

NEWS RELEASE

UMass Amherst Fine Arts Center

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WHAT: Fine Arts Center Presents
National Philharmonic of Russia
Sunday, April 19, 7PM
Fine Arts Center Concert Hall
Tickets available at 545-2511 or 800-999-UMAS or online at
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National Philharmonic of Russia To Present an All-Russian Program at UMass Fine Arts Center Concert Hall

Amherst, Mass.--Composed of Russia's leading symphonic virtuosos and led by the electrifying conductor and violinist Vladimir Spivakov, the National Philharmonic of Russia will present a thrilling all-Russian program at the UMass Fine Arts Center Concert Hall on Sunday, April 19 at 7 PM. As its name suggests, the National Philharmonic of Russia (NPR) is not only a major musical institution, but also a cultural ambassador for post-reconstruction Russia. The orchestra will be joined by guest pianist Valentina Lisitsa. The evening's program features works by Anatol Liadov, Tchaikovsky, Prokofiev, and, with Lisitsa on the piano, Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 1 in F-sharp Minor. There will be a pre-performance talk by Lonfranco Marcelletti at 6:15 PM in the Concert Hall lobby.

Created with generous support from Russia's Cultural Ministry, the NPR was founded in January 2003 as commissioned by President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin. The orchestra symbolizes the deep commitment the country maintains to its rich cultural traditions, as well as the bold steps it is taking towards an innovative and dynamic future.

The Artistic Director and Principal Conductor of the National Philharmonic of Russia, Vladimir Spivakov upholds the standards of Russia's great symphonic traditions, while also turning his attention to rarely performed works, 20th-century pieces and compositions commissioned specifically for the orchestra. The great Leonard Bernstein,

who presented his baton to Vladimir Spivakov, once declared that the brilliant artist belonged "to the Olympus of Music."

Spivakov has appeared as a guest conductor with the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, Indianapolis Symphony, Vancouver Symphony, Columbus Symphony, State Symphony of Russia, Santa Cecilia Orchestra in Rome, London Symphony, St. Petersburg Philharmonic, and the English and Scottish Chamber Orchestras, as well as the chamber orchestras of Dresden, Rome, and the Netherlands. At the same time, he continues to pursue his solo career and in recent seasons has performed with orchestras such as the New York Philharmonic, Philadelphia Orchestra, Seattle Symphony, San Francisco Symphony, Pittsburgh Symphony, Cincinnati Symphony, Montreal Symphony, Houston Symphony, Orchestra of St. Luke's at Carnegie Hall, London Symphony, and L'Orchestre National de France.

The incomparable talents of pianist Valentina Lisitsa have been recognized in glowing reviews as "the kind of talent that comes along once in a generation." Ms. Lisitsa is capturing the attention of audiences throughout the world with her stunning virtuosity and unequaled sense of lyricism, bringing to the concert stage a rare technical mastery combined with deep understanding of musical inner life. A graduate of the famed Kiev Conservatory, she has won numerous international prizes and maintains an active international schedule in recital and with orchestras.

During the first two years of its existence, the NPR performed with Krzysztof Penderecki, James Conlon, George Cleve, Okko Kamu, Ion Marin, John Lill, Natalia Gutman, Gidon Kremer, Jessye Norman, Placido Domingo, Jose Carreras, Kiri Te Kanawa, Dmitry Hvorostovski, Sergey Leiferkus, Maria Gulegina, Juan Diego Florez, and other fascinating artists.

The NPR has performed in Europe and Japan, toured throughout Russia, recorded works by Tchaikovsky and Rachmaninov, premiered H. Shore's "Lord of the Rings" Symphony in Moscow and Tokyo, and presented A. Rybnikov's Fifth Symphony in Moscow.

Tickets are available from the Fine Arts Center Box Office at 413-545-2511 or 800-999-UMAS, or online at <http://www.fineartscenter.com/>. Seats are \$45, \$35, or \$15, with tickets for young people 17 and under and Five Colleges/GCC students at \$15.

The appearance of the NPR will be complemented by a Global Gourmet dinner. The University Club and Restaurant will offer a pre-show dinner of grilled Sockeye salmon with Stolichnaya vodka, tomato and cream reduction or the vegetarian option of artichoke, potato and leek gratin. Dinner also includes tossed baby greens with dressing, warm rolls, a special selection of deserts, and coffee or tea. All for the prix fixe of \$25.00. Seating begins at 5:00 P.M. More information is available through the box office.