA AVETRISYAN,
HRANT BAGRAZIAN,
AND RACHAEL SHAPIRO

April 30, 2016 ~ 4:00 pm

HOME CONCERT NO. 17



Nara Avetrisyan
Cleveland Institute of Music



Hrant Bagrazyan
Cleveland Institute of Music



Rachael Shapiro
Oberlin Conservatory

About the Artists

April 30, 2016

Nara Avetrisyan, piano

Armenian pianist **Nara Avetisyan** is currently pursuing a Master's double-degree at CIM in both solo and collaborative piano performance, studying with Sergei Babayan and Anita Pontremoli, respectively. Ms. Avetisyan has received prizes in numerous competitions, including the Baly Dvarionas International Piano Competition (Vilnius, Lithuania), "Konzerteum" International Piano Competition (Greece), "Le Muse" International Piano Competition (Agropoli, Italy), and the "Chopin Rome 2008" International Piano Competition (Rome, Italy). Recently she won the 2016 CIM Spring Concerto Competition, granting her the opportunity to perform with the CIM orchestra this fall. Ms. Avetisyan received her B.M. in piano performance from CIM in 2014. Nara was selected to participate in the Advanced Piano Trio Program under the tutelage of Sharon Robinson and has performed in master classes with Hamish Milne, Ashley Wass, Alexander Mndoyants, Philippe Cassard, Bernd Glemser, Till Fellner and Warren Jones. Ms. Avetisyan has given recitals in Vienna, Munich, Geneva, London, Monaco, Sochi, Boston, Los Angeles and other European and U.S. cities. In addition to music, Nara enjoys travelling and photography.



Hrant Bagrazyan, piano

Hrant Bagrazyan started playing the piano at the age of six. He attended Tchaikovsky music school and Yerevan State Conservatory in Armenia. In 2009 he was appointed to Cleveland's Institute of Music Professional Studies program. Currently he is pursuing his Masters degree at CIM. He studied with Sergei Babayan for four years and is currently studying with HaeSun Paik. Hrant has won awards in national and international competitions, including Kaufman European Music Competition, George Saradjev National Piano Competition, Aram Khachaturian International Piano Competition. He won the first prize in the Kankakee Valley International Piano Competition, which led him to perform J. Brahms' 1st Piano Concerto with the Kankakee Valley Symphony Orchestra in April. He has played concerts in Armenia, Belgium, Poland and the United States. Also he participated in various music festivals including gala concerts of Sergei Babayan International Academy. Hrant participated in master classes with renowned musicians such as Bernd Glemser and Vladimir Krainev.

Rachael Shapiro, piano

Rachael Shapiro began her musical studies at the age of seven, and is currently a student of Peter Takacs at the Oberlin Conservatory. An avid chamber musician, she was chosen to perform at Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall through the New York Youth Symphony Chamber Program, and at the Oberlin-in-Oakton recital series. She has played in masterclasses for Gilbert Kalish, Ani Kavafian, Richard Goode, Rachel Barton Pine, and the Jupiter and Chiara String Quartets. An impassioned believer of music as a fundraising technique, Rachael has given annual recitals for the past six years to raise money for organizations like the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, the Crohns & Colitis Foundation, the Lustgarten Foundation for pancreatic cancer, and others. She has raised more than \$20,000 total for charity through her benefit recitals. After graduating Oberlin Conservatory in May, Rachael will be working as a research analyst at Third Bridge Inc., a financial market research firm in New York, NY.



Today's Program

**A TRIBUTE TO COMPOSER
FRÉDÉRIC CHOPIN**

Performed by Mr. Bagrazyan

Sonata No. 3 in B minor, Op. 58

Performed by Ms. Shapiro

Nocturne, Op. 9: No. 1 in B flat minor
Nocturne, Op. 37: No. 1 in G minor

Nocturne, Op. 9: No. 2 in E flat Major
Nocturne, Op. 55: No. 1 in F minor

Performed by Ms. Avetrisyan

Concerto No. 1 in E minor, Op. 11

Accompanied on second piano by Mr. Hrant Bagrazyan

Piano: Steinway D Concert Grand

Piano Technician: Jeff Krill

Cleveland Institute of Music & The Cleveland Orchestra





Chopin Playing the Piano in Prince Radziwill's Salon (painted by Henryk Siemiradzki in 1887)

Frédéric François Chopin (1810-1849) was a Polish composer and a virtuoso pianist of the Romantic era, who wrote primarily for the solo piano. He gained and has maintained renown worldwide as one of the leading musicians of his era, whose poetic genius was based on a professional technique that was without equal in his generation. Chopin was born in what was then the Duchy of Warsaw, and grew up in Warsaw, which after 1815 became part of Congress Poland. A child prodigy, he completed his musical education and composed his earlier works in Warsaw before leaving Poland at the age of 20, less than a month before the outbreak of the November 1830 Uprising.

At the age of 21 he settled in Paris. Thereafter, during the last 18 years of his life, he gave only some 30 public performances, preferring the more intimate atmosphere of the salon. He supported himself by selling his compositions and teaching piano, for which he was in high demand. Through most of his life, Chopin suffered from poor health. He died in Paris in 1849, probably of tuberculosis. Chopin's keyboard style is highly individual and often technically demanding; his own performances were noted for their nuance and sensitivity.

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Refreshments are available immediately following the recital.



Thank you!
Elena and James Rector