



GRAND OPENING CELEBRATION  
OF THE  
**VAN CLIBURN CONCERT  
HALL AT TCU**

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 2022**



SCHOOL OF MUSIC

In association with The Cliburn

present.

## Olga Kern, piano

TCU Symphony Orchestra  
Dr. Germán Gutiérrez, conductor

Wednesday, April 13, 2022, 7 p.m.  
Van Cliburn Concert Hall

Variations on a Theme by Salieri, WoO73

Ludwig van Beethoven  
(1770-1827)

Moment Musicaux, Op. 16, No. 4  
Etude Tableaux, Op. 33, No. 8  
Polichinelle, Op. 3, No. 4

Sergei Rachmaninoff  
(1873-1943)

Meditation, Op. 72, No. 5

Pyotr Tchaikovsky  
(1840-1893)

Etude, Op. 42, No. 4  
Etude, Op. 42, No. 5

Alexander Scriabin  
(1872-1915)

Three Preludes

George Gershwin  
(1898-1937)

Virtuoso Etude No. 7, based on Gershwin's "Fascinatin' Rhythm"

Earl Wild  
(1915-2010)

*intermission*

Rhapsody on a Theme by Paganini, Op. 43

Sergei Rachmaninoff  
(1873-1943)

The use of recording equipment or taking photographs is prohibited.  
Please silence all electronic devices including watches, pagers, and phones.



With a vivid onstage presence, dazzling technique, and keen musicianship, pianist Olga Kern is widely recognized as one of the great artists of her generation, captivating fans and critics alike. She was born into a family of musicians and began studying piano at the age of five, and at seventeen was awarded first prize at the Rachmaninoff International Piano Competition. In 2001, she jump-started her U.S. career, winning a historic Gold Medal at the Van Cliburn

International Piano Competition in Fort Worth, Texas—the first woman to do so in more than thirty years.

A Steinway Artist, Ms. Kern is a laureate of a number of international competitions. In 2016 she was Jury Chairman of both the Cliburn International Amateur Piano Competition and the first Olga Kern International Piano Competition, where she also holds the title of Artistic Director. In coming seasons, she will continue to serve on the juries of a number of other high-level competitions. Ms. Kern frequently gives masterclasses and since 2017 has served on the piano faculty of the Manhattan School of Music. In 2019, she was appointed the Connie & Marc Jacobson Director of Chamber Music at the Virginia Arts Festival.

Highlights of the 2019-20 season included performances with the Allentown Symphony, Grand Rapids Symphony, Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, Colorado Symphony, Toledo Symphony Orchestra, New Mexico Philharmonic, and the New West Symphony. She also appears as a soloist on a U.S. tour with the National Symphony Orchestra of Ukraine and will give recitals in Orford, Sunriver, Fort Worth, Carmel, and San Francisco.

Kern has performed with many prominent orchestras, including the St. Louis Symphony, Pacific Symphony, Baltimore Symphony, Detroit Symphony, and the National Symphony Orchestra (Washington, D.C.), as well as the Moscow Philharmonic, the São Paulo Symphony Orchestra, Iceland Symphony, Nordwestdeutsche Philharmonie, Tokyo's NHK Symphony Orchestra, and the National Youth Orchestra of China, which marked her Chinese debut. She was also a featured soloist on US tours with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, and during the 2017-18 season served as Artist in Residence at the San Antonio Symphony.

Ms. Kern's discography includes a Harmonia Mundi recording of the Tchaikovsky Piano Concerto No. 1 with the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra and Christopher Seaman; her Grammy-nominated disc of Rachmaninoff's *Corelli Variations* and other transcriptions; and Chopin's Piano Concerto No. 1 with the Warsaw Philharmonic and Antoni Wit. Other notable releases include Chopin's Piano Sonatas No. 2 and 3, and, more recently, SONY's release of the Rachmaninoff Sonata for Cello and Piano with Sol



Gabetta. Ms. Kern is also featured in award-winning documentaries about the 2001 Cliburn Competition: *Playing on the Edge*, *They Came to Play*, and *Olga's Journey*.

Ms. Kern's discography includes her Grammy Nominated recording of Rachmaninoff's Corelli Variations and other transcriptions (2004), Brahms Variations (2007) and Chopin Piano Sonatas No. 2 and 3 (2010). She was featured in the award-winning documentary about the 2001 Cliburn Competition, *Playing on the Edge*.

Professor Germán Augusto Gutiérrez has served as Director of Orchestras and Professor of Orchestral Studies at Fort Worth's Texas Christian University (TCU) as well as Director of TCU's Latin American Music Center and biennial Latin American Music Festival since 1996. Since 2000, Dr. Gutiérrez has also served as Music Director of the Fort Worth Youth Orchestra (FWYO).

Dr. Gutiérrez is a frequent guest conductor of professional orchestras in the Americas, Europe, Middle East, Asia, Africa and Oceania. He recently recorded a CD with the Hong Kong Chamber Orchestra with Daniel Binelli and Polly Ferman as soloists. Recent invitations include the Qingdao Cosmopolitan Music Festival in China, the Fort Worth Symphony, the Shanghai Conservatory Symphony, the Alcalá de Henares Symphony Orchestra, in Spain; the Lebanon National Philharmonic and the Orquesta Filarmónica of Bogotá, Colombia. In 2011, the TCU Symphony Orchestra was awarded the Carlos Gardel Musical Prize for its CD "Cantar Latinoamericano" with Opus Cuatro as soloists. This award led to the invitation for the orchestra to perform in May, 2013 in Buenos Aires and Rosario. For the twelfth consecutive year Dr. Gutiérrez served as guest conductor of the Dallas Symphony's Hispanic Festival. In 2006, he was invited to conduct the Czech National Symphony in historic Smetana Hall as part of the 110th anniversary of Carl Orff's birth, where he led the orchestra in a performance of Carmina Burana. Maestro Gutiérrez has also appeared with the Argentina, Colombia, Puerto Rico, Perú and Cuba National Symphonies. Other orchestras include the Hu Bei State Symphony of China, the Free State Symphony Orchestra of South Africa, Shanghai Symphony (China), Xalapa and San Luis Potosí in Mexico, the Auckland Philharmonic (New Zealand), Sinfónica del Teatro Municipal de Rio de Janeiro, and Porto Alegre Symphony Orchestra (Brazil), among others. In 2002, Maestro Gutiérrez was invited to the Trentino region of Italy to conduct Rossini's opera *The Barber of Seville* for the 30th anniversary of the Pergine Spettacolo Aperto.



Under his baton, the TCU Symphony and the FWYO have achieved exceptional levels of recognition in Fort Worth and abroad. Both groups have traveled on numerous international tours, obtaining enthusiastic reviews, including repeat invitations as the featured orchestra to engagements such as the Iberoamerican Music Festival in Puerto Rico, and the Texas Music Educators Association Convention in San Antonio. With the TCU Symphony, Maestro Gutiérrez has also conducted the

world premieres of more than fifty contemporary works. In 2017, Maestro Gutiérrez led the FWYO on a tour of Europe that included performances at Salzburg's Mozarteum, Eisenstadt's Esterházy Palace in Austria, and a concert in Prague.

Maestro Gutiérrez holds Músico Bachiller and Maestro en Música degrees from the Tolima Conservatory in Colombia. He also received a master's degree from Illinois State University and a doctoral degree from the University of Northern Colorado. In recognition to his achievements, Dr. Gutierrez was included in the Hall of Fame of Illinois State University, and was invited to give the Commencement speech in May 2018. For his involvement and dedication to TCU, Maestro Gutiérrez received the Dean's Teaching Award (1999), the Dean's Award for Research and Creative Activity (2002), and the 2003 Chancellor's Award for Distinguished Research and Creative Activity, the highest award that the university bestows.

### **Program Notes for Rachmaninoff: Rhapsody on a Theme by Paganini, Op. 43**

Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873-1943) was one of the best pianists of his time, and is still considered a leading composer in late Russian romanticism. Despite his father's recklessness with the family fortune, Rachmaninoff still studied at the St. Petersburg Conservatory, where his mother studied, and the Moscow Conservatory, where he met and worked with leading Russian musicians, such as Anton Rubenstein and Pyotr Tchaikovsky. During his time in Moscow, against the wishes of his piano teacher, Nikolai Zverev, he began his career as a composer.

In 1918, Rachmaninoff and his family settled in New York in an attempt to solve their financial problems. This period, from 1918 until the end of his life, was his last as a composer, and produced Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini.

Rachmaninoff wrote the piece in 1934, and conducted its premiere in Philadelphia that same year. Three years prior, in 1931, he composed Variations on a Theme of Corelli, another work inspired by a famous violinist. This piece served as a preface to his Rhapsody, which is a series of variations of Paganini's theme from his Caprice No. 24, and is part of a larger work titled 24 Caprices. Paganini's legendary reputation has certainly passed the test of time. His extraordinary mastery as a violinist led many people to believe that Paganini had sold his soul to the devil in exchange for such virtuosity.

Rachmaninoff's piece makes frequent musical reference to the supernatural rumors that surrounded Paganini. Each section is marked by triplets, syncopation, and chromaticism. These techniques used by Rachmaninoff are often associated with the devil. In contrast to major scales and rhythmic stability typically associated with heaven, Rachmaninoff uses A minor along with fast chromatic passages to allude to hell. He includes the four-note motive from the Dies Irae chant used by so many composers to symbolize death and hell to refer to Paganini's supposed deal with the devil. The work can be divided into three distinct sections. It begins with the theme from Paganini's Caprice No. 24 in A minor. The second section differs from the first in its exploration of multiple key areas, but the piece returns to A minor at the beginning of the last section.

*Program Notes by Allison Moore, MM in Musicology Student*

### Violin I

Samuel Rolim, concertmaster  
Manuel Ordóñez Sierra  
Ching-An Hsueh  
Allie Siegwald  
Crystal Hernandez  
Josué Esquivel Mondragón  
Rima Abram  
Henry Haas  
Alexis Lizama  
Amanda Ochranek

*Brazil*  
*Calí, Colombia*  
*Taiwan*  
*Kansas City, KS*  
*Newport Beach, CA*  
*Texcaltitlán, Mexico*  
*Coppell, TX*  
*Dallas, TX*  
*Katy, TX*  
*Southlake, TX*

### Flute

Shawn Manley  
Gladis Henriquez

*Grand Prairie, TX*  
*Tegucigalpa, Honduras*

### Piccolo

Nikkie Galindo

*Midland, TX*

### Oboe

Sam Ely  
Lauren Hanifan  
Logan Boyd

*Crowley, TX*  
*The Colony, TX*  
*Waxahachie, TX*

### English Horn

Emma Piyakhun

*Melissa, TX*

### Clarinet

Tania Betancourt  
Erin Reigh

*Ibagué, Colombia*  
*Mansfield, TX*

### Bassoon

Dorian Holley  
Matt Assis

*Hurst, TX*  
*Dallas, TX*

### Viola

Noah Bowles  
Preston Gilpatrick  
Jacob Burk  
Christian Hilario Ruelas  
Elissa Hengst  
Kailyn Bradley  
Hope Ward  
Tabby Pyle  
Holly Lemoine  
Julie Johnson

*Russia*  
*Tuscaloosa, AL*  
*Royse City, TX*  
*Fort Worth, TX*  
*Fort Worth, TX*  
*Roanoke, TX*  
*Ankara, Turkey*  
*Fort Worth, TX*  
*Irving, TX*  
*Fort Worth, TX*  
*Oklahoma City, OK*  
*Oklahoma City, OK*  
*Hurst, TX*  
*San Antonio, TX*  
*Boone, NC*  
*Dallas, TX*  
*Tallahassee, FL*  
*Arlington, TX*  
*Fort Worth, TX*  
*Belton, TX*

### Horn

Jesus Garcia Palacios  
James Brandt  
Aidan Lewis  
Emily Holland

*Lewisville, TX*  
*League City, TX*  
*Weatherford, TX*  
*Mansfield, TX*

### Trumpet

Jonathan Hunda  
Hayden Simms

*Dallas, TX*  
*Fort Collins, CO*

### Trombone

Austin Andrade  
Axel Bevensee

*El Paso, TX*  
*Frisco, TX*

### Bass Trombone

Trey Mulkey

*Mansfield, TX*

### Tuba

Tyler Moseley

*Carrollton, TX*

### Timpani

Jacob Cauley

*Cypress, TX*

### Percussion

Alex Rodzewich  
Hayden Gish  
Ethan Hight  
Katie Jobe  
Johnny Naw  
Ivan Mendoza

*Arlington, TX*  
*San Marcos, TX*  
*McAllen, TX*  
*Azle, TX*  
*Haltom City, TX*  
*Mission, TX*

### Harp

Isabelle Walsh

*Frisco, TX*

### Rehearsal Soloist

Aleksei Vyzhanov

*Russia*

### Academic Program Specialist

Sarah Walters

*Ames, IA*