



PETROUSHKA BALL

2019

VERDI

RIGOLETTO

Feb 12–Mar 20

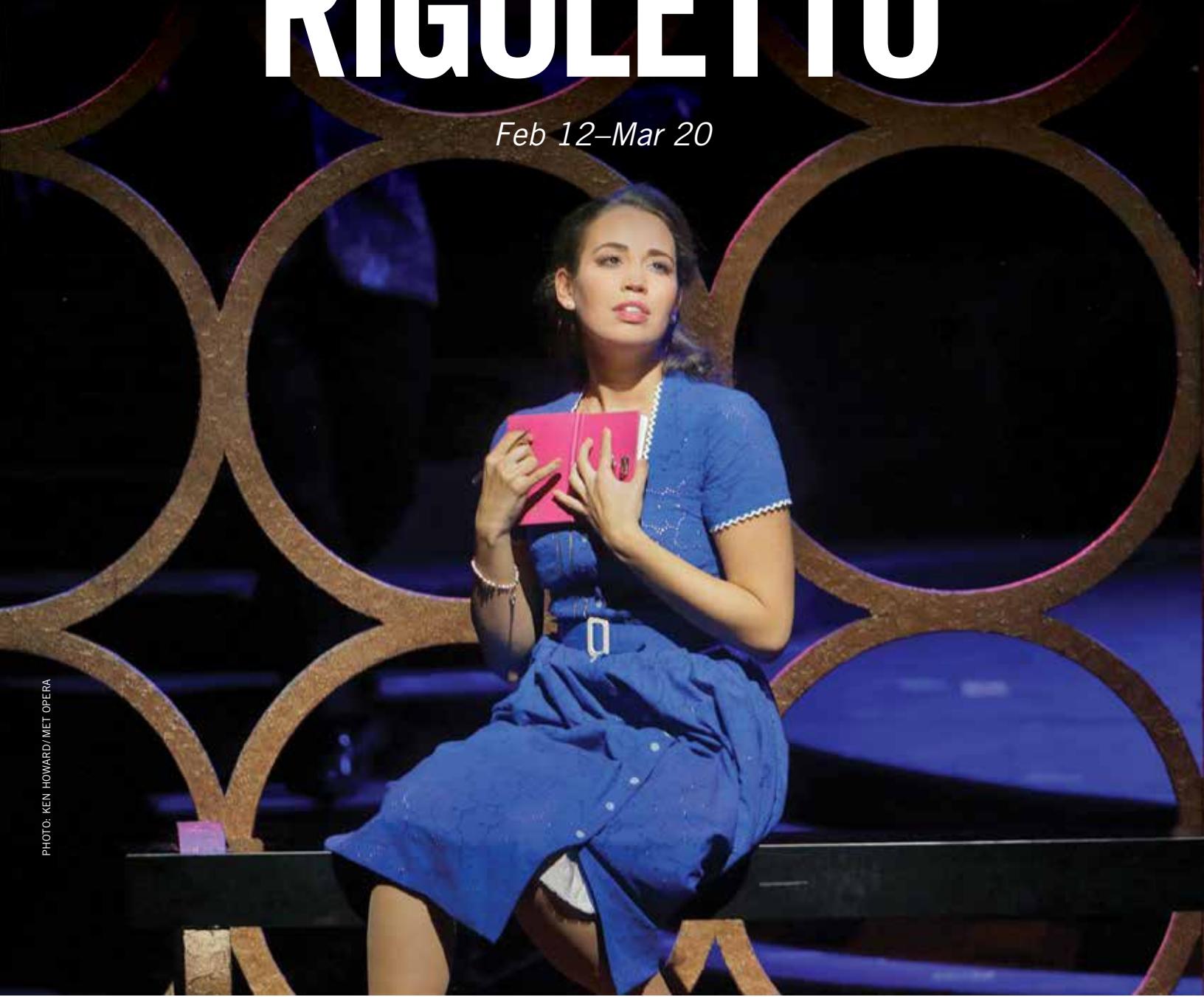


PHOTO: KEN HOWARD/MET OPERA

Nadine Sierra stars in the Met's dazzling Las Vegas vision for Verdi's timeless tragedy. Also on stage this month: Verdi's Shakespearean masterpiece *Falstaff*, Mozart's gripping *Don Giovanni*, and Donizetti's infectious comedy *La Fille du Régiment*.

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THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
NEW YORK, NY 10007

February 8, 2019

Dear Friends:

It is a great pleasure to join the Russian Children's Welfare Society in welcoming everyone to its 54th Annual Petroushka Ball.

My administration strongly believes that every child deserves access to the tools to live a healthy, productive life, and this event offers an important opportunity for New Yorkers to extend a hand to kids in need. Tonight's Petroushka Ball, one of the most anticipated Russian-American events in our great city, will help raise funding in support of the Russian Children's Welfare Society's continued efforts to uplift children and improve their quality of life. Since its founding in 1926, RCWS has provided a fresh start to underserved children across Russia through a range of educational opportunities, medical treatments, orphanage programs, and more. I look forward to all this organization will continue to accomplish in the years ahead, and I applaud all those in attendance this evening for doing their part to set today's youth on the path to a more hopeful tomorrow.

On behalf of the City of New York, please accept my best wishes a festive ball and continued success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill de Blasio".

Bill de Blasio
Mayor



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New York, February 8, 2019

Dear Friends,

It is a great pleasure to welcome you all to the Russian Children's Welfare Society's 54th Petroushka Ball.

For over 93 years the RCWS has carried out its selfless mission of helping disadvantaged children through education and social programs. They continue to sponsor medical services and equipment, college scholarships and educational opportunities for children at risk and orphans to improve their prospects in life.

Thousands of children have benefited from RCWS' work and your contributions. Your support for this noble cause allows the Society to continue changing lives and supporting these children's hopes and dreams.

The Petroushka Ball has always been a time to commemorate and remember the miracles RCWS helped to achieve. This evening, I ask you to please enjoy this memorable occasion and celebrate.

Sincerely,
Sergei K. Ovsiannikov
Consul General of Russia



The 54th Annual

Petrovushka Ball



February 8th, 2019 • The Plaza Hotel • New York City

To Benefit the

Russian Children's Welfare Society

Dear Guests,

Welcome! I'm happy to tell you that the Petrovushka Ball is 54 years old!

The Russian Children's Welfare Society is in its 93 year and still carrying out its mission. At a time when the world has become a bit cold and self-absorbed there is ever the need for warmth and caring for the disadvantaged children in Russia. Today, there are thousands of orphaned children with no family to care for them, with limited opportunity to receive needed medical treatment and operations. These children cannot even imagine going to college to prepare for a profession or the career they dream of. And yet, this is precisely where this charity shines.

Since 1926 the RCWS has cared for and given hope to thousands of children thanks to donations from people like you. It all started with 5 ladies of noble birth who worked to help families with children who had escaped the Bolshevik Revolution and then those who escaped Communism. In the years following, the Society supported orphanages with vocational training equipment, beds, building renovations, even new cars in which to transport children to doctor's visits and other necessary appointments. In 2003 the RCWS established a college scholarship program for orphanage graduates. We have 154 students in colleges and universities at this time and close to 90 of our scholarship recipients have graduated and found employment.

The Society manages many other projects and initiatives that we would take great joy in telling you about. What could be more wonderful than helping children? Our office is open if you have any questions; please feel free to contact us. Your support is so important; I'm thanking you in advance for any gift you may make.

We wish you an evening of joy and feeling for the Russian culture.

Yours truly,

Beatrice M. Fekula

President of RCWS



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THE TROIKA – ТРОЙКА

The *Troika* (тройка – triplet or trio) is the traditional Russian carriage drawn by a team of three horses harnessed abreast, most often pulling a sleigh. It has become a symbol of Russia and is widely employed in folklore, movies, paintings and literature.

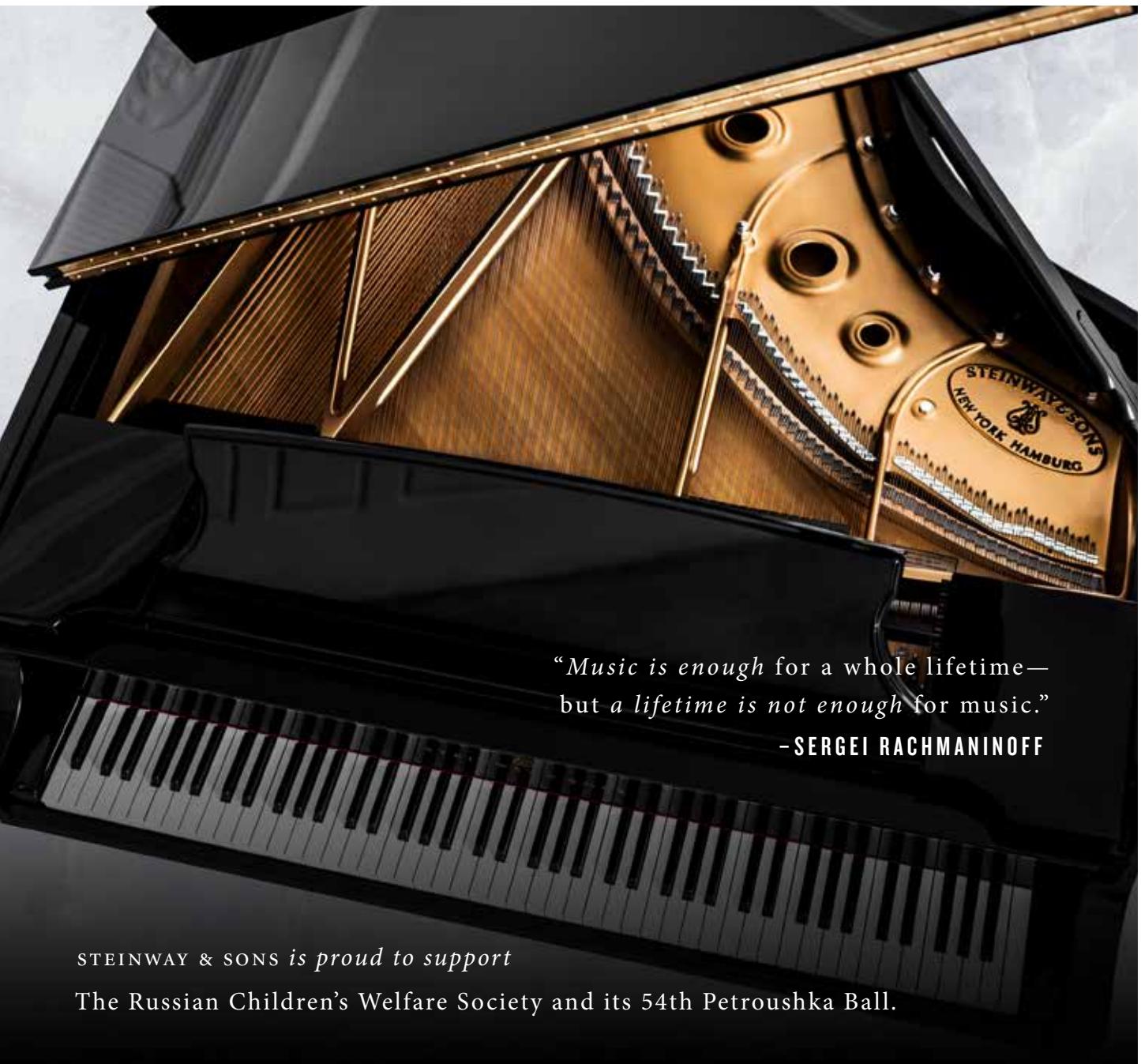
Troikas first appeared in the 17th century and were used mainly for postal services, for transporting passengers across long distances, and later in festivities such as weddings and other religious celebrations. By the mid-19th century, *troika* races had become extremely popular in Russia, especially during winter. The *troika* is best known for its high speeds – up to 50 kilometers per hour/30 miles per hour.

Such high speeds were possible due to the special training of both driver and horses and also to the unique arrangement of the horses. The horse in the middle, called the shaft horse (коренник – *korennik*), trots and acts like a locomotive, while the horses on the sides – tracers (пристяжные – *pristyazhniye*) maintain a brisk gallop. This makes the *troika* the only method of harnessing horses in which different horses use different gaits. This method became popular not only for its significant rate or speed, but also for endurance, good cargo capacity, maneuverability, and safety.

Driving a *troika* required special skills and training from a young age. The profession of *troika* coachman was hereditary and prestigious among peasants.

As the *troika* became widespread, the creation of special signals to regulate *troika* traffic became necessary. Eventually, bells on the harness were introduced and became an integral part of the *troika*. A *troika* was usually accompanied by about 100 bells on the bridle, on the saddle and inside the many harness brushes. The singing of the many bells, some in minor, others in major keys, combined with the sound of hooves running, created a unique melody, pleasing to the ears. But *troikas* were also a joy for the eyes with their richly decorated harnesses and bows adorned with painting and fretwork.

The *troika* – the theme of this year's Petroushka Ball – is a beloved symbol of Russia and the Russian winter, conveying a sense of beauty, freedom, excitement, and daring.



*“Music is enough for a whole lifetime—
but a lifetime is not enough for music.”*

-SERGEI RACHMANINOFF

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About the Society



This year, the Russian Children's Welfare Society proudly celebrates the 93rd Anniversary of its founding and the 54th Anniversary of the Petroushka Ball. In the spring of 1926, the original organizers pledged their commitment to improving the lives of Russian children living outside the Soviet Union.

The direction of the Russian Children's Welfare Society's many initiatives had been guided to a great extent by the unending political and social flux of the 20th century. The Bolshevik Revolution of 1917 prompted the migration of large numbers of Russians to Western Europe, Asia, and North and South America. By the early thirties, the Society had ten branches operating throughout the United States and was sending money and material assistance to schools and organizations in locales as diverse as Latvia, Estonia, Poland, Finland, France, Germany, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Harbin, Shanghai, and Istanbul.

RCWS gained recognition from the Presidential War Relief Control Board as an approved charity for work abroad during the Second World War. By 1950, the Society was again sending relief to 14 countries.

With the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, Russia's infrastructure left an alarming number of children disenfranchised. Given this reality, and, given that Europe and North and South America had become self-sufficient, RCWS shifted its focus to assisting children at risk living in Russia. The Russian Children's Welfare Society now directs all of its yearly aid to children in Russia by funding an array of projects that include medical programs, college scholarships for orphans, schools and orphanages, and rehabilitation centers for children with special needs.

A SELECTION OF INITIAVES UNDERTAKEN BY THE RCWS IN 2018 THANKS TO THE KIND SUPPORT OF OUR DONORS:

MEDICAL PROGRAMS

"GIVE BEAUTY BACK TO THE CHILDREN"- PEDIATRIC MAXILLOFACIAL SURGERY FUND

Thousands of Russian children are burdened by unsightly facial deformities as a result of congenital defects, tumors, cleft lips, cleft palates, and other traumas. Only two or three hospitals in all of Russia have specialized surgeons to undertake cases that often require a series of



surgeries and highly advanced medical technology. Consequently, treatment is often a luxury few families have access to even when it is a dire necessity for a child's physical and psychological well-being.

In 2010, RCWS launched "Give Beauty Back to the Children," in partnership with Professor Vitaly Roginsky, Head of the Moscow Center for Maxillofacial Surgery (MCMS) and Lev Ambinder, Head of the Russian Aid Foundation (Rusfond). MCMS is one of the most innovative facilities in Russia providing treatment and rehabilitation for children with facial deformities.

Thanks to the joint efforts of Rusfond, MCMS and RCWS, the "Give Beauty Back to the Children" program has forever altered the lives of over 2,000 children suffering from facial deformities. The average cost

per surgery is in the range of \$2,500-\$5,000. Thanks to our mutual donors' support and the help of advanced medical micro technology, Professor Roginsky and his staff have witnessed many of their patients' personalities flourish with hope and happiness as they gain the ability to do what is second nature to most – to smile.

Russian Children's Clinical Hospital / Charitable foundation to assists sick and abandoned children "Deti.Msk.Ru", Moscow

In 2018, RCWS provided assistance to the Russian Children's Clinical Hospital (RCCH) via equipment and enhanced medical technologies. RCWS sponsored a new surgical drill (the Acculan 3Ti and supplies totaling \$12,708) that was urgently needed to treat epilepsy and other medical conditions for over 150 children annually from different regions of Russia.

EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS AND PROGRAMS

During the sixteen years since the inception of the RCWS scholarship program, the number of participants has grown from 3 in the 2003-2004 academic year to over 150 in 2018-2019. Currently, RCWS is supporting 154 students in the Pskov, Yaroslavl and Moscow regions. To date, the scholarship program has been enormously successful in providing a support structure for students as they transition from living in an orphanage to attending a university on their own. For an annual cost of approximately \$2,000 per student, the Society is helping orphans successfully complete an academic degree or vocational train-



ing in order to steer them in the direction of a promising future. RCWS requires academic transcripts from each scholarship recipient, as well as reports on the use of the stipend to assure accountability. About 90 of our scholarship recipients have thus far completed their schooling and found employment. This is an outstanding achievement of which we are very proud.

We would like to share several stories. Among our new scholarship recipients is Yuri A. who is a 16-year-old social orphan, and now a 1st-year student at the Dnovsky Railway Technical School, majoring in diesel locomotive driving. Yuri's mom was deprived of parental rights due to alcoholism and his farther is currently in jail. While living at the orphanage, Yuri started taking music classes and playing the drums in the school orchestra. He also engaged in football, basketball, and volleyball and received numerous awards in sport competitions. Yuri wrote in his letter to RCWS: *"My Dad, who worked as a taxi driver, got into an accident that killed a person and he ended up in prison. After this tragic accident my mother began to drink. I had to take care of my younger siblings – a sister and a brother. After my mom lost her parental rights, we ended up*



About the Society



in the "Center for Abandoned Children". When I was little, I dreamed of becoming a football player, a fireman, or a driver. Also I dreamed of traveling and visiting different countries. Later I decided on a profession that, in my opinion, will help to fulfill my dream – I want to become a locomotive driver. The RCWS scholarship will help to cover books, studying materials, and other expenses. Currently, I have no one to help me financially and very much need the RCWS support. I hope that after graduating from the Technical School my life will change for the better. I will start working and might be able to visit different countries and see the world. When I start earning money, I want to help my younger brother Misha and sister Yulia, who are still living at the orphanage."

This note is from Svetlana E., who graduated last summer from the Pskov State University, with a degree in Technology and Design: *"My final year at college has ended. Your support really helped me tremendously. It is sad that by graduating college, I will no longer be a part of the RCWS Scholarship program. These three-and-a-half years as an RCWS scholarship recipient flew by so fast! RCWS support was invaluable to me and incredibly important for my future. Thanks to the RCWS scholarship program I was able to meet such wonderful people. This final year was very challenging academically for me. In addition, I had to say goodbye to university life, pass the state exam, and present my graduate paper. Now I am ready for the next chapter of my life. I have already found and accepted a job offer – I will be working as a teacher. I would like to thank the RCWS and all the donors for your support! I would not be able to graduate and receive a college diploma without your help. What you do for us is so important for young people like myself! It makes me happy that there are people across the world who care and are ready to help. Thank you for supporting me! Wishing RCWS and the donors all the best!"*

Last summer Alexander S., RCWS scholarship recipient, graduated from the Pskov Agrotechnical College with an Electrician & Technician diploma. Alexander grew up at the Krasnogorodsky Orphanage. In his thank-you note to RCWS, Alexander wrote: *"There were many ups and downs during my studies, but I was able to solve problems and overcome all the difficulties, thanks to the support of RCWS. I am immensely grateful for your help!"*

RCWS has been expanding the scholarship program, adding new partners and increasing the number of participants. Currently, RCWS provides scholarships to 15 young musicians affiliated with the Spivakov Foundation, established by renowned concert violinist Vladimir Spivakov, to help disadvantaged children in Russia develop their musical and artistic talent.

SCHOOLS

St. Alexis School & Orphanage, Yaroslavl region

Established in 1993, the St. Alexis School & Orphanage serves orphaned children, enrolling 285 students. Education is provided free of charge, and the school is consistently ranked as one of the top schools in Russia. Over 100 children have graduated from the St. Alexis School, and 80% of them are continuing their education at top universities and colleges in Russia. To increase the enrollment of students, in 2018 RCWS sponsored new furniture to equip Physics, Chemistry and Biology classrooms at the St. Alexis School (49 cabinets and desks totaling \$15,085).

II Donskoi Cadet Corps named after Tsar Nicholas II, Rostov-on-Don



The II Donskoi Cadet Corps named after Tsar Nicholas II was established in 1995 and it is one of the first cadets schools revived in Russia. In addition to providing a high-quality secondary education, the Cadet

Corps objective is to raise intelligent, responsible, culturally educated, moral and respectful young people. A total of 286 students currently attend the cadet school, which is based in Rostov-on-Don in southern Russia.



In 2018, thanks to a direct donation, RCWS was able to sponsor 21 new computers to upgrade the IT class equipment for the young cadets enrolled at the school.

Additionally, in summer 2018, thanks to the direct contribution, RCWS was able to cover a pilgrimage trip to Yekaterinburg for a group of young cadets from the II Donskoi Cadet Corps. The long-awaited trip to Yekaterinburg took place in July 2018, commemorating 100th anniversary of the execution of Tsar Nicholas II and his family in the basement of the Ipatiev House. Hundreds of thousands of pilgrims from Russia and all over the world visited Yekaterinburg in 2018 to remember the last Russian royal family. Among the tragic sights the students visited was Ganina Yama near the village of Koptyaki where the imperial family was buried in mass graves in 1918.

St. Nicholas School, Kislovodsk, Northern Caucasus

Established in 1992, the St. Nicholas School provides a well-rounded education, enrolling 250 students. Over 90% of graduating students are accepted into leading universities in Russia. Besides regular school subjects the students study Latin, Greek, and Church Slavonic. Extra-curricular activities include choir singing, art studio, children's theater, and various sports activities. St. Nicholas School occasionally rewards its students with trips beyond the classroom walls to enrich their academic experience and to offer them a chance to broaden their horizons. In 2018, RCWS provided funding to cover the extra-curricular educational trips, compensation for 27 teachers, building renovation and books for the library, totaling \$14,092.

Educational Center "Big Change" (Bolshaya Peremena), Moscow

Established in 2002, "Big Change" helps orphans and disenfranchised children to transition into adulthood, enrolling 80 students. Teachers prepare a tailor-made education for each student, including communi-



About the Society



cation skills training, speech therapy for youngsters with learning disabilities, and tutoring (Math, Literature, Physics, Chemistry, Computer Science, History, Biology, Geography). In 2018, RCWS provided funds towards these educational programs, professional tutoring and extracurricular activities for 70 students totaling \$16,000.

Tutaev School/Righteous St. John of Kronstadt Orthodox School, Tutaev, Yaroslavl region

Established in 1991, the Tutaev School provides primary and secondary education, currently enrolling 110 children. The school offers students from disenfranchised backgrounds to participate in community projects, extracurricular activities, and anti-drug campaigns. Additionally, the school assists students in cultivating their creative talents by offering art and sculpture classes, music and theater classes, a journalism club, and other activities. In 2018, RCWS provided funds for extracurricular activities, new computers, books, art supplies, sports equipment, and security cameras, totaling \$15,000.

ORPHANAGES

Our goal is to enable orphanages to meet basic needs, and to promote comprehensive programs that help orphans grow to be healthy and independent adults.

Orphanage for children with special needs in Shatura, Moscow region

The Orphanage of Shatura provides 1st to 9th grade education to 182 students with special needs. Living conditions at the school had not been improved since its establishment in the 1960s. In 2017, RCWS sponsored the installation of 27 new windows in the classrooms and children's bedrooms in the orphanage. In 2018, RCWS sponsored the replacement of 36 remaining old windows with new, insulated windows, totaling \$11,919. We are thrilled that during this cold winter the small residents at the Orphanage in Shatura are living and studying in a much warmer and healthier environment because of the new windows.

Krasnogorodsky Orphanage, Pskov Region, Russia

The Krasnogorodsky Orphanage, established in 1988, currently houses 103 children between the ages of 6 and 20 with various health issues. The city center of Pskov is located almost 160 kilometers from the orphanage. In the past RCWS sponsored a new car for the orphanage to drive the children to the city hospital for treatment, check-ups and prophylactic procedures.

In 2018, RCWS provided funds (\$7,062) to establish the Vocational



Training Center to provide professional job training to the students, improve carpentry and plaster-painting workshops by acquiring vocational training equipment and supplies to motivate students. This Center helps to prepare students to live independently and teaches them carpentry and painting/plastering skills.

Potma Orphanage for children with special needs, Mordovia

In 2018 RCWS received a request for help from the Potma Orphanage for children with severe disabilities. Lost in the woods of Mordovia, the Orphanage needed to upgrade their territory and roads near the fa-



cility to allow kids to go outdoors in their wheel-chairs. This renovation was completed in the fall of 2018 and included the construction of pedestrian roads, a parking area, the greening of the territory, and upgrading the recreational areas.

We are happy to report that thanks to the RCWS and our donors' support (\$10,000 in direct donations) the territory outside the Potma Orphanage has become much more accessible for the children who can now enjoy the fresh air, moving and playing outside.

REHABILITATION CENTERS

Rehabilitation Center "Inspiration", Moscow region, Russia

Rehabilitation Center "Inspiration" was founded in 1999 and provides services to children between the ages of 6 months and 18 years with various physical and mental disabilities who are either orphans or come from low-income families. The main goal of the Center is to help children to integrate into society through rehabilitation. There are several long-term, permanent programs provided by the Center such as a Theater Studio, a hippo therapy program, and a hairdresser vocational training studio. There are also classes offered at the Center - school preparatory classes in mathematics, art studio, English class, speech therapy, and music studio. Hundreds of children have benefited from participating in activities offered at the center and 40 children currently reside on the grounds. In 2018, RCWS provided funds towards food, heating, renovation, educational equipment, art supplies, and rehabilitation programs, totaling \$15,000.

Rehabilitation Center "Krug", Moscow

Established in 1989, Krug Rehabilitation Center provides educational and rehabilitation programs to children with learning and physical disabilities, currently enrolling 90-100 students. The Center's programs are designed to help the participants gradually integrate into society while understanding how to best manage their disabilities. The Center also provides part-time employment for children with learning disabilities to help them obtain the workplace training necessary to find a job in the future. In conjunction with their socio-cultural courses, students are offered a stimulating opportunity to experience a new environment outside of their classroom. A vital aspect to children's development, particularly those with autism spectrum disorders, is travel. When children are introduced to new environments and are culturally stimulated, they become noticeably engaged and joyful. In 2018, RCWS covered summer rehabilitation program and travel expenses for 40 children with autism spectrum disorders and their parents, totaling \$5,689.

Rehabilitation Center 'Predolenie L', Moscow

Founded in 1992, the Rehabilitation Center "Preodolenie L" in Moscow provides training, education, and physical therapy for disabled children from orphanages and low income families. The goal of the Center is to prepare children to be fully active members of society. The Center prides itself on its unique equine therapy program for children with disabilities. While riding horses, children feel a unique spirit of freedom and relaxation: no need to sit in a wheelchair, hold onto crutches or grasp someone's hand.



About the Society



Currently 26 children with special needs are taking the equine-assisted therapy classes at the Center. Each child participating in the program receives 20 free lessons (1-2 times a week) over the course of 8 months. The goal of the equine therapy program is to help children improve their balance, tone their muscles, enhance blood circulation, boost their metabolism, and alleviate depression.

Here is a story about one of the children enrolled at the Center's equine



therapy program. Bogdan, 10 years old, is unable to move and is being fed through a tube. His grandmother was happy to report that after the course of horse therapy at the Preodolenie L Center Bogdan's back and neck muscles became stronger and he no longer suffers from the digestive tract spasms. During a recent equine therapy class Bogdan was sitting straight on his horse and enjoying the ride.

RCWS has been supporting the Center's efforts since 2000. In 2018, RCWS provided \$17,630 to cover the upkeep and food for horses, riding equipment and other key expenses to run the equine therapy program for the next 8 months.

Rehabilitation Center "Nelishnie Deti", Moscow

Established in 2007, "Nelishnie Deti" provides mental and trauma services, workshops and counselling to children and families in crisis. In the past, the services were offered to survivors of the 2004 Beslan tragedy, the 2002 Moscow theater hostage crisis and the 2018 Kemerovo fire, among others. In 2018, RCWS provided \$10,000 towards psychologist consultations and trips, art supplies, educational materials, and a summer rehabilitation camp for children and families in crisis.

YELKA - ANNUAL NEW YEAR AND CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

It has been 19 years since RCWS organized our first Yelka, a modest Russian Christmas and New Year Party in Moscow for disadvantaged children. Today, over 1,000 children annually participate in RCWS's Yelka festivities and are treated to a Christmas show and presents. This



past December, over 1,000 children traveled great distances to participate in the 19th annual Yelka event at the Cathedral of Christ the Savior's concert hall in Moscow, to see the holiday show "Master of Winter Forest," and to receive a gift.

The selection process for Yelka participants is highly competitive as



they are selected based on academic merit. They spend months diligently studying and striving to be the best in hopes of being awarded a trip to Moscow, a trip that is oftentimes the highlight of their year.

Additionally, RCWS personnel and volunteers, together with "Ded Moroz" (Russian Santa Claus), visited the Orphanage in Shatura and over 100 little pa-

tients at the Moscow Center for Maxillofacial Surgery and the Institute of Rheumatology in Moscow to distribute gifts and bring some magic to their holiday.



Please visit our web site www.rcws.org for more information about the RCWS on-going projects.

RCWS has been tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code since 1944.

The Society is proud of its accomplishments in its 93-year history, and pays tribute to all of our predecessors and donors who transformed the organization into one of the leading charities in Russia today.

Staff

Beatrice M. Fekula, President

Anna Sergeeva, Director, New York Office

Zhanna Petrenko, Controller, New York Office

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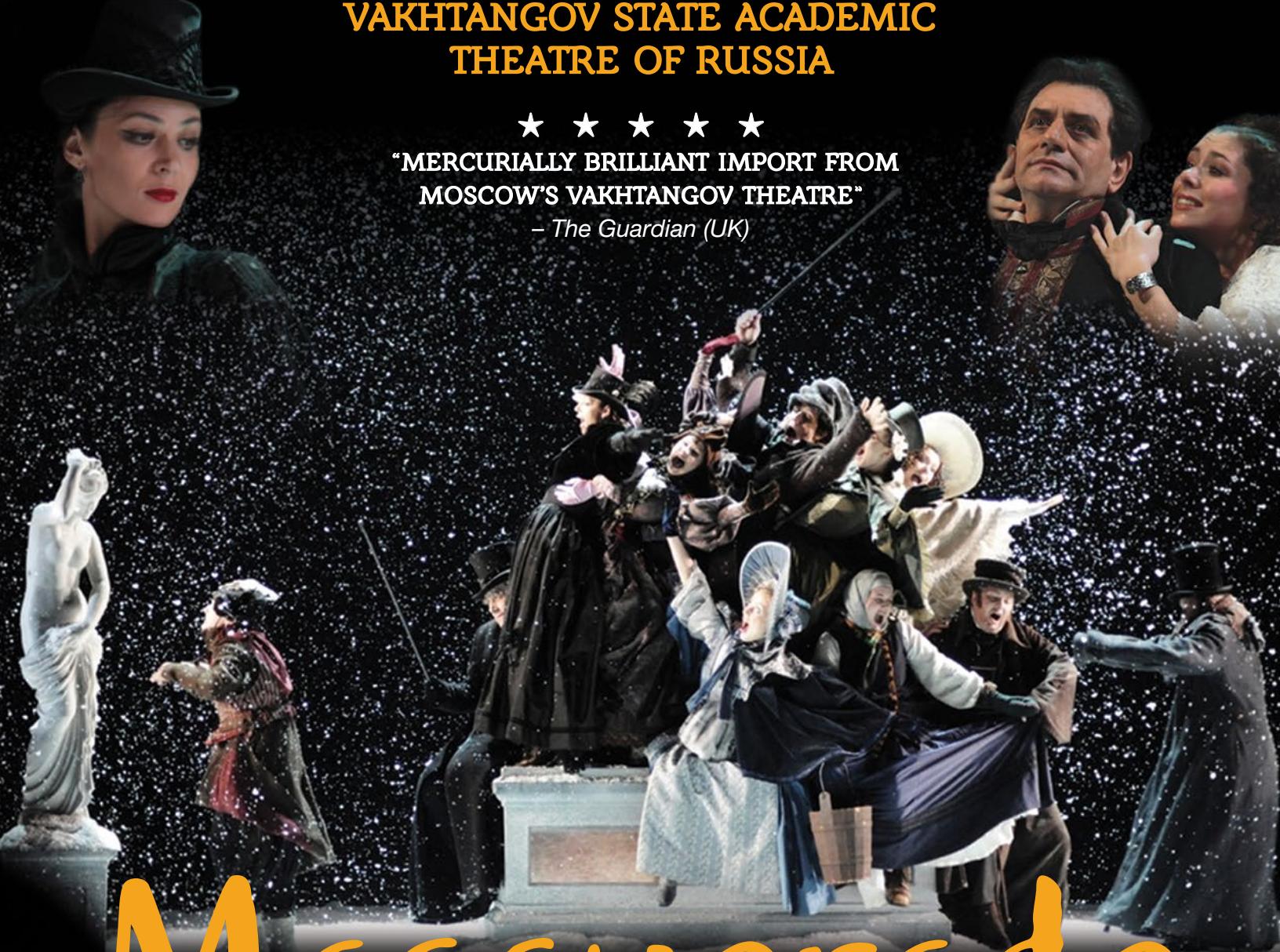


VAKHTANGOV STATE ACADEMIC THEATRE OF RUSSIA



"MERCURIALLY BRILLIANT IMPORT FROM
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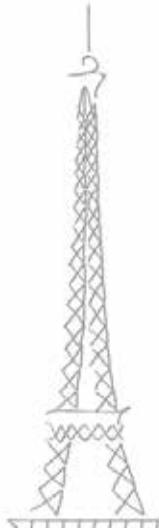


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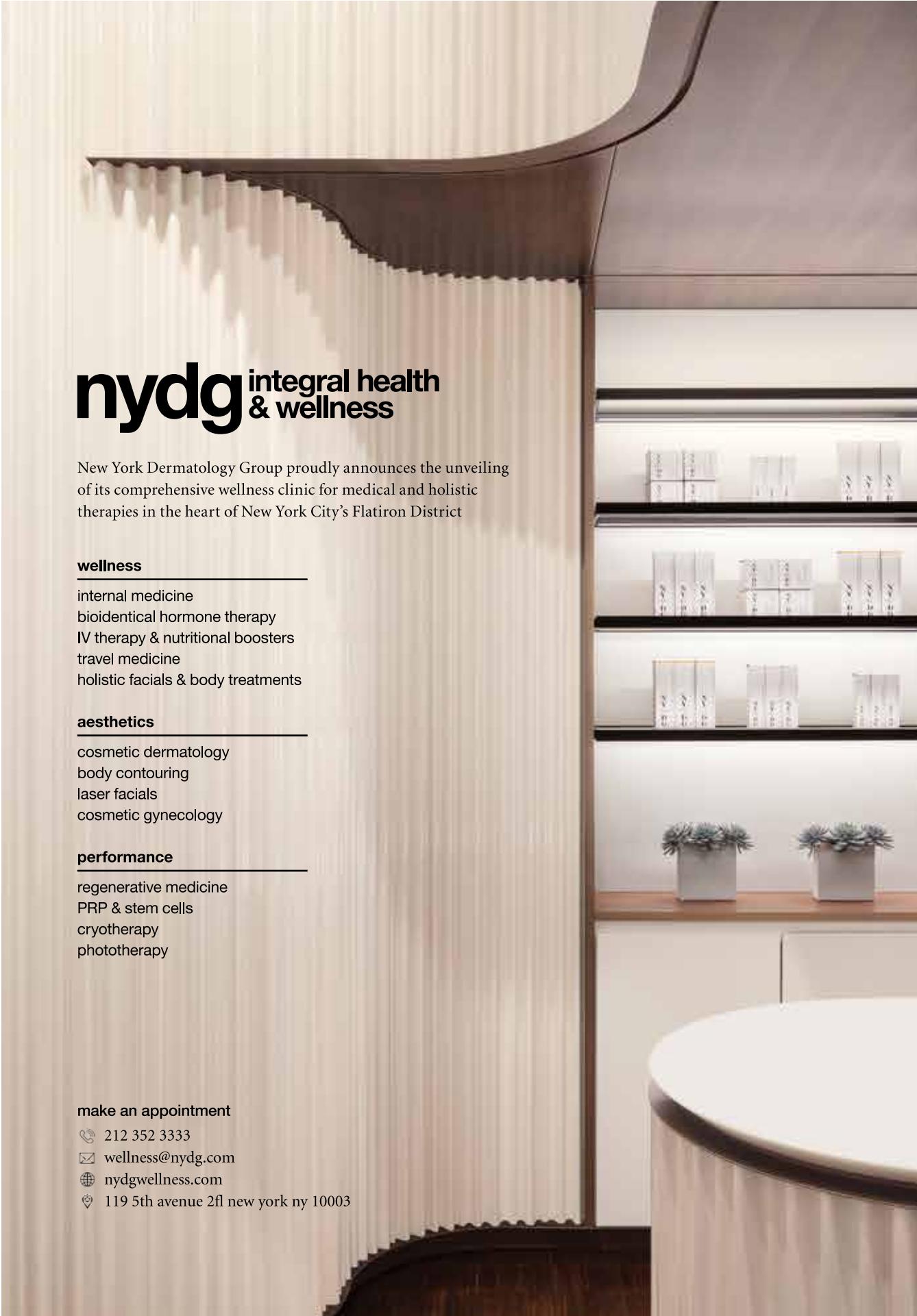


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For any questions please contact **Liana Vertelkina** at
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Tonight's Performers



NADINE SIERRA, *Soprano*



Photo credit: Merri Cyr

Praised for her vocal beauty, seamless technique, and abundant musicality, Nadine Sierra is being hailed as one of the most promising, young talents in opera today.

For the 2018-19 season, Sierra will return both to the Staatsoper Berlin singing Nannetta in *Falstaff* and to the Metropolitan Opera as Gilda in *Rigoletto*. She will also make her house and role debut as Manon at the Opéra national de Bordeaux and perform again as Gilda in a new production at the Staatsoper Berlin under the baton of Daniel Barenboim. In concert, she will perform and record Maria in Bernstein's *West Side Story* with Antonio Pappano at the Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia, appear in Dallas, Prague, Paris, Bordeaux, Baden-Baden and return to Venice for La Fenice's televised *Capodanno* celebration.

Ms. Sierra's 2017-18 season included appearances at the Opéra national de Paris, the Metropolitan Opera, La Fenice, Chorégies d'Orange, and Staatsoper Berlin. She was named the Richard Tucker Award Winner in 2017 and had the honor of receiving the 2018 Beverly Sills Artist Award from the Metropolitan Opera. Sierra also had the pleasure of releasing her debut album, 'There's a Place

for Us,' with the Deutsche Grammophon and Universal Music on August 24th, 2018.

Ms. Sierra fell in love with opera at a young age, after watching a VHS of *La bohème*, and began voice lessons at the age of six in her home state of Florida. Although she made her professional debut as a teenager with the Palm Beach Opera, she decided to continue studying, and received her bachelor's degree from Mannes College the New School for Music. Following graduation, she went on to participate in the Adler Fellowship Program at the San Francisco Opera, forming a lasting relationship with the company. Follow Nadine Sierra on Instagram: @nadine.sierra.

FRANCESCO DEMURO, *Tenor*



Photo credit: Andrzej Swietlik

Born in Sardinia, Francesco Demuro debuted in 2007 in Parma with *Luisa Miller*.

Most recently, he debuted as Foresto in *Attila* at Festival Verdi in Parma and he appeared at Matsu-moto Festival in *Gianni Schicchi*, Opéra National de Paris (*Simon Boccanegra*), Teatro di San Carlo in Naples in *La Traviata*, as well as singing *Les Pêcheurs de Perles* and *Falstaff* at Berlin Staatsoper. In the recent seasons he made his debut as *Faust* at Teatro Comunale di Modena and Teatro Municipale di Piacenza, and sang *I Puritani* in Savolonna in tournée with Teatro Real, and *Lucia di Lammermoor* at La Fenice.

Francesco Demuro is a frequent guest on the most important opera houses worldwide, having appeared with the Royal Opera House (*Gianni Schicchi*, *La Traviata*), the Metropolitan Opera (*La Bohème*, *La Traviata*), Opéra National de Paris (*La Traviata*, *Rigoletto*, *Der Rosenkavalier*, *Falstaff*),



Tonight's Performers



Teatro alla Scala (*Rigoletto*, *L'Elisir d'Amore*, *Falstaff*), San Francisco Opera (*Cosi Fan Tutte*, *Falstaff*, *Rigoletto*), Seattle Opera (*La Bohème*, *Rigoletto*), Vienna State Opera (*La Traviata*, *La Bohème*, *L'Elisir d'Amore*), Teatro Real in Madrid (*La Traviata*, *Rigoletto*), La Fenice and Gran Teatre del Liceu (*La Traviata*), Teatro di San Carlo and Teatro Comunale in Bologna (*La Bohème*), Théâtre des Champs-Élysées and Opéra de Monte-Carlo (*Maria Stuarda*).

He also performed at Teatro Regio di Torino, Frankfurt Opera, Bavarian State Opera, Teatro Filarmonico di Verona and Arena di Verona, Hamburg State Opera, Dresden Semperoper, Tokyo Suntory Hall, Palau de les Arts Reina Sofia in Valencia.

He appeared with Berlin Staatskapelle, Orchestra del Teatro alla Scala, NDR Leipzig, Hungarian National Philharmonic, Houston Symphony, in a repertoire including among others, Verdi *Requiem*, Mozart *Requiem*, *Petite Messe Solennelle*.

BRYAN WAGORN

Piano

Canadian pianist Bryan Wagorn currently serves as Assistant Conductor at the Metropolitan Opera. He has performed in recital with the world's leading singers and instrumentalists in North America, Europe, and Asia.

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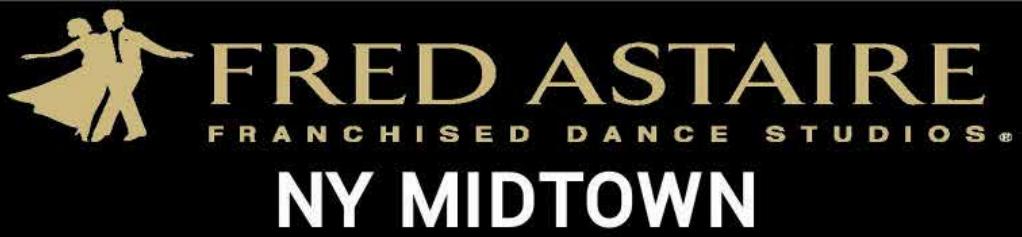
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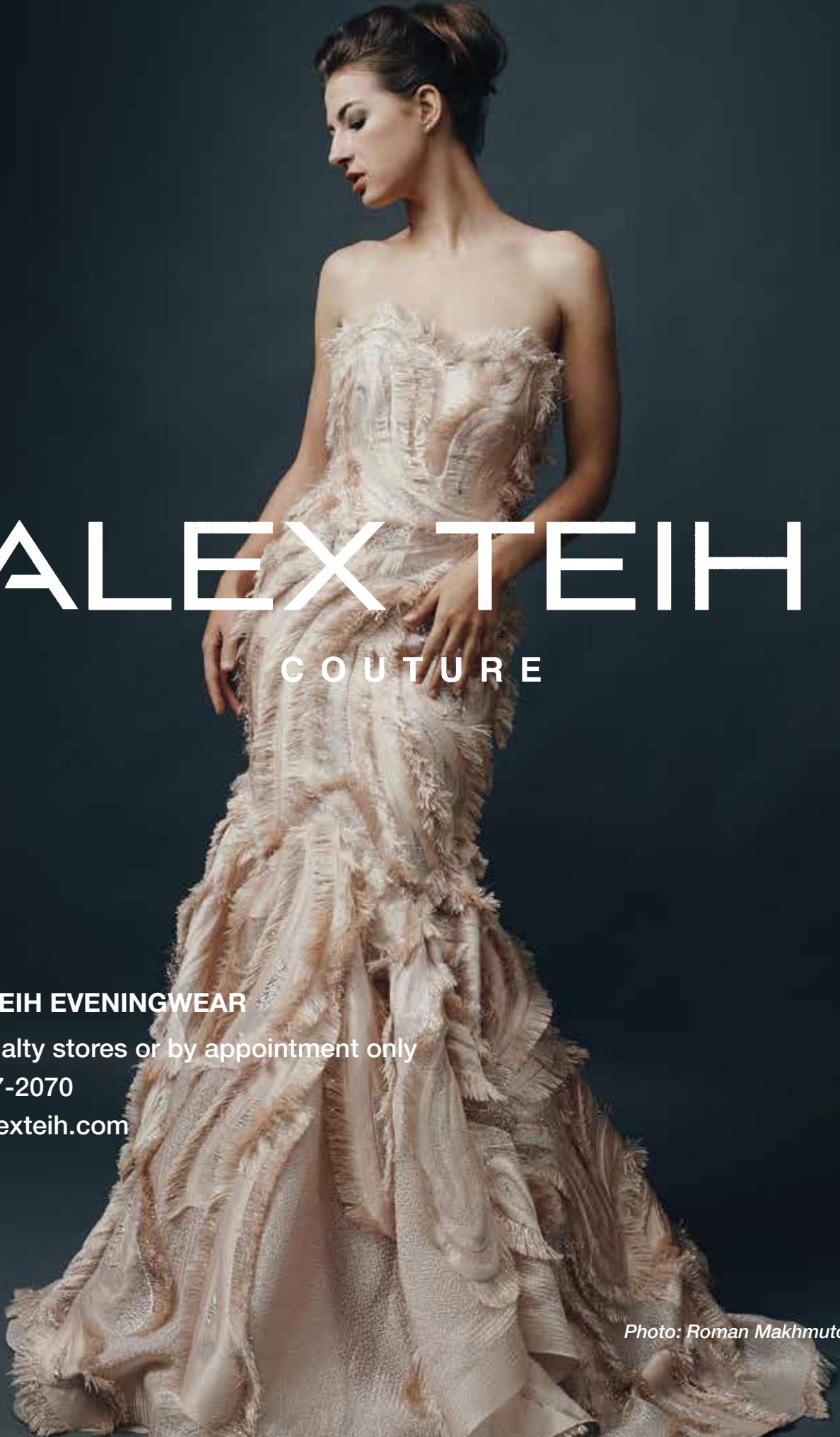
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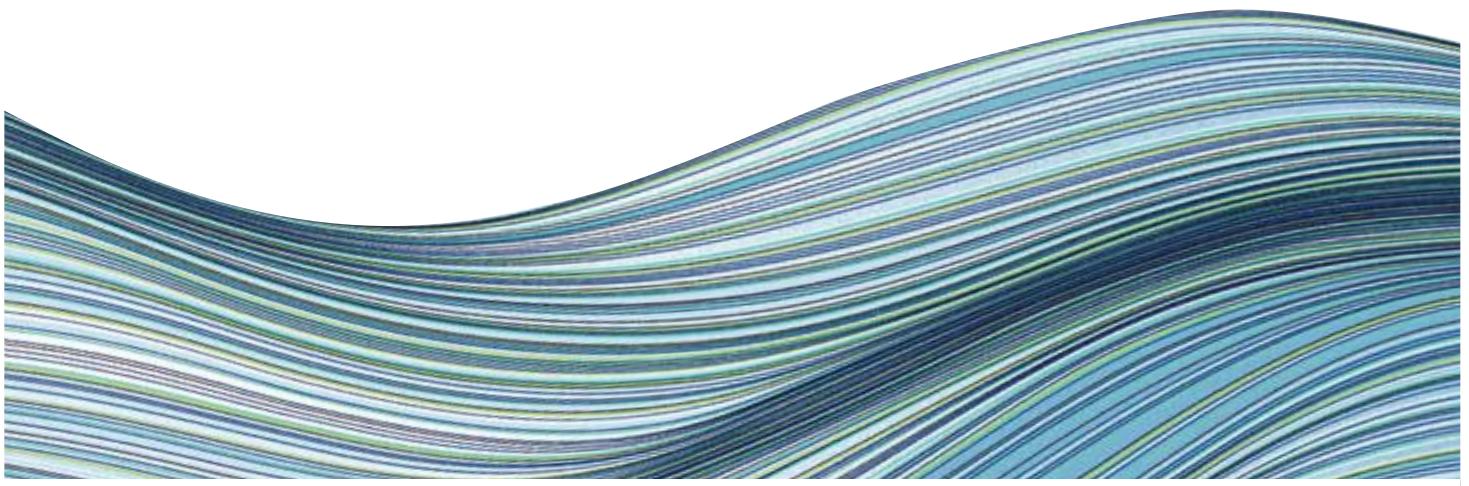
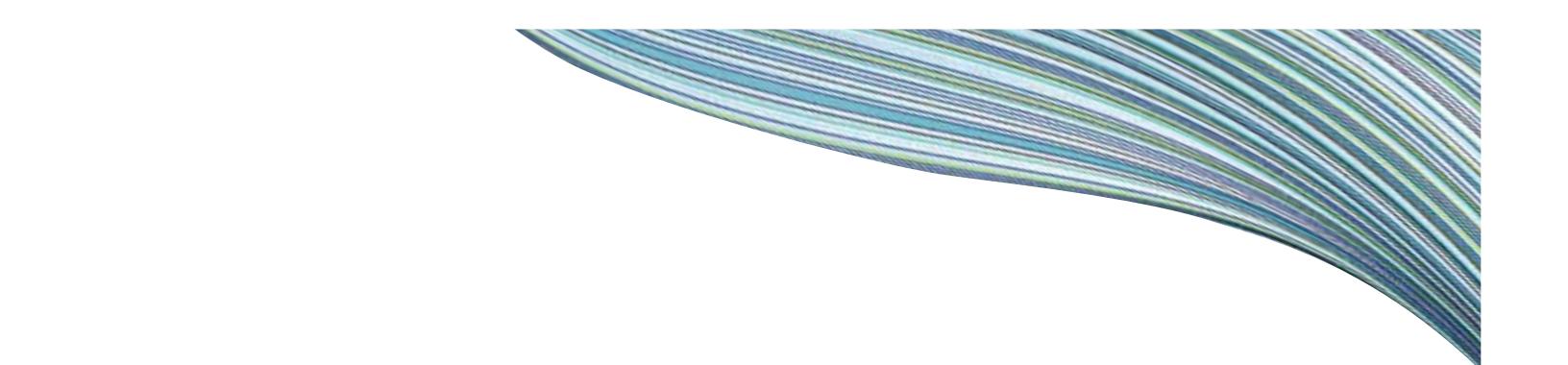
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Courtesy of Aeroflot, www.aeroflot.ru

2. CLIVE CHRISTIAN PERFUME "SIBERIAN PINE"

Native to the frozen tundra of Siberia and known as the life giving healing tree, aromatic Siberian Pine delights with a blend of classic cedarwood and patchouli. Vibrant top notes of neroli and bergamot create a classic citrus chypre, a perfume capturing the elegance of the Baroque era.

Value: \$550

Courtesy of Clive Christian

3. TWO TICKETS TO THE VAKHTANGOV TEATER PRODUCTION "MASQUERADE" AT NEW YORK CITY CENTER (4 PERFORMANCES ONLY!)

June 17, 2019, The New York City Center

Courtesy of Cherry Orchard Festival, cherryorchardfestival.org

4. BOAST POLO FOR HIM AND FOR HER

Value: \$190

Courtesy of Ekaterina and Sheldon Brody, www.boastusa.com

5. GIFT CERTIFICATE TEA FOR TWO IN THE PALM COURT AT THE PLAZA HOTEL

The Palm Court is Manhattan's iconic destination for afternoon tea. Visitors delight in the tradition of tea with our extensive, 25-variety collection of Palais des Thés tea, as well as sandwiches, snacks and fine pastries. The Palm Court offers visitors an elegant piece of old New York with unmatched sophistication and charm.

Value: \$500

Courtesy of the CPS Events at The Plaza

6. SILVER PLATED BUCKET WITH A BOTTLE OF CHAMPAIGNE

Courtesy of Beatrice Fekula

7. CLIVE CHRISTIAN PERFUME "CORIANDER"

Inspired by the Russian Baroque era this interpretation of a traditional cologne perfume flourishes with a beguiling scent. Renowned for its spicy yet almost citrusy accord, Russian Coriander is blended with herbaceous clary sage, freesia and seductive jasmine to rouse intrigue.

Value: \$550

Courtesy of Clive Christian

8. LADY'S HAT BY NATALYA BYTHEWOOD

Handcrafted art. Inspired by fashion classics and made under the golden rules of couture.

Estimated value: \$450

Courtesy of Natalya Bythewood, www.natalyabythewood.com

9. AMOREPACIFIC TIME RESPONSE SKIN RESERVE CRÈME.

This anti-aging skin-transforming crème takes delicate care of the skin and activated the youth energy derived from Greentea of AMOREPACIFIC garden. Time response delivers the power of transcending time with "ChronoT™", the anti-aging factor derived from AMOREPACIFIC's extraordinary greentea with 'Dual-Infusion' extraction technology, caring skin moisture and wrinkle forming factors affected by circadian rhythm. The extract of the first harvested greentea, grown from Dolsongi Tea Garden of AMOREPACIFIC, delivers the youth energy and powerful moisture to the skin. This balm type crème with 'Melting crème formulation' technology, naturally melts in skin temperature, gives skin soft and silky texture and gently covers skin protecting skin moisture and keep your skin comfortable. Available in Bloomingdales 59th Street, New York NY.

Value: \$450 (50 ml).

Courtesy of AmorePacific

10. GOURMANOFF DELIGHT GIFT BASKET

Courtesy of Gourmanoff. Food with personal touch! www.gourmanoff.com

11. DINNER FOR TWO AT RUSSIAN SAMOVAR RESTAURANT

Includes: 2 appetizers, 2 entrees, and 2 desserts. Does not include tax and gratuity. Requires a reservation in advance.

Value: \$150

Courtesy of Russian Samovar, 256 West 52nd Street, www.russiansamovar.com

12. BLEUSTORM VODKA GIFT SET

Courtesy of Michael Rangini, BLEUSTORM VODKA, www.bleustorm.com

13. BOAST PULLOVER HOODIE FOR HIM AND FOR HER

Value: \$270

Courtesy of Ekaterina and Sheldon Brody, www.boastusa.com

14. BOBBI BROWN COSMETICS MAKEUP SET

A selection of Bobbi Brown Cosmetics Makeup products, including everything you need for an ultra-Luxe night out makeup look - a selection of 10 Luxe Lipsticks, a versatile eye palette, highlighter, blush, mascara and a full kit of brushes.

Value: \$425

Courtesy of Bobbi Brown Cosmetics.

15. PALAIS DES THES' PARIS FOR HER & FOR HIM

The Paris for Him & for Her duo Gift Set inspired by the complementary elegance of the Parisian couple, and beautifully packaged. Find the two teas in this exclusive box, ideal to give or to keep, to share delicious moments. The gift box includes: a 3.5 oz canister of Paris for him, a flavored black tea that is intense and subtle, like a Parisian man. The notes of citrus, coriander and vanilla combine superbly in this elegant blend / a 3.5 oz canister of Paris for her, a flavored green tea that is delicate and refined, like a Parisian woman. The notes of rose, raspberry and lychee are perfectly matched in this delicious floral blend. Paris for Him & for Her 3.5 oz canisters. 1 Romantic Cherry Tree Washi Tin: a tea storage canister covered in traditional Japanese paper made from the paper mulberry plant. A beautiful cotton bag Palais des Thes Paris for Her & Him.

Value: \$165

Courtesy of: PALAIS DES THÉS USA, www.us.palaisdesthes.com

16. BELUGA NOBLE RUSSIAN VODKA GOLD LINE 750 ML PRESENTED IN A STYLISH LEATHER CASE

Vodka Beluga Gold Line is a chef-d'œuvre of vodka production with a unique and complicated recipe. The basis for this vodka is made from hyaline artesian water from Siberian springs and malt spirit. The specific feature of malt spirit manufacturing is the use of coaxed malt enzymes that significantly improve the taste of Beluga Gold Line. It is malt that gives this vodka a fuller "non-diluted" taste and flavor. Vodka Beluga Gold Line is produced in limited quantity and was created for very special occasions.

Value: \$100

Courtesy of Beluga Vodka

17. TIFFANY & CO CHAMPAGNE FLUTE SET

Champagne flute in crystal glass. Set of two 8.5 ounces each.

Value: \$50

Courtesy of Alexandra and Marat Muratov.

18. A CASE OF LA FLEUR RIBEYROLLES BORDEAUX

2016 La Fleur Ribeyrolles Bordeaux

A delightful Bordeaux that over delivers at this budget price. 60% Merlot 20% Cabernet, 20% Cabernet Franc. This is a classic styled Bordeaux, both earthy and well structured.

Value of the case: \$132.

Courtesy of K&D Wines & Spirits, 1343 Madison Ave, New York NY 10128. Tel 212-289-1818

www.kdwine.com

19. GUERLAIN LUXURY BEAUTY SET

Guerlain Orchidee Imperiale Royal anti-aging cream, Guerlain Abeille Royale Double R wrinkle minimizing serum, Guerlain Orchidee Imperial fresh and delicate essence-lotion.

Value: \$850

Courtesy of Irina Bekkerman



Raffle Prizes & Auction



20. CHOCOLATE INDULGENCE BASKET

Chocoholics, rejoice! This decorative wooden gift box is chock full of luxurious chocolates from the likes of Godiva and Ghirardelli, plus decadent coffee and nuts. A divine gift for your favorite chocoholic! Gourmet chocolate candy bars, coffee and nuts are assembled in a pretty wooden gift box.

Value: \$130

Courtesy of Maria Loginova

21. BELUGA NOBLE RUSSIAN VODKA GOLD LINE 750 ML PRESENTED IN A STYLISH LEATHER CASE

Value: \$100

Courtesy of Beluga Vodka

22. AMBER JEWELRY BY VALERIO 888

Courtesy of Valerio 888, www.valerio888.com, tel. 212-631-8090

23. GOURMET DELIGHT GIFT BASKET – FROM NETCOST MARKET WITH LOVE

Courtesy of NetCost Market. Traditions of Taste –Traditions of Family. www.NetCostMarket.com

24. PATRAM INSTITUTE GIFT BASKET

Includes the "Teach Me Thy Statutes" (Научи мя оправданием Твоим) 2019 GRAMMY NOMINATED CD for Best Choral Performance. "Teach Me Thy Statutes" was also named Music Web International's 2018 Record of the Year. Written by the famed Russian composer, Pavel Chesnokov, and superbly performed by the PaTRAM Institute Male Choir (42 vocalists with a massive bass section), these pieces represent some of the Orthodox world's greatest music. This historic work immerses the listener into the beautiful Russian monastic style of singing through its fullness and richness of sonority. The new HDCD quality & SACD 5.0 (Super Audio Recording) release was recorded and mastered by the *multi-Grammy* winner and nominee, SoundMirror in Saratov, Russia under the baton of highly-esteemed conductor Vladimir Gorbik and is distributed by *multi-Grammy* recording company, Reference Recordings. The PaTRAM gift basket also includes "The Story of PaTRAM" DVD and the "Praise the Lord, All Ye Nations" critically acclaimed CD plus a men's and women's special issue PaTRAM tee-shirt.

Courtesy of PaTRAM Institute.

25. BLEUSTORM VODKA GIFT SET

Courtesy of Michael Rangini, BLEUSTORM VODKA, www.bleustorm.com

26. GOURMET GIFT BASKET

Courtesy of Yakov and Irina Bekkerman

27. SIX MONTH SUPPLY OF NUTRAFOL FOR MEN

Win a 6 month supply of Nutrafol, a dermatologist recommended nutraceutical oral supplement for better hair health sold in over 1,500 dermatology practices. The prize includes a Consultation with a Hair Health Physician Expert. 100% drug-free. Happy Hair. Happy You.

Value: \$800

Courtesy of NUTRACEUTICAL WELLNESS INC, www.nutrafol.com

28. GEORGIAN GIFT BASKET

Courtesy of Mr. and Mrs. Sarandinaki Kadaria

29. BELUGA NOBLE RUSSIAN VODKA GOLD LINE 750 ML PRESENTED IN A STYLISH LEATHER CASE

Value: \$100

Courtesy of Beluga Vodka

30. RUSSIAN TROIKA BROOCH

Courtesy of Beatrice Fekula

31. BASKET WITH DIFFERENT KINDS OF SWEETS

This set includes chocolate creamy caramels, two dark chocolate bourbon caramels, almond tea cookies, dark chocolate ganache truffles and popcorn. Estimate value: \$50

Courtesy of Alexandra Muratov and Marat Muratov

32. SIX MONTH SUPPLY OF NUTRAFOL FOR WOMEN

Win a 6 month supply of Nutrafol, a dermatologist recommended nutraceutical oral supplement for better hair health sold in over 1,500 dermatology practices. The prize includes a Consultation with a Hair Health Physician Expert. 100% drug-free. Happy Hair. Happy You.

Value: \$800

Courtesy of NUTRACEUTICAL WELLNESS INC, www.nutrafol.com

SILENT AUCTION

A MODEL GLOW LASER FACIAL OR GLACIAL LASER FACIAL FOR THE DONOR AND A FRIEND

Value: \$1,900-\$2,400

Courtesy of New York Dermatology Group (NYDG) Integral Health & Wellness, 119 Fifth Avenue, 2nd Floor, NYC. Tel 212-3523333. www.nydgwellness.com

SILVER BABY SNAIL PENDANT WITH DIAMONDS ON CHAIN

Alex Soldier uses snails as a reminder to slow down and enjoy life. It became an instant classic and one of the brand's signature heirlooms. Bid on one of the most highly coveted and instantly recognizable pieces for any occasion. Pendant includes 18-inch blackened silver chain. Handmade in New York City. Metal: 925 sterling silver, deeply plated with white and black rhodium (noble metal and member of the platinum group). Silvermist diamonds: 1 stones, total carat weight: 0.055 ct. Please note that carat weights may slightly vary as each Alex Soldier creation is handmade.

Value: \$350

Courtesy of Alex Soldier, www.alexsoldier.com

LUXURIOUS EVENING REVERSIBLE BLAZER

Luxurious evening reversible blazer made from black jacquard silk on one side and gorgeous black velvet on the other. This dramatic garment has beautifully hand embroidered & beaded french lace trimmed wide rounded collar that can be worn gathered for a more closed look or open over shoulders. The mid thigh length blazer is designed to be worn as a statement piece on top of your evening gown or suit.

Value: \$750.

Courtesy of Design Gallery, 822 Kings Highway, Brooklyn, NY 11223. Tel: 917-541-3893, 917-536-1101. www.SovaCity.com

A FULL BODY CRYOTHERAPY AND LED BED TREATMENT

Value: \$340

Courtesy of NYDG Integral Health & Wellness, 119 Fifth Avenue, 2nd Floor, NYC. Tel 212-3523333. www.nydgwellness.com

LADY'S HAT BY NATALYA BYTHEWOOD

Handcrafted art. Inspired by fashion classics and made under the golden rules of couture.

Estimated value: \$450

Courtesy of Natalya Bythewood, www.natalyabythewood.com

A SUSANNE KAUFMANN HOLISTIC FACIAL OF THE DONOR'S CHOICE

Value: \$300-\$600

Courtesy of NYDG Integral Health & Wellness, 119 Fifth Avenue, 2nd Floor, NYC. Tel 212-3523333. www.nydgwellness.com

AMBER JEWELRY BY VALERIO 888

Courtesy of Valerio 888, www.valerio888.com, tel. 212-631-8090

List in progress



Special Thanks

Aeroflot-Russian Airlines
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Elke Geacintov
Gourmanoff and NetCost Market
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Palais des Thés
Roland Peralta and NUTRACEUTICAL WELLNESS
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Natasha Fekula	Olga Timoshenkova
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- WELCOME! - ДОБРО ПОЖАЛОВАТЬ! (DOBRO POZHALOVAT!)
- BON APPÉTIT! - ПРИЯТНОГО АППЕТИТА!
(PRIYATNOGO APPETITA!)
- YUMMY! - ВКУСНО! (VKUSNO!)
- VERY GOOD! - ОЧЕНЬ ХОРОШО! (OCHEN KHOROSHO!)
- CHEERS! - НА ЗДОРОВЬЕ! (NA ZDOROVIE!)
- I LOVE ...! - Я ЛЮБЛЮ ...! (YA LYUBLYU ...!)
- TEA - ЧАЙ (CHAI)
- CAVIAR - ИКРА (IKRA)
- BREAD - ХЛЕБ (KHLEB)
- CHEESE - СЫР (SYR)
- KIELBASA - КОЛБАСА (KOLBASA)
- MEAT - МЯСО (MYASO)
- RAVIOLI - ПЕЛЬМЕНИ (PELMENI)
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