

arts scottsdale news release
scottsdale center for the performing arts

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**POWERHOUSE PIANIST YEFIM BRONFMAN
TO PLAY SCHUMANN, DEBUSSY, PROKOFIEV**



Yefim Bronfman

SCOTTSDALE, Arizona — Known for his sonorous power at the piano, celebrated pianist Yefim Bronfman will play music of the 19th and 20th centuries on Feb. 16, at 8 p.m., at the Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts.

Born in 1958 in Tashkent, Uzbek, in the old Soviet Union, Bronfman emigrated to Israel at age 15, and became a U.S. citizen in 1989. By that time, Bronfman had launched his career, making his Carnegie Hall debut in 1988.

Bronfman's program, part of the Virginia G. Piper Concert Series, will open with two works by Robert Schumann (1810-1856), continue with a suite of pieces by Claude Debussy (1862-1918), and conclude with a thunderous sonata by Sergei Prokofiev (1891-1953). This will be his first appearance at the Center in six years.

In a review of Bronfman playing Schumann, *The New York Times* noted, "His easy-does-it execution, careful delineation of inner voices and playfulness were disarming." Of his performance of Prokofiev, a different review in the *New York Times* acclaimed Bronfman for bringing to the music "exuberant spaciousness." The *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* has called Bronfman "a superb musician, one who is thoughtful and never lets bravura take over. His climaxes are organic, his phrasing seamless, his approach bold. He possesses a gleaming tone that he uses with substantive variation, and his legato is as smooth as cream."

Bronfman's wide-ranging repertoire encompasses everything from 18th-century masterpieces to the major 19th-century literature to newly composed scores.

Schumann composed his *Arabesque*, Op. 18, at age 28 while living in Vienna, far from his home base of Leipzig and from Clara Wieck, the only woman he'd ever loved. Repeated attempts to gain Clara's father's permission to wed had failed, and so the composer found himself in Vienna, trying to forget. Of course, he couldn't, but he wrote the *Arabesque* in an attempt to do so.

His *Humoresque*, Op. 20, followed soon afterward. Inspired by the Romantic novels of "Jean Paul," pen name for the German writer Johan Paul Friedrich Richter, *Humoresque* draws on the general mood that pervades the novels. This is not "humor" as in jokes, but in the sense of being "good-humored," of looking at everything with wry detachment and gentle amusement.

Debussy wrote his *Suite Bergamasque* in 1890, while still an unknown young composer, but the score went unperformed until 1905. By that time, he had achieved renown, and his publisher was pressuring him to come up with pieces to meet newfound demand. Debussy dug into his trunk and restored the four-movement suite, which contained the piece for which he has since become best known, "Claire de lune" ("Moonlight").

Prokofiev's Piano Sonata No. 7 in B-flat major, Op. 83, is the middle number of three sonatas the Soviet composer wrote in the early years of World War II, and which are called collectively the "war sonatas." It is alternately jagged, lyrical and fiery, demanding extreme virtuosity and endurance.

Tickets:

\$69 (M \$61) / \$49 / \$29

Patrons 29 and under, 50 percent off.

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variety of programs through three acclaimed divisions – Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts, Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art (SMoCA) and Scottsdale Public Art – serving more than 400,000 participants annually.

SCOTTSDALE CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

Since 1975, Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts has provided a stage for a wide range of artists and genres, creating shared, inspiring experiences for the community that celebrate artistic excellence and cultural awareness. Today one of the premier performing-arts halls in the western United States, the Center presents a diverse season of music, dance, theater, comedy and film from around the world.

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HOW TO REACH US

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