

## Move over Stravinsky: After nearly three decades celebrating composers' anniversaries, Tatyana Dudochkin's annual concert shares the love with The Rite of Spring

Features 'Rite of Spring' with four pianos and percussion, Vivaldi's 'Spring' from 'Four Seasons'

Boston premiere from Thomas Adès, and more

Jordan Hall | March 26, 2017, at 8 p.m.

**BOSTON** — For Tatyana Dudochkin, her annual Composers Anniversary Celebration at the New England Conservatory has always been more than a concert series. It's a journey — and she's got the frequent flyer miles and photos to prove it. Since 1991, the Russian-born pianist, teacher, and founder and artistic director of the series, has celebrated the great composers with landmark concerts at Boston's Jordan Hall. The concerts showcase an expansive amount of the selected composer's library, and each features world-renowned musicians and hosts dignitaries from the United States and around the globe.

There were centennial celebrations — Prokofiev, Tchaikovsky, Gershwin, Rodrigo, Walton, Shostakovich; sesquicentennial celebrations — Faure, Puccini, Dvorak, Lyadov, Chaminade, Debussy; and bicentennials — Czery, Chopin, Liszt, Schubert, Glinka, and Verdi. The round number prerequisite was relaxed in 1999 to celebrate the 190th year of Haydn's passing. The series marked the 250th year after Bach's death in 2000 and honored Shakespeare on his 450th birthday by showcasing music inspired by his writing. Occasionally, the concerts have skipped the solo spotlight to do something different, such as celebrating the series' 25th anniversary by presenting a "Best of" retrospective.

### A Twist on Spring

The 27th edition of the concert series, **hosted by WCRB's Ron Della Chiesa**, at Jordan Hall on March 26, will feature a program called **The Rite of Spring**. **Don't expect an exploration of Stravinsky's work, however.** Dudochkin has something different in store. "A few years ago, we decided to move the annual concert from winter to spring, and immediately a theme popped up in my head: Let's do composers celebrating spring. There's plenty of material, and we'll present it with a twist."

The concert will feature a unique version of **Stravinsky's "The Rite of Spring,"** featuring four pianos and percussion; **"Spring"** from Vivaldi's **"Four Seasons,"** with **NEC's Borromeo String Quartet**; **Couperin's "Le rossignol en amour,"** featuring flutist **Paula Robison**; **Rachmaninoff's "Spring Waters";** and **"Spring" from Astor Piazzolla's "Four Seasons of Buenos Aires."** It will also include **two Boston premieres, "To Mimi" by Menachem Wiesenberg and Thomas Adès' "Virginia."** The concert will conclude with Johann Strauss Jr.'s grand waltz **"Voices of Spring,"** featuring **Todos Dance Studio.**

### It Takes a Global Village

In 26 years, Dudochkin has covered a lot of ground — musically and geographically. The preparation for each concert begins long before the previous one has been performed. She researches composers' libraries, traversing everything from masterpieces to rarely performed works, and then designs a program that celebrates an upcoming milestone or some renewed cultural relevancy. Her choice of performers is also a global effort, a search for talented musicians. Some of them have family ties to the composer. Past performers include: "Queen of the Cello" Natalia Gutman, from Moscow; **Maxim Schostakovich**, conductor, pianist and **son of Dmitri Schostakovich**, from St. Petersburg, who performed at the 2006 tribute to his father; and **Elisha Abas, the great-great-grandson of composer Alexander Scriabin**, who performed in 2015 in tribute to his great-grandfather at the 25th anniversary concert.

"For each composer I've featured, I've traveled to their homeland, and in many cases I've met their living relatives. For Villa-Lobos, I went to Rio de Janeiro; then Paris for Debussy, Massenet and Chaminade; and Italy for Verdi and Puccini," said Dudochkin. "When I was in Madrid doing my research for Rodrigo, I met his daughter Cecilia, who provided tremendous insights into the composer's home life and music. While in Italy researching for Puccini's 150th birthday, I met with his granddaughter, who ultimately flew from Milan to celebrate her grandfather's birthday with us."

## **A Lasting Legacy**

The excitement that Dudochkin exudes during her overseas explorations has not gone unnoticed. Over the years, heads of state, ambassadors and consuls general from the composers' homelands, as well as family members and passionate fans, have traveled to Boston for the performances. In some instances, these visits have sparked relationships that continue to this day.

“The Armenian community created an ongoing scholarship for Armenian students to study at NEC after our celebration of Aram Khachaturian’s 100th birthday. Another example is when the daughter of Joaquin Rodrigo, who flew from Madrid to attend our 2001 centennial celebration for her father, was so taken by the tribute that she gifted a good deal of music to NEC’s library,” recalled Dudochkin. “In 2008, a granddaughter of Puccini, who came to Boston for our 150th celebration of his birth, returned home with a DVD of the performance, the same one that is still running every day at the Puccini Museum in Lucca, Italy.

“Closer to home, at our 2004 Mikhail Glinka bicentennial celebration, one of three choruses that performed the Glinka score of the famous chorus ‘Glory’ from ‘Life for the Tsar’ was from the Russian Orthodox Church in Roslindale. So inspired by the program, they sought and received special permission to use the church’s own bells at the performance and hung them on a stand they made themselves on the stage of the Jordan Hall, it was very, very special.”

## **The Concert Program**

### **Stravinsky: Le sacre du printemps**

Hank Mou (Bass), Chen Zimbalista (Marimba), Alexander Korsantia (Piano), Meng-Chieh Liu (Piano), Maxim Mogilevsky (Piano), Pavel Nersessian (Piano), Luis Herrera Albertazzi (Percussion)

### **Wiesenberg: To Mimi**

Chen Zimbalista (Marimba)

### **Vivaldi: Concertos (4) for Violin, Op. 8 no 1-4 "Le quattro stagioni" (The Four Seasons)**

Concerto no 1 "La primavera"

Hank Mou (Bass), Paula Robison (Flute), John Gibbons (Harpsichord), Borromeo String Quartet

### **Couperin: Le rossignol en amour**

Paula Robison (Flute), John Gibbons (Harpsichord)

### **Adès: Five Eliot Landscapes, Op. 1**

“Virginia”

Yelena Dudochkin (Soprano), Tatyana Dudochkin (Piano)

### **Rachmaninov: Spring Waters Op. 14 No. 11**

Yelena Dudochkin (Soprano), Tatyana Dudochkin (Piano)

### **Piazzolla: Las Cuatro Estaciones Porteñas (Four Seasons of Buenos Aires)**

“Primavera Porteña” (Spring)

Tatyana Dudochkin (Piano), Ji-Won Song (Violin), Sam Ou (Cello)

### **Strauss: Frühlingstimmen, Op. 410 (Voices of Spring)**

Dance Studio Todos

**For more information and to buy tickets, please visit: <http://necmusic.edu/event/16192>**

## About Tatyana Dudochkin

**Tatyana Dudochkin, the founder and artistic director of the Composer's annual Anniversary Celebration Series**, is a distinguished pianist and teacher who served as the chair of the Piano Ensemble Department in the Preparatory and Continuing Education Division at the New England Conservatory for 20 years. Her extensive teaching career has yielded a legion of acclaimed musicians who have won nearly 300 top prizes at national and international competitions.

The Russian-born pianist has been heralded as “a strong and fiery player,” by legendary music critic Richard Dyer, and “a highly sensitive and passionate player with colorful tone,” by the Boston Globe. Dudochkin is a winner of the First Prize and Grand Medal at the prestigious Early Music Festival Competition in Lithuania, as well as numerous other awards, including the All Union Music Competition, the Ukrainian National Music Competition and the National Music Competition at Tallinn, Estonia. Critically acclaimed for her performances as a soloist and chamber musician, Dudochkin has performed extensively throughout the former Soviet Union, United States, Canada, Spain, Italy, and Holland. She has been an artist-in-residence at the Rockport Music Festival, Spring at Prague Festival, Hampton Music Festival and many others.

Dudochkin has recorded extensively on the Melodia label and performed and recorded at WGBH, WBUR, “Voice of America,” “Morning Pro Musica” and Washington National Public Radio. She is also featured in many recordings of “Live from Jordan Hall” and recently in performance at Carnegie Weill Recital Hall. Additionally, she is the president of the Chamber Music Foundation of New England as well as founder and director of the International Chamber Music Ensembles Competition since 2005. [www.tatyanadudochkin.com](http://www.tatyanadudochkin.com)

Press Inquiries  
Interviews & High Resolution Images  
Dayla Arabella Santurri  
781.479.6951 [@DaylaArabella](https://twitter.com/DaylaArabella)  
[Dayla@DaylaArabella.com](mailto:Dayla@DaylaArabella.com)

27th Annual Composers  
Anniversary Celebration  
The Rite of Spring  
March 26, 2017 | 8 p.m.  
Jordan Hall, Boston

Jordan Hall  
30 Gainsborough Street  
Boston, MA 02115  
For Tickets & More Info  
<http://necmusic.edu/event/16192>  
617-585-1260