



VOX 3

a vocal music collective

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VOX 3 PRESENTS FROM RUSSIA WITH LOVE

Free Concert Celebrates the Music and Culture of Russia

(Chicago, IL) – The holidays may be almost over and the landscape turning to tundra, but vocal collective **VOX 3** is ready to warm the hearts of listeners with their next performance of art song in a program titled, "From Russia with Love." This concert, which will be performed on January 13 and January 19, features stunning compositions by Russian composers, Rachmaninov, Mussorgsky, Medtner and Tchaikovsky. The beauty, power and expansiveness that mark the landscape and literature of Russia carry over into the musical realm, which **VOX 3** will explore in this musical tribute to the land and culture of Russia. **VOX 3** members featured in this concert include soprano **Dana Campbell** (*Classical Cabaret*), baritone **Brad Jungwirth** (*Abendmusik*), soprano **Alexia Kruger** (*North & South*), and baritone **Brian Von Rueden** (*East vs. West*). Additionally, **VOX 3** is proud to be featuring pianist **Irina Feoktistova**, who will be specially featured in the concert with her performance of select solo piano pieces by Russian composers. Admission to *From Russia With Love* is free. Performances will take place on Sunday, January 13th, at 3:00 pm at the Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton Street in Skokie, and on Saturday, January 19th, at 8:00 pm at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 1218 W Addison in Chicago.

Tchaikovsky may be best known for his ballet, *The Nutcracker*, but he left a wealth of other beautiful compositions. His works for voice are among the most underappreciated of his canon; VOX 3 hopes to remedy this through the performance of songs from his Opus 38 by baritone **Brian von Rueden**. "People certainly aren't strangers to Russian music," says baritone **Brad Jungwirth**. "From the ballets of Tchaikovsky to Mussorgsky's *Night on Bald Mountain* and the piano concerti of Rachmaninov, Russian music is often heard in American concert halls. But what many people haven't heard are songs written by these Russian masters – they have the same beauty, drama, and excitement of their orchestral works but at a more intimate level. The difficulties of the Russian language keep many singers from tackling these incredible works. However, when you combine the dedication of these singers with pianist **Irina Feoktistova's** incredible way of coaching Americans in her native tongue, the result is a fantastic performance of music that deserves to be heard."

Canadian soprano **Dana Campbell** was selected by Maestro Chosei Komatsu to perform with his Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony Orchestra upon her winning the Wilfrid Laurier University Concerto Competition. Since then she has performed with Fabio Mastrangelo and his Virtuosi di Toronto, appeared as a soloist with Jurgen Petrenko's Toronto Classical Singers and the Talisker Players, and toured central Italy as a featured soloist with Toronto's Palestrina Chamber Chorus. A winner of Montreal's Jeunes Ambassadeurs Lyriques competition, Campbell was the second artist to be granted the Fred Gaviller Memorial Fund award, and was subsequently presented in her debut recital at the Glenn Gould Studio in Toronto. She made her debut with Toronto Operetta Theatre, singing the title role in the Canadian première of Gonzalo Roig's zarzuela *Cecilia Valdes*. For Chicago's Millennium Chamber Players, she has performed three roles: Mimì in *La Bohème*, Alison in Holst's *The Wandering Scholar* and Female Chorus in Britten's *The Rape of Lucretia*. Other operatic roles include Donna Elvira, Countess Almaviva, Sandman/Dewfairy and Marguerite. Most recently Campbell appeared in concert with the AIMS Festival Orchestra in Graz, Austria, under the baton of Edoardo Müller. Baritone **Brad Jungwirth**, a native of Rochester, MN, earned his Master's degree in Vocal Performance at the Chicago College of the Performing Arts of Roosevelt University, and currently studies with renowned baritone

Richard Stilwell. Previous opera credits *The Mikado*, *The Student Prince*, *The Bear*, *L'infedeltà fedele*, *La Bohème*, *Le nozze di Figaro*, *The Impresario* and *Amelia Goes to the Ball*. He has been heard as soloist in Dvorak's *Te Deum*, Dubois' *The Seven Last Words of Christ*, Beethoven's Mass in C, and in numerous masses and cantatas of J.S. Bach. Jungwirth is also avid performer of contemporary music, and has performed Aaron Jay Kernis' *Brilliant Sky*, *Infinite Sky* and Peter Maxwell Davies' *8 Songs for a Mad King*. Soprano **Alexia Kruger** grew up nearby in the southwest suburb of Bolingbrook, and moved on to receive a B.M. in Vocal Performance from Valparaiso University and an M.M. in Vocal Performance from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She has performed such operatic roles as Giulietta in Offenbach's *Les Contes d'Hoffmann*, the title role in Puccini's *Suor Angelica*, Lola in Douglas Moore's *Gallantry*, and Marianne in Richard Strauss' *Der Rosenkavalier*. Musical theatre highlights include *Children of Eden* (Eve), *A Little Night Music* (Desiree Armfeldt), *Guys and Dolls* (Adelaide), *Little Shop of Horrors* (Audrey), and *South Pacific* (Nellie Forbush). A member of the Chicago Symphony Chorus, the Grant Park Chorus, the Lira Ensemble and the Morning Choir at Fourth Presbyterian, Kruger has also been a soloist with such groups as the Illinois Chamber Orchestra, the Polish American Symphony, Grace Community Orchestra, the Valparaiso University Symphony Orchestra, the Whirlwind Project, the Irish-American Center, and the UIUC Concert Choir. Baritone **Brian von Rueden**, originally from Wausau, Wisconsin, holds a Master of Music from Roosevelt University and a Bachelor of Music from Valparaiso University. His most recent credits include *Le nozze di Figaro*, *The Wandering Scholar*, *The Rape of Lucretia*, Tom Stoppard's English version of *Prokofiev's Love for Three Oranges* and *L'infedeltà fedele* in Anghiari, Italy. Other opera credits include *The Scarf*, *Face on the Barroom Floor*, *The Impresario* and *The Mikado*. Von Rueden has appeared as the bass soloist for several Bach cantatas and masses, most notably with Ars Musica Chicago. As a director, he has staged the rarely seen American operas *A Childhood Miracle* and *The Scarf*. Von Rueden has studied with Mark Crayton, Richard Stilwell, Ralph Klapis, Rändel Wolfe, and Barbara Lattimer.

Irina Feoktistova (pianist), graduated from St. Petersburg Conservatoire, Russia. A classically trained pianist, she has toured Russia, Europe, and the United States as a soloist, duo pianist, accompanist, and most recently, with the world's foremost performer of Baroque trumpet, Crispian Steele-Perkins. As a duo pianist, she won third prize at the First International Competition of Contemporary Music Interpretation in Weimar, Germany (1996) and was chosen to perform at Purcell Room in London for the Park Lane Group Young Artists Concert Series. As a piano soloist, she won the Kawai CD Recording Competition in 2004. Ms. Feoktistova relocated to the United States in 1998, and since then she has performed extensively in the Chicagoland area. She has been involved in numerous musical theater productions as an accompanist and music director. She is also active in various projects performing Russian and American contemporary music. She is affiliated with CUBE and MAVERICK Ensembles in Chicago and the Union of Composers in St. Petersburg, where she performed a program of American contemporary music at the international festival St. Petersburg Musical Spring in May of 2005. She has been the Principal Keyboardist with Millennium Chamber Players (Chicago based ensemble) since its founding in 2006. Her recordings include Classical and Contemporary piano solo music, Samuel Barber's *Hermit Songs* (with Russian singer Elena Antonenko), and Russian and American contemporary music on the CD entitled *Musical Bridge—Chicago—St. Petersburg*.

VOX 3 is a collective of artists who educate both performers and audience through varied presentations of vocal music. The group's members perform music, execute administrative functions in the organization and educate the public about vocal music through concerts and quarterly publications of original articles.

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