

The **Soviet** Experience

Art :: Dance :: Music :: Theater

An unprecedented collaboration showcasing works by artists of the Soviet Union
October 2010 – December 2011

In one of the largest collaborative artistic efforts across Chicago since the Silk Road Chicago in 2006/07, eleven of the city's prominent arts institutions will join together in 2010 and 2011 to present *The Soviet Experience*, a 14-month-long showcase of works by artists who created under (and in response to) the Politburo of the Soviet Union.

From the poignant string quartets and symphonies of Dmitri Shostakovich to stunning, hand-painted WWII propaganda posters, and from the grand orchestral and ballet music of Sergei Prokofiev to the political satire of Evgeny Shvarts, *The Soviet Experience* will take festival-goers behind the Iron Curtain to explore its essence through the creative work of its visual artists, choreographers, composers, and dramatists.

FESTIVAL FACTS

- *The Soviet Experience* is spearheaded by the **University of Chicago Presents** (UCP), the University's professional presenting organization.
- **11 festival partners** include: UCP, Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University, Chicago Opera Theater, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Harris Theater for Music and Dance, Art Institute of Chicago, Block Museum of Art at Northwestern University, Smart Museum of Art, Special Collections Research Center at The University of Chicago Library, The University of Chicago Symphony Orchestra, and Court Theatre. (Additional partners to be announced in Fall 2010; see pages 13-15)
- More than **48 events** will take place in a **dozen venues** across Chicago.
- Dedicated festival website www.TheSovietExperience.org will launch this summer.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Grammy Award-winning **Pacifica Quartet** will perform the complete string quartets of **Dmitri Shostakovich** at Roosevelt University's Ganz Hall.
- **Riccardo Muti** and **Jaap van Zweden** will conduct Shostakovich Symphonies No. 5 in D Minor, Op. 47 and No. 8 in C Minor, Op. 65 at the CSO, respectively.
- **Mark Morris Dance Group** will perform *Romeo & Juliet, On Motifs of Shakespeare*, featuring Sergey Prokofiev's original score and scenario, at the Harris Theater for Music and Dance.
- **Simon Trpčeski** will perform a program of Russian Piano Trios in his Chicago chamber music debut with **Gjorgji Dimchevski** and **Kenneth Olsen** at UChicago's Mandel Hall.
- **Chicago Opera Theater** will present the American premiere of Gerard McBurney's interpretation of Shostakovich's **MOSCOW, CHERYOMUSHKI**.
- The Art Institute of Chicago will exhibit striking **War-time propaganda posters** not seen in the United States since World War II.
- The Block Museum of Art, Smart Museum of Art, and the Special Collections Research Center at The University of Chicago Library will exhibit special collections of iconic **Soviet propaganda imagery**, book art, children's books, posters, cartoons and more.

- The Departments of Music and Slavic Languages and Literatures at UChicago will present additional curricular opportunities featuring expert faculty.
- The University of Chicago, Smart Museum, and Art Institute will present an interdisciplinary symposium in Fall 2011 illustrating the full scope of the artists of this era and their relationship to one another and the state.

FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

(As of March 11, 2010; schedule subject to change)

OCTOBER 2010

University of Chicago Presents

Tokyo String Quartet

Friday, October 1, 2010

Mandel Hall, 1131 E. 57th Street

Chicagopresents.uchicago.edu, 773.702.8068

Mozart: Quartet in C major, K. 575

Lera Auerbach: Quartet No. 2, "Primera Luz"

Schumann: Quartet in A major, op. 41, no. 3

Returning to Mandel Hall for the first time since 2005/06, the Tokyo String Quartet will open the Chicago Presents season with a program featuring Russian composer Lera Auerbach, 2011 composer-in-residence of the Dresden Staatskapelle Orchestra. Having recently celebrated their 40th anniversary, the Quartet will round out the program with works by Mozart and Schumann.

Symphony Center Presents

Orchestra Series

Mariinsky Orchestra (formerly Kirov Orchestra)

Valery Gergiev, conductor

Denis Matsuev, piano

Tuesday, October 12, 2010, 8 pm

Symphony Center, 220 S. Michigan Ave

CSO.org, 312.294.3000

Rachmaninov: Piano Concerto No. 3 in D Minor, Op. 30

Shostakovich: Symphony No. 15 in A Major, Op. 141

Last heard at Symphony Center in 2003, the Mariinsky Orchestra (formerly the Kirov Orchestra) returns to Chicago with conductor Valery Gergiev, who has been associated with the company for more than 30 years, and currently serves as artistic and general director of the Mariinsky Theatre. Russian pianist Denis Matsuev, who won the International Tchaikovsky Competition in 1998, joins the ensemble for Rachmaninov's imposing Piano Concerto No. 3, and their program concludes with Shostakovich's Symphony No. 15, his final symphony.

Roosevelt University
Pacifica Quartet: Shostakovich Cycle
October 17, 2010, 2 and 7 pm
Ganz Hall, 430 S. Michigan Ave, 7th floor
www.pacificaquartet.com, 847.242.0775

Shostakovich: String Quartets Nos. 1, 2, and 3

The Grammy Award-winning Pacifica Quartet will perform the groundbreaking string quartets of Russian composer Dmitri Shostakovich in a series of five programs at Roosevelt University's Ganz Hall. This series will be the first Chicago performance of the complete string quartets of Dmitri Shostakovich in one concert season. Composed from 1935 to 1974, a period spanning much of the composer's creative life, the fifteen quartets will be performed in the order of their composition. The series will include the composer's Piano Quintet performed in collaboration with the brilliant young American pianist Orion Weiss. This unique opportunity to hear the complete cycle of quartets and the Piano Quintet in five performances will be augmented by free lecture/demonstrations at the University of Chicago.

Chicago Symphony Orchestra
Chicago Symphony Orchestra
Jaap van Zweden, conductor
Measha Brueggergosman, soprano
Thursday, October 28, 2010, 8 pm
Friday, October 29, 2010, 8 pm
Symphony Center, 220 S. Michigan Ave
CSO.org, 312.294.3000

John Luther Adams: *Dark Waves*
Mahler: Songs from *Des Knaben Wunderhorn*
Shostakovich: Symphony No. 8 in C Minor, Op. 65

Canadian soprano Measha Brueggergosman makes her CSO debut in two Symphony Center performances under the direction of guest conductor Jaap van Zweden singing songs from Mahler's *Des Knaben Wunderhorn*. The program, which also includes John Luther Adams' *Dark Waves* and Shostakovich's Symphony No. 8, is repeated in Urbana, IL.

Chicago Symphony Orchestra
Chicago Symphony Orchestra
Jaap van Zweden, conductor
Measha Brueggergosman, soprano
Saturday, October 30, 2010, 8 pm
Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, 500 S. Goodwin Avenue
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
www.krannertcenter.com, 217.333.6700

John Luther Adams: *Dark Waves*
Mahler: Songs from *Des Knaben Wunderhorn*
Shostakovich: Symphony No. 8 in C Minor, Op. 65

(See above for details.)

Civic Orchestra of Chicago
Civic Orchestra of Chicago
Jaap van Zweden, conductor
Sunday, October 31, 2010, TBD pm
Symphony Center, 220 S. Michigan Ave
CSO.org, 312.294.3000

Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 5
Shostakovich: Chamber Symphony, Op. 110a

The young musicians of the Civic Orchestra of Chicago present a program by two of the greatest Russian composers: Tchaikovsky and Shostakovich. Guest conductor Jaap van Zweden leads these talented musicians in the one of the quintessential Romantic masterpieces – Tchaikovsky's Fifth Symphony – and Shostakovich's Chamber Symphony for strings, which is an orchestration of his String Quartet No. 8.

Roosevelt University
Pacifica Quartet: Shostakovich Cycle
October 31, 2010, 2 and 7 pm
Ganz Hall, 430 S. Michigan Ave, 7th floor
www.pacificaquartet.com, 847.242.0775

Shostakovich: String Quartet Nos. 4 and 5; Piano Quintet with Orion Weiss, piano

(See pages 2-3 for description)

NOVEMBER 2010

University of Chicago Presents
Ani Aznavoorian, cello, **and Lera Auerbach**, piano/composer
Friday, November 5, 2010
Mandel Hall, 1131 E. 57th Street
Chicagopresents.uchicago.edu, 773.702.8068

Shostakovich: Cello Sonata in D minor, op. 40
Prokofiev: Piano Sonata No. 2 in D minor, op. 14
Lera Auerbach: 24 Preludes for Violincello and Piano, op. 47

Brilliant virtuosos Ani Aznavoorian and Lera Auerbach will make their Chicago recital debut together paying homage to Shostakovich in an evening including his Cello Sonata and Auerbach's own 24 Preludes for Violincello and Piano. One of the most widely performed composers of the new generation, Auerbach is the youngest composer on the roster of the prestigious international music publishing company Sikorski, home to Prokofiev, Shostakovich, and Schnittke.

Harris Theater for Music and Dance
Kremerata Baltica; Gidon Kremer, Artistic Leader and Soloist
Saturday, November 6, 2010
Harris Theater, 205 E. Randolph Drive
HarrisTheaterChicago.org, 312.334.7777

Bartok: Divertimento
Schumann: Cello Concerto (Violin Version)
Selections from Kremerata Baltica's new album *De Profundis* (to be released Fall 2010), featuring recent works by Michael Nyman, Arvo Pärt, Lera Auerbach, Raminta Šerkšnytė, and Georgs Pelecis

Renowned violinist Gidon Kremer, born and raised in Soviet-occupied Latvia, and his namesake Kremerata Baltica chamber orchestra, comprised of the top young professional musicians from the Baltic States of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, make their Harris Theater debut with this provocative program. Kremer, whom *The New York Times* calls "one of the truly interesting musicians among us today," has been celebrated as one of the most original and compelling artists of his generation. In 1997, he founded Kremerata Baltica with the purpose of promoting and celebrating the music of his homeland. The Grammy Award-winning chamber orchestra is considered one of the most prominent international ensembles in Europe, and it is recognized for its unusual repertoire, in particular its unconventional pairings of composers.

University of Chicago Presents
Gjorgji Dimchevski, violin; **Kenneth Olsen**, cello; **Simon Trpceski**, piano
Friday, November 19, 2010
Mandel Hall, 1131 E. 57th Street
Chicagopresents.uchicago.edu, 773.702.8068

Rachmaninov: Trio élégiaque in G minor, no. 1
Shostakovich: Piano Trio in E minor, op. 67
Tchaikovsky: Piano Trio in A minor, op. 50

A student of Russian masters Ludmilla and Boris Romanov, Macedonian pianist Simon Trpceski will make his Chicago chamber music debut with long-time friend Gjorgji Dimchevski and Kenneth Olsen of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. The trio will bring a fresh voice to the fierce all-Russian program, including the Shostakovich Piano Trio, originally premiered with the composer at the piano.

JANUARY 2011

Chicago Symphony Orchestra
Chicago Symphony Orchestra
Sir Mark Elder, conductor
Stephen Hough, piano
Thursday, January 6, 2011, 8 pm
Saturday, January 8, 2011, 8 pm
Symphony Center, 220 S. Michigan Ave
CSO.org, 312.294.3000

Liadov: *Baba-Yaga*, Op. 56
Liadov: *The Enchanted Lake*, Op. 62
Tchaikovsky: Piano Concerto No. 1 in B-flat Minor, Op. 23
Prokofiev: Symphony No. 5 in B-flat Major, Op. 100

Sir Mark Elder returns to the CSO for the first concerts of 2011, conducting a Russian program with pianist Stephen Hough as soloist in Tchaikovsky's First Piano Concerto, part of Hough's 2010/11 survey of the great Russian master's solo keyboard works. The program also includes Liadov's *Baba-Yaga* and *The Enchanted Lake*, as well as Prokofiev's Symphony No. 5, which is also featured in two *Beyond the Score* performances.

-MORE-

Chicago Symphony Orchestra
Beyond the Score
Chicago Symphony Orchestra
Sir Mark Elder, conductor
Gerard McBurney, narrator and host
Friday, January 7, 2011, 1:30 pm
Sunday, January 9, 2011, 3 pm
Symphony Center, 220 S. Michigan Ave
CSO.org, 312.294.3000

Prokofiev: Symphony No. 5 in B-flat Major, Op. 100

Sir Mark Elder leads this *Beyond the Score* presentation of Prokofiev's Fifth Symphony, examining the opposing forces of artistry and politics that led Prokofiev to write this paradoxical work. The CSO's acclaimed *Beyond the Score* series reveals the story behind great musical works with a live audiovisual presentation and dramatized commentary provided by creative director Gerard McBurney.

University of Chicago Symphony Orchestra
University of Chicago Symphony Orchestra
Barbara Schubert, Music Director and Conductor

Saturday, January 29, 2011, 8 pm
Mandel Hall, 1131 E. 57th Street
Music.uchicago.edu, 773.702.8069

Shostakovich's Film Scores: *The Gadfly*, *Hamlet*, *King Lear*, and more

No other major composer of the twentieth century devoted more of his career to film music than Dmitri Shostakovich. Altogether he composed scores to 36 films, from *New Babylon* (1929) to *King Lear* (1971). While generally written in a more accessible idiom than most of his orchestral or chamber works, Shostakovich's film scores nevertheless boast meticulous craftsmanship and reveal the composer's complex and often paradoxical musical personality. Related film screenings by the Department of Cinema and Media Studies to be announced.

Roosevelt University
Pacifica Quartet: Shostakovich Cycle
January 30, 2011, 2 and 7 pm
Ganz Hall, 430 S. Michigan Ave, 7th floor
www.pacificaquartet.com, 847.242.0775

Shostakovich: String Quartets Nos. 6, 8, and 9

(See pages 2-3 for description)

FEBRUARY 2011

Chicago Symphony Orchestra

Chicago Symphony Orchestra

Riccardo Muti, conductor

Mitsuko Uchida, piano

Thursday, February 3, 2011, 8 pm

Friday, February 4, 2011, 1:30 pm

Saturday, February 5, 2011, 8 pm

Tuesday, February 8, 2011, 7:30 pm

Symphony Center, 220 S. Michigan Ave

CSO.org, 312.294.3000

Schumann: Piano Concerto in A Minor, Op. 54

Shostakovich: Symphony No. 5 in D Minor, Op. 47

Mitsuko Uchida spends two weeks with the CSO during 2010/11, both as a conductor and as a soloist. She leads the Orchestra from the piano in Mozart's Piano Concertos Nos. 11 and 21; the Orchestra also performs Mozart's Divertimento in B-flat Major. Her second week as soloist is under Riccardo Muti, who conducts Schumann's Piano Concerto and Shostakovich's Symphony No. 5.

Roosevelt University

Pacifica Quartet: Shostakovich Cycle

February 13, 2011, 2 and 7 pm

Ganz Hall, 430 S. Michigan Ave, 7th floor

www.pacificaquartet.com, 847.242.0775

Shostakovich: String Quartet Nos. 7, 10, 11, and 12

(See pages 2-3 for description)

Symphony Center Presents

Chamber Music Series

Dmitri Hvorostovsky, baritone

Ivari Ilja, piano

Wednesday, February 16, 2011, 8 pm

Symphony Center, 220 S. Michigan Ave

CSO.org, 312.294.3000

Program to include works by Tchaikovsky, Rachmaninov and Medtner

The great Russian baritone Dmitri Hvorostovsky, who last appeared on the *Symphony Center Presents* series in 2000, returns for a recital with Estonian pianist Ivari Ilja. Widely known for his commanding presence and burnished, passionate singing, Hvorostovsky brings a recital program to Chicago that includes songs by three Russian composers: Tchaikovsky, Rachmaninov and Medtner.

-MORE-

Harris Theater for Music and Dance

Romeo & Juliet, On Motifs of Shakespeare

Mark Morris Dance Group

Roosevelt University's Chicago College of Performing Arts Orchestra; Stefan Asbury, guest conductor

February 25 - 27, 2011

Harris Theater, 205 E. Randolph Drive

HarrisTheaterChicago.org, 312.334.7777

Romeo & Juliet, On Motifs of Shakespeare

Original Score and Scenario by Sergey Prokofiev

New Choreography by Mark Morris

Maverick choreographer Mark Morris and his company will perform the Chicago premiere of *Romeo & Juliet, On Motifs of Shakespeare*, featuring Sergey Prokofiev's original score and scenario. This new, fully-staged \$1.1 million dance production, a project with no parallel in ballet history, is commissioned by an international consortium including the Harris Theater.

Since its premier in 2008, the production has been the subject of considerable controversy. Reviewing for *The New York Times*, Gia Kourlas wrote, "Perhaps the most important point to keep in mind about Mark Morris's '*Romeo & Juliet, On Motifs of Shakespeare*' is that it's a dance, not a ballet. And as such, it is created in Mr. Morris's modern manner... as a pledge of love, it is as outspoken as Mr. Morris can be and wholly triumphant."

Prokofiev conceived *Romeo and Juliet* in 1935, and in a radical gesture that caused a scandal among Soviet ballet circles, he gave the ballet a happy ending. Soviet cultural officials responded by canceling the premiere and forcing Prokofiev to make significant changes to the ballet. This limited engagement restores the beauty of the original score, with six new dance numbers, and more than 20 minutes of new music from documents unearthed in Moscow by Princeton University musicologist Simon Morrison. Roosevelt University's Chicago College of Performing Arts Orchestra with guest conductor Stefan Asbury will accompany Mark Morris Dance Group.

Roosevelt University

Pacifica Quartet: Shostakovich Cycle

February 27, 2011, 2 and 7 pm

Ganz Hall, 430 S. Michigan Ave, 7th floor

www.pacificaquartet.com, 847.242.0775

Shostakovich: String Quartet Nos. 13, 14, and 15

(See pages 2-3 for description)

MARCH / SPRING 2011

Chicago Opera Theater

MOSCOW, CHERYOMUSHKI

Spring 2011

Harris Theater, 205 E. Randolph Drive

ChicagoOperaTheater.org, 312.704.8414

Everyone is in for a hilarious surprise with this musical comedy that has recently been revived in Europe to blockbuster success. Cheryomushki means "bird-cherry trees," and was a real apartment complex in southwest Moscow during the 1950s. Shostakovich is taking a political poke at the chronic housing shortages of the day, with libretto help from two of the leading Soviet humorists at the time-- Vladimir Mass and Mikhail Chervinsky. Chicago Opera Theater presents only 4 performances of this great work at the Harris Theater in Millennium Park.

University of Chicago Symphony Orchestra
University of Chicago Symphony Orchestra
Barbara Schubert, Music Director and Conductor
Saturday, March 5, 2011, 8 pm
Mandel Hall, 1131 E. 57th Street
Music.uchicago.edu, 773.702.8069

Myaskovsky: Symphony No. 22 in B minor, "Symphonic Ballad"
Shostakovich: Violin Concerto in A Minor, Op. 77 / 99

Nicolai Myaskovsky, often considered the "Father of the Soviet Symphony," composed the 22nd of his 27 symphonies in 1941. This powerful and melodious work was among the first symphonic responses to The Great Patriotic War (World War II), predating Shostakovich's "Leningrad Symphony" by several months.

Dmitri Shostakovich composed his Violin Concerto in A minor in 1947-48. He was actually working on the piece at the time of the Zhdanov decree, which condemned Shostakovich, Prokofiev, and others for "formalism" in their musical writings. The concerto was finally premiered in 1955 – after the decree was lifted and the work substantially revised – by violinist David Oistrach and the Leningrad Philharmonic under the baton of Yevgeny Mravinsky.

Symphony Center Presents
Orchestra Series
St. Petersburg Philharmonic
Yuri Temirkanov, conductor
Alisa Weilerstein, cello
Wednesday, March 30, 2011, 8 pm
Symphony Center, 220 S. Michigan Ave
CSO.org, 312.294.3000

Rimsky-Korsakov: *Russian Easter Overture*, Op. 36
Shostakovich: Cello Concerto No. 1 in E-flat Major, Op. 107
Dvořák: Symphony No. 9 in E Minor, Op. 95 (*From the New World*)

Eminent Russian conductor Yuri Temirkanov brings his St. Petersburg Philharmonic to the Symphony Center stage with a concert that features Rimsky-Korsakov's *Russian Easter Overture*, Shostakovich's Cello Concerto No. 1 with American cellist Alisa Weilerstein and Dvořák's Symphony No. 9 (*From the New World*). The St. Petersburg Philharmonic is Russia's oldest orchestra, and Temirkanov has been at its helm as artistic director and chief conductor since 1988.

APRIL 2011

Symphony Center Presents
Chamber Music Series
Yuri Bashmet, viola
Evgeny Kissin, piano
Sunday, April 17, 2011, 3 pm
Symphony Center, 220 S. Michigan Ave
CSO.org, 312.294.3000

Program to include:
Shostakovich: Viola Sonata, Op. 147
Schubert: Sonata in A Minor, D. 821 (*Arpeggione*)

Two of the greatest musicians of our time, violist Yuri Bashmet and piano virtuoso Evgeny Kissin, join forces and perform together at Symphony Center for the first time. Kissin concludes his three-part Chicago residency with this duo-recital, performing a stirring program that includes Shostakovich's Viola Sonata and Schubert's *Arpeggione* Sonata.

-MORE-

Chicago Symphony Orchestra
Chicago Symphony Orchestra
James Conlon, conductor
Leonidas Kavakos, violin
Thursday, April 21, 2011, 8 pm
Friday, April 22, 2011, 1:30 pm
Saturday, April 23, 2011, 8 pm
Symphony Center, 220 S. Michigan Ave
CSO.org, 312.294.3000

Golijov: New Work (CSO co-commission)
Sibelius: Violin Concerto in D Minor, Op. 47
Shostakovich: Suite from *Lady Macbeth of the Mtsensk District*

A regular artistic leader of the CSO during its summer residency at Ravinia, James Conlon returns to Symphony Center to lead the CSO in a subscription program for the first time since the 2003/04 season. Leonidas Kavakos is the soloist in Sibelius' Violin Concerto, and Conlon also conducts Shostakovich's Suite from *Lady Macbeth of the Mtsensk District*. The program opens with the first CSO performances of a new work by Osvaldo Golijov, who completes his four-year term as a CSO Mead Composer-in-Residence in the spring of 2010. The work was co-commissioned by the CSO and a consortium of other U.S. orchestras to honor Henry Fogel, who was president of the CSO for 18 years.

MAY 2011

University of Chicago Presents
Roberto Abbado, conductor; **Leila Josefowicz**, violin
Sunday, May 1, 2011
Mandel Hall, 1131 E. 57th Street
Chicagopresents.uchicago.edu, 773.702.8068

Stravinsky: Concertino
Prokofiev: Violin Concerto No. 1
Tchaikovsky: Serenade for Strings

The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra will bring their University of Chicago residency to a tremendous close with artistic partner Roberto Abbado at the helm. Violinist Leila Josefowicz will make her Mandel Hall debut performing the Prokofiev Violin Concerto No. 1.

Chicago Symphony Orchestra
Chicago Symphony Orchestra
Riccardo Muti, conductor
Thursday, May 5, 2011, 8 pm
Friday, May 6, 2011, 8 pm
Saturday, May 7, 2011, 8 pm
Tuesday, May 10, 2011, 7:30 pm
Symphony Center, 220 S. Michigan Ave
CSO.org, 312.294.3000

Mussorgsky: *A Night on Bald Mountain*
Strauss: *Death and Transfiguration*, Op. 24
Prokofiev: Suite from *Romeo and Juliet*

Muti brings the concerts of his inaugural season to a close with two distinctive programs. Mussorgsky's *A Night on Bald Mountain*, Strauss' *Death and Transfiguration* and a suite from Prokofiev's *Romeo and Juliet* are featured on the May 5-10 concerts.

-MORE-

JULY 2011

The Art Institute of Chicago

Windows on the War: Soviet TASS Posters at Home and Abroad 1941-45

July 30 – October 23, 2011

The Art Institute of Chicago, Regenstein Hall, 111 South Michigan Avenue

www.artinstituteofchicago.org, 312.443.3600

Windows on the War is a monumental exhibition of the posters designed by the Soviet Union's news agency to bolster the morale of citizens, rouse the fighting forces at the front, and intimidate opponents behind enemy lines. Not seen in the United States since World War II, the TASS posters are boldly designed collaborations between leading Soviet writers and artists marking the progress of the war. Often six feet tall and always striking, they also served as international cultural "ambassadors" to rally nations and organizations behind the Soviet cause. They are presented at the Art Institute both as unique historical objects and as works of art that reveal how the pre-eminent artists and writers of the day contributed to the war effort, marking a major chapter in the history of design and propaganda.

AUGUST 2011

Smart Museum of Art

Process and Artistry in the Soviet Vanguard

August 30 – December 11, 2011

Smart Museum of Art, University of Chicago, 5550 S. Greenwood Ave

smartmuseum.uchicago.edu, 773.702.0200

This intimate exhibition offers a rare glimpse at the experimental creative processes that generated iconic Soviet propaganda imagery in the 1920s and 1930s. Featuring works by El Lissitzky, Valentina Kulagina, and Gustav Klutsis, it traces classic compositions from initial collage-drawings to approved designs to mass-produced posters.

SEPTEMBER / FALL 2011

Block Museum of Art

Views and Re-Views: Soviet Political Posters and Cartoons

Fall 2011

Mary and Leigh Block Museum of Art, Northwestern University, 40 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston

www.blockmuseum.northwestern.edu, 847.491.4000

Coming 20 years after the fall of the USSR, *Views and Re-Views* invites a post-Cold War assessment of Soviet graphic arts with 160 posters, cartoons, postcards and photomontages from a private collection. Featuring bold and stunning imagery spanning more than six decades, the exhibition suggests that artistic merit and stylistic diversity can be found in work created as state propaganda and that not all of the criticisms of the West by Soviet political artists were completely spurious or inauthentic.

Block Museum of Art

Tango with Cows: Book Art of the Russian Avant-Garde, 1910–1917

Fall 2011

Mary and Leigh Block Museum of Art, Northwestern University, 40 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston

www.blockmuseum.northwestern.edu, 847.491.4000

Tango with Cows examines book art created in response to the social, cultural and political crises of early 20th-century Russia. Often working collaboratively, poets and artists designed pages in which rubber-stamped poetry characterized by nonsensical word combinations shared space with archaic and modern scripts and with primitive and abstract imagery.

-MORE-

Special Collections Research Center, The University of Chicago Library

Adventures in the Soviet Imaginary

September – December 2011

Special Collections Research Center, The University of Chicago Library, 1100 East 57th Street

<http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/spcl/>, 773.702.8705

Adventures in the Soviet Imaginary showcases collections of Soviet children's books, posters and other print materials from the Special Collections Research Center, The University of Chicago Library. The exhibition is being organized by a team of faculty and graduate students of the University of Chicago based in the departments of Art History, History, and Slavic Languages and Literatures. Drawing on these diverse backgrounds and approaches, each participant is designing one or more display cases to be devoted to a specific topic, including prominent historical and ideological themes, stylistic features, and the contributions of individual authors or artists.

Smart Museum of Art

Vision and Communism

September 29, 2011 – January 22, 2012

Smart Museum of Art, University of Chicago, 5550 S. Greenwood Ave

smartmuseum.uchicago.edu, 773.702.0200

In captivating images of far-away suffering, the postwar artist and designer Victor Koretsky articulated a Communist vision of the world that was utterly unlike that of conventional propaganda. Designed to create an emotional connection between Soviet citizens and others around the globe, Koretsky's posters offered a meaningful alternative to the West's sleek consumerism, heralding the multicultural visual world of Benetton and MTV. Drawn from an extensive private collection of Soviet art and propaganda, *Vision and Communism* presents a striking new interpretation of visual communication in the U.S.S.R. and in the latter half of the twentieth century more broadly.

OCTOBER 2011

University of Chicago Presents

Borodin Quartet

Friday, October 21, 2011

Mandel Hall, 1131 E. 57th Street

chicagopresents.uchicago.edu, 773.702.8068

Program information to be announced.

Commanding a special position in the chamber music world, the Borodin Quartet's particular affinity with Russian repertoire was stimulated by a close relationship with Shostakovich, who personally supervised its study of each of his quartets. Formed in 1945 by four students at the Moscow Conservatory the Quartet is marking their 65th anniversary in 2009/10 with an extensive world tour.

NOVEMBER 2011

University of Chicago Presents

Sergey Khachatryan, violin; Lusine Khachatryan, piano

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mandel Hall, 1131 E. 57th Street

chicagopresents.uchicago.edu, 773.702.8068

J.S. Bach: Violin Sonata No. 4 in C minor, BWV1017

Brahms: Violin Sonata No. 2 in A major, op. 100

Shostakovich: Sonata for Violin and Piano

Winner of the Sibelius and Queen Elizabeth competitions, Armenian violinist Sergey Khachatryan will make his Chicago recital debut with sister Lusine at the keyboard. The duo released their recording of the Shostakovich and Franck Violin Sonatas on the Naïve Classique label in 2008. Rounding out the recital are sonatas by Brahms and Bach, for which *The Guardian* raved, "his performance revealed a staggering control and maturity, and its effect was at once magical and chastening."

-MORE-

DECEMBER 2011

University of Chicago Symphony Orchestra
University of Chicago Symphony Orchestra
Barbara Schubert, Music Director and Conductor
Saturday, December 3, 2011, 8 pm
Mandel Hall, 1131 E. 57th Street
Music.uchicago.edu, 773.702.8069

Shostakovich: Symphony No. 7 in C Major, Op. 60, "Leningrad"

Dmitri Shostakovich completed his Symphony No. 7 on 27 December 1941, dedicating it to the city of Leningrad in explicit condemnation of the German invasion of the Soviet Union and the ongoing siege of Leningrad. In its time, the work was extremely popular in both Russia and the West as a symbol of citizen resistance and defiance to Nazi totalitarianism and militarism. After the war the symphony's reputation declined substantially, primarily because of its public perception as war propaganda and the increasingly prevalent (but now outdated) view that it was one of Shostakovich's less accomplished works.

The USO's performance of this monumental work will be preceded by a lecture-demonstration of the historical context and musical substance of the symphony itself, and of its place within Shostakovich's *oeuvre*.

FESTIVAL PARTNERS

ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO

MEDIA: Erin Hogan, 312.443.3664, ehogan@artic.edu

The Art Institute of Chicago is a world-renowned art museum housing one of the largest permanent collections in the United States. An encyclopedic museum, the Art Institute collects, preserves, and displays works in every medium from all cultures and historical periods as well as hosts special exhibitions. With a collection of more than 260,000 art works and artifacts, the museum has particularly strong holdings in Impressionist and Post-Impressionist painting, early 20th century European painting and sculpture, contemporary art, Japanese prints, and photography. The museum just completed the largest expansion in its 130-year history, the internationally acclaimed Modern Wing designed by Renzo Piano. The Modern Wing features the latest in green museum technology and 264,000 square feet dedicated to modern and contemporary art, photography, architecture and design, and new museum education facilities. For more information about the Art Institute of Chicago, visit www.artinstituteofchicago.org

BLOCK MUSEUM OF ART

MEDIA: Burke Patten, 847.467.4602, bpatten@northwestern.edu

The Mary and Leigh Block Museum of Art, Northwestern University, is dedicated to the growth and preservation of its collection and the study and exhibition of reproducible art forms – including prints, photographs, film, video, and computer-mediated art – and to their capacity to reach and transform society. For more information about the Block Museum of Art, visit www.blockmuseum.northwestern.edu

CHICAGO COLLEGE OF PERFORMING ARTS, ROOSEVELT UNIVERSITY

MEDIA: Robert Strong, President, Pacifica Quartet Music Foundation, 847.242.0775, strong.robert@yahoo.com

One of Roosevelt University's six colleges, Chicago College of Performing Arts was founded in 1867 and is led by Henry Fogel, Dean. It has played an important role in the development of the cultural life of the Midwest and now provides professional conservatory training in theater, music, and music education. The faculty of the Music Conservatory, directed by Associate Dean Linda Berna, has many members who hold prominent positions in the Chicago musical community as well as nationally recognized performers from other cultural capitals. Its graduates perform with major orchestras and chamber ensembles and become educators, conductors, composers, and critics. Roosevelt University is a national leader in educating socially conscious citizens for active and dedicated lives as leaders in their professions and their communities. Visit ccpa.roosevelt.edu.

-MORE-

CHICAGO OPERA THEATER

MEDIA: Colleen Flanigan, 312.704.8420 x225, cflanigan@ChicagoOperaTheater.org

Founded in 1974, **Chicago Opera Theater** has carved a significant place for itself in the operatic life of Chicago and has reached an audience of hundreds of thousands. Since **Brian Dickie's** appointment as General Director in 1999, COT has evolved as an opera company that is young, fresh, and colorful. The *Chicago Reader* recently called COT, "Chicago's most interesting opera company." For more information about Chicago Opera Theater, visit www.ChicagoOperaTheater.org

CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

MEDIA: Raechel Alexander, 312.294.3093, AlexanderR@cso.org

The Chicago Symphony Orchestra is consistently hailed as one of today's leading orchestras. Live performances by the CSO are much in demand at home and in the most prestigious musical venues around the world. In collaboration with preeminent conductors and guest artists on the international music scene, the CSO performs well over 150 concerts each year at its downtown home, Symphony Center, and at the Ravinia Festival on Chicago's North Shore, where it is in residence each summer. With the launch of its Institute for Learning, Access and Training, the CSO engages more than 150,000 Chicago-area residents annually. Music lovers outside Chicago enjoy the sounds of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra not only through its Chicago Symphony Orchestra Radio Broadcast Series and best-selling recordings on its highly acclaimed record label CSO Resound, but also through frequent sold-out tour performances in the United States and around the globe. Since 1971, the CSO has undertaken 36 overseas tours: 27 to Europe, six to the Far East, as well as one each to Russia, Australia and South America. For more information about the CSO, visit www.cso.org.

HARRIS THEATER FOR MUSIC AND DANCE

MEDIA: Cheryl Shure, 312.334.2405, cshure@harristheaterchicago.org

Opened in 2003, the Harris Theater's mission is to partner and collaborate with an array of Chicago's emerging and mid-sized performing arts organizations to help them build the resources and infrastructure necessary to achieve artistic growth and long-term organizational sustainability. The Harris Theater for Music and Dance was the first multi-use performing arts venue to be built in the Chicago downtown area since 1929. Today, the Theater continues to host the most diverse offerings of any venue in Chicago, featuring the city's world-renowned music and dance institutions and the *Harris Theater Presents* series of acclaimed national and international companies. For more information about the Harris Theater for Music and Dance, visit www.HarrisTheaterChicago.org

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

MEDIA: Rashida Black, 773.702.3427, rashida@uchicago.edu

The 106-member **University Symphony Orchestra** presents an ambitious season of six major concerts per year (two each quarter). Known for its imaginative presentations of unusual repertoire as well as for its powerful performances of major symphonic literature, the University Symphony opens each year with a costumed Halloween concert – a family-friendly event enhanced by storytelling, dancing, and special effects – and closes with a celebratory year-end collaboration with the combined choirs. Repertoire generally encompasses 19th- and 20th- century works written for large orchestral forces, including masterpieces by Beethoven, Bruckner, Dvorák, Mahler, Shostakovich, Sibelius, Vaughan Williams, and more, as well as unusual treasures of the repertoire. In recent years the USO has presented several silent films with live orchestral accompaniment, including Eisenstein's *Alexander Nevsky* and *Battleship Potemkin*, and performed with acclaimed professional soloists, including bassist Edgar Meyer and pianist Jade Simmons. USO musicians are coached by the Pacifica Quartet and members of the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra. Membership is chosen on the basis of competitive auditions, and includes undergraduate and graduate students from all divisions of the University, faculty and staff, alumni, and community members. For more information about the University of Chicago Symphony Orchestra, visit music.uchicago.edu

SMART MUSEUM OF ART

MEDIA: C.J. Lind, 773.702.0176, cjlind@uchicago.edu

As the art museum of the University of Chicago, the Smart Museum of Art takes a distinctly interdisciplinary approach to the collection, display, and interpretation of art. Founded in 1974, the Smart Museum is home to acclaimed special exhibitions and a permanent collection that spans five thousand years of artistic creation. Working in close collaboration with scholars from the University of Chicago, the Smart has established itself as a leading academic art museum and an engine of adventurous thinking about the visual arts and their place in society. Admission is always free. For more information about the Smart Museum of Art, visit smartmuseum.uchicago.edu

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS RESEARCH CENTER, UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO LIBRARY

MEDIA: Rachel Rosenberg, 773.834.1519, ra-rosenberg@uchicago.edu

The University of Chicago Library provides world-renowned collections and resources and comprehensive services that support the research, teaching and learning needs of the University and broader research community. The Library provides hospitable physical and virtual environments that help researchers and students discover and use local and global information resources. Its librarians develop innovative ways to use new technologies to preserve, locate, and deliver resources, facilitating intellectual growth and groundbreaking research. The Special Collections Research Center—the principal steward of the Library's rare books, manuscripts, and archives—welcomes all interested researchers and presents physical and online exhibitions. For more information, visit www.lib.uchicago.edu

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESENTS

MEDIA: Kennon Brown, 773.834.7965, kennon@uchicago.edu

UCP was founded in 1943 with the goal of bringing to Chicago world-renowned artists for concerts and educational programs. Heralded by the *Chicago Tribune* as “a model of what a classical concert series should be,” and “the city’s most important by a mile chamber music series” by the *Chicago Sun-Times*, UCP has been dedicated throughout its history to its mission to present music on an intimate scale at the highest level. The pursuit of excellence is central to this mission, infusing not only the music UCP presents but also its relationship with its audience and community. For more information about University of Chicago Presents, visit chicagopresents.uchicago.edu

#