

A virtuoso opening night ...

Pianist Gergely Boganyi debuts with PSO at the Eisemann

The Plano Symphony Orchestra (PSO) will present an unforgettable season opener with not one, but two of the most challenging piano concertos ever written: Rachmaninoff's Con-

certos No. 2 and No. 3. Hungarian pianist Gergely Boganyi will perform under the direction of Maestro Hector Guzman Sept. 24 at 8:15 p.m.

Boganyi said he has been playing the piano

since before he could read, but some musicians say he became a pianist before he was born. "There is some truth in that because my attitude was never to 'become' a pianist, but always to perform better and deeper," Boganyi said.



Gergely Boganyi will play Rachmaninoff.

Years of studying at the Liszt Academy in Hungary, at the Sibelius Academy in Finland, and at Indiana University in Bloomington, as well as winning the Franz Liszt International

Piano Competition and recording the complete piano works of Chopin, has merited Boganyi as an international musical hero.

And heroes must practice their powers. "Since my life has always been around music and piano, I feel myself practicing all the time – if not at the piano, then just making melodies in my head," he said. "After all, our brains are the most perfect CD

players. There the music may sound even better than on a CD!"

Even after years of practicing piano, Boganyi said he still gets nervous before a performance. "It is always a challenge to transfer beautiful

music to the audience, no matter if there are 38 persons or 2,500. Luckily, I have never been so excited that after walking on stage I couldn't find the piano."

His sense of humor is allegro – quick and lively. But Boganyi slows down the tempo when he reflects on his childhood. "I was born in a musical family. Both my parents are musicians, and both of my brothers and my sister are professionals in classical music," he said. "One must decide on the quality of the music he or she listens to. I decided to go for the highest possible. It is such a joy to be in daily contact with the greatest geniuses of music history – composers!"

Richardson's Eisemann Center will stage Boganyi's first performance with the PSO. For more information or to purchase tickets, call 972-473-7262 or visit www.planosymphony.org.

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