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POLLACK, MARGULIS, SUTHERLAND, DANIELS, GILFRY AND GONDECK TO JUDGE 2007 JOSE ITURBI MUSIC COMPETITION AT UCLA JUNE 17-23

LOS ANGELES, June 5, 2007 -- Daniel Pollack, Vitaly Margulis, Bruce Sutherland, David Daniels, Rod Gilfry and Juliana Gondeck have been confirmed as judges for The 2007 José Iturbi Music Competition to take place June 17 – 23 in Los Angeles at UCLA's Schoenberg Hall. The contest will award the highest cash prizes of any piano and singing competition worldwide.

24 pianists and 24 singers will participate in the preliminary round of competition, which was open to applicants of any nationality born between January 1, 1975 and January 1, 1990. 12 pianists and 12 singers will advance to the semi-final round and six singers and six pianists will compete in the final round.

The following are short biographies of the six judges:

Daniel Pollack's concert career has taken him worldwide across five continents. A soloist with major orchestras in the U.S. including the New York Philharmonic, Los Angeles Philharmonic and San Francisco Symphony; he has also performed with the Moscow State Philharmonic, London's Royal Philharmonic, Bergen Symphony, Norway, and Seoul Philharmonic, among others.

Pollack has performed solo recitals in the major music centers of the world including London's Royal Festival Hall, Vienna's Musikverein, Amsterdam's Concertgebouw, Moscow's Bolshoi Zal, New York's Carnegie Hall, Chicago's Orchestra Hall, and the Los Angeles Music Center. Pollack first garnered the music world's attention when he became a prize-winner in the International Tchaikovsky Piano Competition in Moscow. Following, he concertized throughout the former Soviet Union and became the first American to record there for Melodya.

His many CDs include "The Legendary Moscow Recordings of 1958 and 1961," the Grammy-nominated complete solo piano works of Samuel Barber, and an all-Chopin recital recorded in the Bolshoi Zal of the Philharmonic in St. Petersburg. He also recorded two CDs of popular short romantic works and is scheduled to release a new CD in the Fall with Schumann and Liszt works.

Pollack has held several visiting artist faculty positions including The Juilliard School, Columbia University and Yale's School of Music. Pollack has been a longtime professor at the Thornton School of Music at the University of Southern California.

Pollack began his studies at the age of four and made his debut with the New York Philharmonic at the age of nine, performing the Chopin Piano Concerto No. 1. He is a graduate of the Juilliard School from the class of the legendary Rosina Lhevinne, herself a graduate of the Moscow Conservatory. Pollack continued his graduate studies at the Hochschule für Musik in Vienna under a Fulbright scholarship with Bruno Seidlhofer.

Vitaly Margulis, pianist, pedagogue, writer and author of music philosophy studies, was born in 1928 in the Ukrainian City of Charkov. He received his first piano lessons from his father, whose teacher, Alexander Horowitz, studied with the composer Alexander Scriabin. Vitaly Margulis continued his studies at the renowned Leningrad Conservatory under Professor Samarij Sawshinskij where, from 1958 until his emigration to the west in 1974, he had his own piano class. During this time, Vitaly Margulis triumphed in more than 1,000 concerts throughout Russia.

In 1975, Vitaly Margulis became a full Professor at the esteemed Musikhochschule in Freiburg, Germany. In 1994, he accepted the post of Professor of Piano at the University of California in Los Angeles. In addition, he holds piano seminars in Germany, Switzerland, Greece, Belgium, Portugal, Holland, France, Japan, Russia, and America. He has given concerts over the years in cities such as New York, Los Angeles, Rome, Berlin, Salzburg, Amsterdam, Tokyo, Moscow, and Saint Petersburg. There have been numerous recordings of his work.

In his teaching, Professor Margulis prioritizes the study of the works of Bach and Beethoven. His book "Johann Sebastian Bach's Symbolic Language and The Well Tempered Clavier" points to new ways of understanding the religious symbolism and spirituality in Bach's music. In his publication "Formula for Timing Relationship and Beethoven's Timing Principles," Margulis explores new concepts in musical architecture. His book "Bagatelles," translated and published in seven countries, describes principles of piano pedagogy in an aphoristic manner. His book "Paralipomenon," was published in Moscow in 2006.

Professor Margulis' students have won more than 100 prizes at international competitions over the last decades, 28 of which were grand prizes.

Bruce Sutherland, noted American musician, first gained world recognition as a composer in the International Gottschalk Competition in New Orleans. Jose Iturbi, conducting the Bridgeport Symphony in a 25th Anniversary Concert with David Bar-Illan as piano soloist, presented the world premiere of Sutherland's prizewinning score, *Allegro Fanfara* for orchestra.

Sutherland's debut as piano soloist was radio broadcast with James Sample conducting the KFI Symphony in a performance of *NIGHTS IN THE GARDENS OF SPAIN* by DeFalla, a work currently available in a definitive and recently released CD recording by Amparo Iturbi with Jose Iturbi conducting the Orchestre Colonne (Paris). This repertoire pinpoints a link to Sutherland's pianistic background and studies with two world famous women pianists of the century: Amparo Iturbi and Ethel Leginska.

Wide musical interests led Sutherland later to concertize and also tour as harpsichord soloist with the Telemann Trio. This love of the harpsichord preceded association with the Iturbis but was reinforced by their love of the instrument, where Pleyel harpsichords were very much in evidence in their homes.

Sutherland has gained particular recognition as the teacher and mentor of numerous young pianists and musicians who have become international prizewinners. Among them are those whose compositions and performances have been acclaimed in recordings (including two Grand Prix du Disque awards), as well as at Music Festivals in this country, such as Marlboro, Ravinia, Aspen, La Jolla, Santa Fe, and in prestigious European Festivals as well. In addition, they have been prominent in major concert halls around the world, including Alice Tully Hall, Avery Fischer Hall, Carnegie Hall, Kennedy Center (Washington, DC), Ambassador, Disney Hall, Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, Hollywood Bowl, Theatre des Champs-Elysees (Paris), Wigmore Hall (London).

In addition, Sutherland has received recognition six times from the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts and was honored in the nation's capitol by the White House Commission on Presidential Scholars as a "Distinguished Teacher."

David Daniels is known for his superlative artistry, magnetic stage presence and a voice of singular warmth and surpassing beauty, which have helped him redefine his

voice category for the modern public. The American countertenor has appeared with the world's major opera companies and on its main concert and recital stages. He made history as the first countertenor to give a solo recital in the main auditorium of Carnegie Hall. The *Chicago Tribune* has called Daniels "today's gold standard among countertenors." *The Gramophone* magazine recently acknowledged his contribution to recorded excellence as well as his expansion of the repertoire for his voice type by naming him one of the "Top Ten Trailblazers" in classical music today.

The title role in *Giulio Cesare* figures prominently in Daniels's 2006-2007 season, when he returns to Glyndebourne to step into David McVicar's spectacular production conducted by Emanuelle Haïm; later this season he also sings the role for the first time at the Metropolitan Opera. A highlight of Daniels season will be the premiere of a new monologue commissioned by the BBC Symphony from the fast-rising British composer, Jonathan Dove which will be premiered in London in September. He will return to the Los Angeles Opera as Ottone in Monteverdi's *L'incoronazione di Poppea* opposite Susan Graham.

In concert Daniels makes his debut with the Berlin Philharmonic performing Bach's b minor mass, conducted by Sir Roger Norrington. Other European orchestra engagements include a tour with the Le Point du Jour ensemble which will be heard in Paris, London, Berlin, as well as other European cities. Other important American orchestral engagements include concerts with the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra and the Seattle Symphony. A further seasonal highlight is a new production of Gluck's *Orfeo* at the Metropolitan Opera directed by Mark Morris and conducted by James Levine.

Rodney Gilfry, baritone, has established himself as one of today's most sought-after and compelling baritones. His artistry has been seen in all the world's music capitals, including Vienna, Paris, London, Munich, Zurich, New York, Chicago, San Francisco, and Los Angeles. Best-known as an opera singer, he also has extensive experience as a Master of Ceremonies, a cabaret artist, and as a voice-over artist. He is equally acclaimed as a distinguished recitalist and concert artist.

This Grammy-nominated singer has 23 audio and video recordings to his credit, and the DVD and CD of his one-man show *My Heart is So Full of You* has just been released. His radio show *Opera Notes on Air* (with co-host Suzanna Guzmán), aired on Los Angeles' largest Classical station, K-Mozart 105.1 FM, for over three years. With a 40-role repertoire, Mr. Gilfry sings music from the Baroque to that composed expressly for him. He was brought to worldwide attention when he created the role of Stanley Kowalski in the 1998 premiere of André Previn's *A Streetcar Named Desire* with the San Francisco Opera.

Last Fall, he created his 5th world premiere role as Jack London in the new Libby Larsen/Philip Littell opera *Every Man Jack* in Sonoma, California. Other appearances this year include Lionel in the San Francisco Opera production of Tchaikovsky's *Joan of Arc*, Prospero in the American premiere of Thomas Ades' *The Tempest* at the Santa Fe Opera, and as Nathan in the American premiere of Nicholas Maw's *Sophie's Choice* in Washington D.C, a role he created in London in 2002. In February he sang De Guiche in Alfano's *Cyrano de Bergerac* in Valencia, Spain, opposite Plácido Domingo, and in May appeared with the Los Angeles Opera as Count Danilo in Lehar's operetta *The Merry Widow*. He also performed his one-man show Rodgers to Rossini in Stevens Point, Wisconsin in March, and will appear with the Chicago Symphony as Joe in Frank Loesser's musical *The Most Happy Fella* at the Ravinia Festival in July. Rod has been recognized as a Distinguished Alumnus of both Cal State Fullerton, where he earned a Bachelor's degree in 1981, and the University of Southern California, where he earned a Master's degree in Vocal Performance in 1983.

Juliana Gondek, soprano, has performed over 150 solo roles with more than 120 major orchestras and opera companies throughout North America, Europe, and Asia, in collaboration with such legendary musicians as Aaron Copland, Herbert von Karajan, Leonard Bernstein, Carlos Kleiber, James Levine, and Yehudi Menuhin.

Hailed internationally as a leading interpreter of Baroque, Mozart, Italian bel canto, and contemporary music, she has sung such leading roles as Mimi, Micaela, Hoffmann's four heroines, Verdi's Giovanna d'Arco, Bellini's Beatrice di Tenda, Mozart's Vitellia, and a dozen Handel roles at the Metropolitan Opera, San Francisco Opera, New York City Opera, Scottish Opera, Netherlands Opera, Seattle Opera, and the opera companies of Dallas, St. Louis, Miami, Hawaii, Utah, and the Kennedy Center.

Engagements at the Salzburg and Edinburgh Festivals, the Göttingen and Halle Handel Festivals, Japan's Pacific Music Festival, Antibes's Bel Canto Festival, Lincoln Center's Mostly Mozart Festival, and the Avignon, Marlboro, Caramoor, Bard, Newport, Bowdoin, and Santa Fe Music Festivals have made her an audience favorite worldwide.

Gondek is a frequent soloist with major orchestras such as the New York Philharmonic, the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the San Francisco Symphony, L'Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, and the famed Netherlands Radio Symphony. She has recorded more than 20 commercial CDs – 5 winning international prizes - for such labels as Deutsche Grammophon, Teldec, Naxos, and Channel Classics. She has sung dozens of premieres of roles written for her by some of the world's most celebrated composers, including David Diamond, Bright Sheng, and Paul Chihara. Formerly a professional violinist, Gondek gained the international spotlight by winning the "Prix Patek Philippe" and back-to-back Gold Medals in the Geneva International Singing Competition and the Barcelona "Francisco Vinas" International Opera Competition.

She Chairs the Division of Voice Studies at UCLA and the Hawaii Performing Arts Festival voice faculty. She also maintains an active private studio in Los Angeles with students performing in the most prestigious concert halls and opera houses.

The schedule for the competition is as follows:

June 18 and 19	Preliminary Round for 24 pianists Preliminary Round for 24 singers Semi-Finalists announced
June 20 and 21	Semi-Final Round for 12 pianists Semi-Final Round for 12 singers Finalists announced
June 22	Final Round for 6 singers followed by Awards Ceremony
June 23	Final Round for 6 pianists followed by Awards Ceremony

\$250,000 of the competition's cash prizes include first place prizes of \$50,000 in each category. There will be two People's Choice prizes (one for a pianist and one for a singer) of \$10,000 voted "live" by the public audience attendees of the final competition round.

"We are delighted to announce that six of the most accomplished pianists and singers in the world today are participating as judges in the first José Iturbi Music Competition, which offers the largest prize money for any music competition," said Donelle Dadigan, President of the José Iturbi Foundation. "We look forward to an exciting week-long event at UCLA this summer with the world's upcoming, emerging talent engaged in a rigorous life-changing competition."

"In recognition of our shared mission to play a vital role in the early careers of young artists, and our commitment to musical excellence, the UCLA Department of

Music is honored to welcome to our campus the Jose Iturbi International Music Competition," added Ian Krouse, Chairman of UCLA's Music Department.

Created in 1985 by Marion Seabury and Donelle Dadigan, The José Iturbi Foundation is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to continuing the legacy of José Iturbi, to fulfill his wish to make classical music accessible and enjoyable to people of all ages and walks of life, and to fulfill his desire of bringing to the public's attention today's greatest emerging talents and prize-winning musicians. The foundation's goal is to globally expand the passion for classical music through dynamic competition and compelling live performance.

One of the greatest concert pianists of his time, José Iturbi was a composer, conductor and performer of international acclaim who starred as himself in seven MGM musicals including "Anchors Away" (1945) starring Frank Sinatra and Gene Kelly. He was the first classical musician to receive a Gold Record representing record sales in excess of one million and a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

For more information on The José Iturbi International Music Competition, go to www.joseiturbifoundation.org. Ticket requests are available online for the public to attend all rounds of the competition.

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