

UC **SANTA BARBARA**
Department of Music

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UC SANTA BARBARA CONTINUING LECTURER NATASHA KISLENKO TO PRESENT SOLO PIANO WORKS BY MOZART, CHOPIN, RACHMANINOFF, AND SCHNITTKE

Internationally-renowned pianist to present solo piano works along with Lutosławski's Variations on the GH theme by Paganini for two pianos with UC Santa Barbara Teaching Professor Sarah Gibson

Santa Barbara, CA (February 7, 2020)—Natasha Kislenco, Continuing Lecturer of Keyboard at UC Santa Barbara, will present a solo piano recital on Friday, February 21, 2020 at 7:30 pm in Karl Geiringer Hall on the UC Santa Barbara campus. The program will include solo piano works by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Frédéric Chopin, Sergei Rachmaninoff, and Alfred Schnittke, plus a duo-piano work by Witold Lutosławski, featuring UC Santa Barbara Teaching Professor Sarah Gibson.

Recognized by the *Santa Barbara Independent* for her “vividly expressive” interpretations and “virtuosity that left the audience exhilarated,” Kislenco offers unique concert programs and presentations to a worldwide community of music listeners. A prizewinner of several international piano competitions, she has extensively concertized in Russia, Germany, Italy, Spain, Slovakia, Bulgaria, Turkey, and across the Americas. A resident pianist of the Santa Barbara Symphony since 2010, she has been a featured soloist for the Shostakovich, Grieg, Clara Schumann, de Falla, and Mozart piano concerti, to great critical acclaim.

Kislenco's UC Santa Barbara program will open with Mozart's Six Variations in F Major on “Salve tu, Domine” by G. Paisiello, K. 398. The theme of the work is taken from Mozart's Italian contemporary Giovanni Paisiello's opera, *I filosofi immaginari* (The Imaginary Philosophers), one of Paisiello's most recognized *opere buffe*, written for the court of Catherine II of Russia. Kislenco will then present Chopin's *Souvenir de Paganini*, a delightful work reminiscent of the traditional folk song sung by Venetian gondoliers, the barcarolle, in homage to the legendary Italian violinist, Niccolò Paganini.

Kislenco will also present Rachmaninoff's Variations on a Theme by Corelli, Op. 42. Dedicated in 1931 to Austrian-born violinist and composer Fritz Kreisler, Rachmaninoff's work opens with a delicate theme in the upper range of the piano, followed by an intensity and technicality that is evident in many of the 20 variations and coda. The piece is based on a Baroque theme by Italian composer and violinist Arcangelo Corelli, who lived from 1653-1713 and was instrumental in the development of the modern concerto and sonata forms. Kislenco will close out the solo piano portion of the program with German-Soviet composer Alfred Schnittke's Variations on One Chord (1966), a work representative of Schnittke's foray into serialism, which was partially inspired by Italian composer Luigi Nono's visit to the USSR in the 1960s.

The program will conclude with Polish composer and orchestral conductor Witold Lutosławski's Variations on the GH theme by Paganini, for two pianos, performed by Kislenco and UC Santa Barbara Teaching Professor Dr. Sarah Gibson. The riveting work explores the infamous theme and over the top technicality characteristic of Paganini's compositions, through the postmodern lens of Lutosławski.

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“NATASHA KISLENKO” 2-2-2

PROGRAM

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)

Six Variations in F Major on "Salve tu, Domine" by G. Paisiello, K.398

Frédéric Chopin (1810-1849)

Souvenir de Paganini

Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873-1943)

Variations on a Theme by Corelli, Op. 42

Alfred Schnittke (1934-1998)

Variations on One Chord (1966)

Witold Lutosławski (1913-1994)

Variations on the GH theme by Paganini, for two pianos (with Dr. Sarah Gibson, UCSB Faculty)

ADMISSION

Tickets: \$10 general admission; \$5 non-UCSB students; free for UCSB students and children under 12. Tickets are available at music.ucsb.edu/news/purchase-tickets or by calling (805) 893-2064.

MORE INFORMATION

Artist bios can be found at music.ucsb.edu/news/event/1999.

ABOUT NATASHA KISLENKO

Pianist Natasha Kislenko, hailed for her “vividly expressive” interpretations and “virtuosity that left the audience exhilarated,” (*Santa Barbara Independent*) offers unique concert programs and presentations to the worldwide community of music listeners. A prizewinner of several international piano competitions, she has extensively concertized in Russia, Germany, Italy, Spain, Slovakia, Bulgaria, Turkey, and across the Americas.

Ms. Kislenko made her Carnegie Hall solo recital debut after taking the Grand Prize at the Missouri Southern International Piano Competition in 1996. Recent solo engagements include the Eskişehir Greater Municipality Symphony Orchestra, Turkey and the Varna Chamber Orchestra, Bulgaria. A resident pianist of the Santa Barbara Symphony since 2010, she has been a featured soloist for the Shostakovich, Grieg, Clara Schumann, de Falla, and Mozart piano concerti, to great critical acclaim. In 2013, Ms. Kislenko was invited as a special guest to present the new Steinway D piano at the Teatro Municipal Ignacio A. Pane in Asunción, Paraguay, performing with the Orquesta Sinfónica del Congreso Nacional.

Ms. Kislenko has shared the stage with many distinguished musicians including Alban Gerhardt, James Buswell, Richie Hawley, Joshua Roman, and the Takács Quartet, to name only a few. She, along with the violinist Chavdar Parashkevov, released two CDs for violin and piano, “Russian Sonatas” and “Beethoven, Brahms, Mahler.” *The Strad* magazine praised her “limpid and beautiful pianism.”

Born in Moscow, Natasha holds degrees in piano from the Moscow Tchaikovsky Conservatory and Southern Methodist University in Dallas, TX. She earned her Doctor of Musical Arts degree from Stony Brook University, NY. Her main teachers include Anatoly Vedernikov, Gilbert Kalish, and Joaquín Achúcarro.

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In addition to a successful performing career, Dr. Kislenco has been a dedicated educator and mentor to the younger generations of aspiring musicians. A collaborative faculty member at the Music Academy of the West, CA since 2004, Natasha joined the faculty at the University of California, Santa Barbara in 2007 after serving at California State University, Fresno for five years. She has recently appeared with performances and masterclasses at University of Maryland College Park, University of Colorado Boulder, University of Houston Moores School of Music (TX), Morgan State University (MD), Tulane University (LA), Fort Hays State University (KS), Ankara University (Turkey), Scuola Musicale di Sesto Fiorentino (Italy), and Würzburg Musikhochschule (Germany) in addition to numerous adjudications for MTNA and MTAC.

ABOUT THE UC SANTA BARBARA DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

From an institution that began life dedicated to training the next generation of music educators, to what is now a multi-faceted department with a fully established research and professional graduate program with degrees in composition, ethnomusicology, musicology, music theory, and performance, the UC Santa Barbara Department of Music has produced many hundreds of graduates who have distinguished themselves both nationally and internationally. Alumni have gone on to teach on faculties of major colleges and universities in the United States and abroad, or in outstanding secondary school positions. Many graduates of the program have published extensively and become widely renowned, prize-winning scholars, while others are award-winning and frequently performed composers writing for television and film. Alumni are also establishing fine reputations as conductors of orchestras, opera, and choruses. Graduates of the instrumental programs have gone on to solo and orchestral careers with leading orchestras, and graduates of the voice program can be heard in opera companies around the world.

With over 150 events presented annually, the UC Santa Barbara Department of Music offers something for every music lover. The department boasts 26 unique performing ensembles, each with a quarterly concert calendar. Chamber music, large ensembles, opera, contemporary groups, world music, and jazz ensembles make up the department's rich performance calendar, along with lectures, master classes, and presentations from the ethnomusicology, musicology, theory, and composition programs. For a complete listing of performances and lectures for the quarter, please visit the UC Santa Barbara Department of Music website at music.ucsb.edu.

For additional information, photos, or to request an interview with an artist, please contact Adriane Hill at adrianehill@ucsb.edu or (805) 893-3230. To sign up for the Department of Music's newsletter, please visit eepurl.com/dcrvRr. Follow the Department of Music on Facebook ([@UCSBDepartmentofMusic](https://www.facebook.com/UCSBDepartmentofMusic)), Twitter ([@UCSBMusicDept](https://twitter.com/UCSBMusicDept)), and Instagram ([@ucsbmusicdept](https://www.instagram.com/ucsbmusicdept)).

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