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Dedicated to the artistic career advancement of exceptionally gifted young professional musicians and to the promotion of peace and understanding through music.

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Opus 31

Winter 2014

Semi-Annual Newsletter

Greetings!

Nothing can be more gratifying to musicians as full houses and thunderous applause, and for that, iPalpiti's 26 musicians from 21 countries, send their heartfelt THANK YOU to thousands of audiences who attended 20 festival concerts. Our 16th annual festival, expanded in time (3 weeks) and space (San Diego and Orange counties), received rave reviews from the OC Register and the LA Times and countless emails and letters – the southland showed great welcome and appreciation for what we bring to the community once a year. MARK YOUR CALENDARS for an unforgettable musical odyssey 2014: iPalpiti's festival #17: July 10-27.

Review: iPalpiti's young hearts beat stirringly

The international ensemble's playing at Walt Disney Concert Hall, led by conductor Eduard Schmieder, proves to be world-class.



Alexandru Tomescu, state soloist of Romania, center, performed with the iPalpiti Orchestral Ensemble of International Laureates, conducted by Eduard Schmieder, at Walt Disney Concert Hall on July 27, 2013.
(Photo: Dana Ross)

Los Angeles Times

By Mark Swed,
Los Angeles Times Chief Music Critic
July 29, 2013, 6:00 a.m.

Peripatetic doesn't begin to describe iPalpiti, which gave its annual sensational gala at Walt Disney Concert Hall on Saturday night.

On stage were 22 young professional string players, most in their 20s. Behind them were draped flags from the 20 countries from which they came. Presented as the Festival of International Laureates, they have been an ensemble for only three weeks, performing in concert halls in Encinitas, Aliso Viejo, Beverly Hills and UCLA. The festival ended Sunday with a chamber program at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art.

The ensemble's name comes from the way Italians describe heartbeats. But iPalpiti's palpitations have an unmistakable Russian character, which is a big part of the ensemble's attraction. Assembled by the Russian conductor Eduard Schmieder and his wife, Laura, iPalpiti becomes, for the few weeks of its existence, the musical equivalent of the tantalizing, palpitating, short-lived musical butterfly that that great Russian writer and lepidopterist Vladimir Nabokov might have pursued.

(read full review on iPalpiti.org) ...**This was an invigorating world-class performance by young players with technique to burn and a palpable desire to live every note.**

Young orchestra shines at Soka [Performing Arts Center at Aliso Viejo]

"Schmieder led [iPalpiti] with crisp signals more concerned with impulses and phrases than beats ...they produced a splendid and colorful sound... and polished armor. The virtuosity was quite impressive."

— Timothy Mangan, The Orange County REGISTER, 2013



2014

iPalpiti orchestral
ensemble of international laureates

Violins

Peter Rainer/Germany
Concertmaster
Catharina Chen/Norway*
Davide de Ascaniis/Italy
Niv Ashkenazi/Israel-USA
Azer Damirov/Azerbaijan
Ellen Jung/Canada-Korea
Irina Chepizhnaya/Russia
Francesca Dardani/Italy
Kreetta-Julia Heikkilä/Finland
Nora Hapca/Romania
Conrad Chow/Canada
Irakli Tsadaia/Georgia*
Alexander Kyslitsyn/Russia

Violas

Joseph Kauffman/USA
Can Sakul/Turkey
Midori Maruyama/Japan*
Adelya Shagidullina/Tatarstan

Violoncelli

Lars Hoefs/USA-Brazil
Yoni Draiblate/Israel
Jacob Shaw/UK*
Dmitry Silvian/France

Bass

Mariechen Meyer/RSA

Piano

TBA*

Percussion

Gavin Salmon
Sidney Hopson

*Soloists in Encinitas
July 7-13, 2014

ALUMNI & CURRENT ARTIST NEWS

Violist Adelya Shagidullina received her first own special instrument which iPalpiti commissioned for her from the famous luthier Scott Cao. His waiting list is long but an exception was made for this iPalpiti artist.

"Mrs. Schmieder, I wanted to let you know that I got the viola from Mr. Cao, and absolutely love it! It sounds gorgeous and looks beautiful!"

Adelya missed this summer with iPalpiti for a very good reason: she got married to a pianist in her native Tatarstan.



Jacob Shaw, cellist (UK) – is steadily putting his mark on the international concert stage. During his International Music Ambassador/Asia Tour October 22-November 22 Jacob played in 16 concerts with orchestras and in recitals across main cities in Korea and China, led social projects and gave master classes.



iPalpiti alumnus star percussionist Pedro Carneiro (Portugal) – was a featured soloist with the LA Phil in their opening season celebration. He was performing alongside Yefim Bronfman (iPalpiti's artistic advisor) under the direction of Gustavo Dudamel. www.pedrocarneiro.com



Tim Fain (USA) – has given voice to the violin of the main character in the Oscar-nominated film *12 Years A Slave*. Other recent film projects include *Black Swan*, where he performed onscreen and in the soundtrack, ghost playing for Richard Gere in Fox-Searchlight's *Bee Season*, and *Partita* from *Portals* directed by Benjamin Millepied.

Juan-Miguel Hernandez (Canada) – currently a violist with Fine Arts Quartet.

Cameron Carpenter, organist (USA) – discovered and featured as soloist with iPalpiti in 2005 at Walt Disney Concert Hall, Cameron has achieved a major stardom, and returns to Disney Hall April 11-13, 2014. www.cameroncarpenter.com He received the Leonard Bernstein Award in 2012, multi-album contract signing with Sony Classical 2013, and in 2014 will launch his international touring organ.

Valentina Lisitsa (Ukraine-USA) – Visitors browsing through the YouTube channel of the pianist Valentina Lisitsa can watch her in hundreds of videos. Valentina will perform with the American Youth Symphony at Royce Hall on March 9, 2014 at their annual Gala. www.valentalisitsa.com



Kian Soltani, cellist (Austria) – away from iPalpiti this summer, Kian won €15000 First Prize in International Paolo Cello Competition in Finland, performed the Lutoslawski concerto, and was featured in Fresh Faces of The Strad magazine.

Karina Canellakis (USA) – Just named Assistant Conductor of the Dallas Symphony, she is rapidly gaining recognition as one of the most promising and exciting young American conductors. This summer Karina conducted the Lucerne Festival Orchestra in Switzerland, the Pacific Music Festival Orchestra in concert in Sapporo, Japan, and the



Tonhalle Orchestra in Zürich. She has also led performances with the Juilliard Orchestra at Lincoln Center.

Irakli Tsadaia, violin (Georgia) – Shortly after his return iPalpiti Festival 2013, Irakli was appointed concertmaster of the Georgian Chamber Orchestra.

...

Robert Sherman of WQXR-FM, New York, featured iPalpiti artists **Alexandru Tomescu**, **Pavel Šporcl**, and **Jacob Shaw** in his Young Artists programs. Throughout the season, WQXR broadcasts iPalpiti live performances.

KUSC-FM will broadcast 2013 concert of iPalpiti from Walt Disney Concert Hall on June 14, 2014

Watch new iPalpiti short film on www.iPalpiti.com or on YouTube. If you missed the 2013 festival, listen to live iPalpiti performances on YouTube.

iPALPITI 2013

— GRAND FINALE at WALT DISNEY CONCERT HALL —

Audience arrivals...



The Gershfeld Family. Mikhail Gershfeld (3rd L) was the first Chairman of the Board of iPalpiti (in 1998, Young Artist International)

In Rehearsal...



At Leo Frankel Concert Hall



Alex gave his signature "Paganini – Devil or Angel?" performance/presentation



Nathan Frankel (center) and iPalpiti supporters

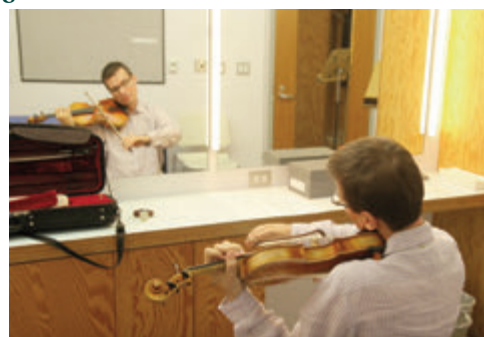


The audience salutes iPalpiti artists

Back Stage...



Dmitri Silvan (France) and Mariechen Meyer (USA)



Tomescu and his Elder-Voicu Stradivarius given to him by the Romanian government

In Performance...



Fun



Board member Thereza Verboon (behind a guitarist aka iPalpiti's Spanish violinist Pablo Rapado Jambrina) hosted her fabulous dinner for iPalpiti. When a surprise guest Gabriela Montero (at piano) showed up, improvisations went on forever...

iPalpiti Musicales in New York: 1/25/14



L-R: Svetlana Smolina, pianist/Hernando Courtright, iPalpiti VC East Coast/Davide de Askaniis, violinist/Catharina Chen – iPalpiti Ambassador, surprise guest from Norway/Hosts Susan & Charles Avery Fisher/Yoni Draiblate, cellist.
Front: Niv Ashkenazi, violinist.



iPalpiti alumnus Alexandru Tomescu, now a State Soloist of Romania, was the soloist in *La Traviata Variations*

Final bows...



The last Festival concert: Beethoven and Britten at LACMA



In rehearsal



and finite...

TESTIMONIALS FROM MUSICIANS/AUDIENCE

Thank you so much for another great iPalpiti year! I want to thank both of you for giving me 10 years of musical development and inspiration through iPalpiti! I have met some of my best friends during the summers and I'm forever grateful for all the opportunities you've given me! I'm on my way to Peer Gynt Festival and will lead the play. Also, thank you for giving me the opportunity to play Schubert this year. Such beautiful chamber music piece.

Catharina Chen (Norway) – Soloist, First Concertmaster of the Norway National State Opera. iPalpiti Ambassador.

Thank you very very much for an amazing festival and giving me the opportunity to work with Dr. Schmieder and world class musicians!! It was truly a one-in-a-lifetime experience!

Mariechen Mayer, Double Bass (RSA)

You gave another unforgettable moment to us! The performances of all was overwhelming and the audience so enthusiastic and grateful! And you deserve the recognition so much, it must be such hard work to put all that together! – Ulrika

Amazing. That was just stunning. – Vanessa

Thank you for another wonderful evening of heartfelt music. My friends and I enjoyed the concert and passion filled performance. – Lynne

Bravo Laura and Eduard....we enjoyed it immensely. – The Kenans

Dear Mrs. Schmieder, Dear Dr. Schmieder,

I just want to thank you once again for just an amazing re-vitalising trip to iPalpiti and California.

Dr.Schmieder - words cannot express how much our work means to me. I treasure these weeks together and I learn so much. Your views on life, on humanity, on music I absorb into my heart and spirit, lifting me up for the year to come.

Mrs.Schmieder - I really know how much work you do running around like crazy behind the scenes to make sure everything goes smoothly. I appreciate it so much. I really hope you have the time in New York for some well deserved rest! I really appreciate all you both do for us as young artists to give us a platform to spread our message through concerts.

Jacob Shaw, Cellist (UK-Denmark)

Thanks to your generosity, the 19 underprivileged residents were able, for the first time, to experience high quality live music at the wonderful concert. The selection of the music was fantastic, and the young and talented musicians were superb. Attending such performances helps developing the deeper level of appreciation and recognition of music and humanity. Our residents have expressed their appreciation for the given opportunity to attend this wonderful celebration of music. Thank you for sharing the beauty of classical music performed by the multicultural talents with all of us.

West Hollywood Community Housing Corporation

The concert was so so so so moving! It was both an amazing execution and a wonderful choice of pieces. While I am not a musician today but a filmmaker - I still have the ear for powerful and moving music.

Maestro made the evening magical and I'm sure it will be unforgettable for everyone that was there. I am truly grateful. – Dan Katzir

What a marvelous concert at Disney Hall! The musicians act as one lovely organism, always in (literal and physical) harmony with each other. And they ALL look as if they're having a great time. Superb experience once again and, it made for a wonderful summer evening. Thank you! – Lisa Melou

Thank you very much for great 2 weeks. It was again wonderful to work with great musicians and Dr. Schmieder again. I am back to Turkey now with great memories like last 2 years. Thanks again for this great festival and everything. Hope to see you again next year.

Can Sakul, violist (Turkey)

HEARTFELT THANKS TO ALL OUR SUPPORTERS

We are grateful to ALL our supporters: the dedicated and the new. Few of our members are aware that when we present young artists in iPalpiti programs, we covers all expenses (international travel, hotel, meals, local transportation, venues), and give awards.

Every Festival we produce memorable brochures with each artist's photo & bio, and listing every sponsor.

RENEW YOUR PARTNERSHIP NOW. Please use enclosed envelope or visit iPalpiti.org, DONATE online. THANK YOU!

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Marilyn Schmitt
Rachelle Shukman

December 2012– December 2013

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this list. Any omissions are sincerely regretted.

The Lloyd E. Rigler-Lawrence E. Deutsch Foundation produces video recordings of our annual Disney Hall concerts, offered free to Patrons and above. These DVDs may also be purchased for \$18. please call 310-205-0511.

Thank You to the City of Beverly Hills for continuing support:

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OPUS 31 NEWSLETTER



"The international ensemble's playing at Walt Disney Concert Hall, led by conductor Eduard Schmieder, proves to be world-class."

– Mark Swed, *Los Angeles Times*

iPalpiti artists display commendations from Los Angeles County



UPCOMING SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

IPALPITI CONCERT SERIES AT LEO FRANKEL CONCERT HALL

Private residence of Nathan Frankel, Beverly Hills

(Directions given with paid reservation)

Series concerts are FREE to current Patrons/Benefactors of iPalpiti (\$500 & above levels)

General admission: \$50/concert \$180/season
(Leo Frankel Tribute is not included)

Saturday, February 15, 3pm

Andrew Moses, Clarinet. As iPalpiti Junior, Andrew performed with iPalpiti Artists during its 16th iPalpiti Festival. Andrew is among four composers selected for the 2013-2015 LA Phil Composer Fellowship Program, with a premiere of his newest work in February 2014 at Walt Disney Concert Hall.
www.andrewmoses.com

Saturday, April 19, 3pm

Pavel Šporcl

**THE MOST DISTINCTIVE VIOLINIST
of this generation's Czech violinists.**

Lauded as "*a talent that is born once in a century*," his recordings have invariably receive Gold, Platinum, and "Gramophone recommends" accolades. On this tour Pavel will perform pieces from his last CD *My Violin Legends* - a homage to great Czech violinists of the past.

Sunday May 18, 3pm

Samuel Nebyu, First Prize Winner of the 16th

Remember Enescu International Violin Competition in Romania (2013)

Samuel's African-American and Jewish-European descent brings a unique flair into his playing as he performs worldwide from Gypsy improvisations with famous Robby Lakatos to classics and modern interpretations.

Monday, July 14, 8pm

iPalpiti Soloists, Acclaimed for its "*beauteous string playing*," "*lustrous tone*," and "*infectious way of making music*"

12th annual Leo Frankel Tribute – Saturday, November 15, 6PM

Nathan Frankel, violin & iPalpiti artists

Nathan's love of his father and devotion to music merge in our annual tribute to honor Leo's commitment to iPalpiti artists.

17TH ANNUAL IPALPITI FESTIVAL OF INTERNATIONAL LAUREATES

iPalpiti orchestral ensemble • Eduard Schmieder, Music Director & Conductor
Encinitas, CA: July 10-13 (Soloists only)

iPalpiti orchestra in-residence at Soka Performing Arts Center: July 13-20
with a concert July 20th

Beverly Hills-Los Angeles: July 21-27

Walt Disney Concert Hall Grand Finale: Saturday, July 26

For information/tickets call 310.205.0511 or visit www.iPalpiti.org