

NICHOLAS ROERICH MUSEUM

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Friday, March 17, 2017, at 7 p.m.

Josu De Solaun, *piano*

PROGRAM

Polonaise-Fantaisie, Op. 61 Frédéric Chopin (1810-1849)

Impromptu in F-Sharp Major, Op. 36

Nocturne in B Major, Op. 62 Nr. 1

Ballade in F Minor, Op. 52

Intermission

Three Intermezzi Op. 117 Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

Six Piano Pieces, Op. 118

Allegro de Concierto Enrique Granados (1867-1916)

As a First Prize winner of the *XIII George Enescu International Piano Competition* in Bucharest (founded in 1958 and won by legendary pianists such as Radu Lupu, Elisabeth Leonskaja, and Dmitri Alexeev), the *XV José Iturbi International Piano Competition* and the *First European Union Piano Competition*, held in Prague, Spanish pianist Josu De Solaun has been invited to perform in distinguished concert series throughout the world, and has made notable appearances in Bucharest (Romanian Athenaeum), Saint Petersburg (Mariinsky Theatre), Washington, DC (Kennedy Center), New York (Carnegie Hall, Metropolitan Opera), Princeton (Taplin Hall), London (Southbank Centre), Paris (Salle Cortot), Leipzig (Schumann Haus), Taipei (Novel Hall), Mexico City (Sala Silvestre Revueltas), Prague (Nostitz Palace), Rome (Accademia de España), Menton (Festival International de Musique), and all major cities of Spain. He is the only pianist from Spain to win the *Enescu* and *Iturbi* competitions in their respective histories, and was recently invited to a private reception with the King and Queen of Spain at the Royal Palace after winning the coveted Bucharest prize.

Beginning at a young age, he has performed in France, Georgia, Italy, Russia, Ukraine, Canada, Germany, Japan, China, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Poland, the Netherlands, Mexico, Chile, and Switzerland as a recitalist, chamber musician, and concerto soloist, playing under conductors such as Karl Sollak, Erik Nielsen, Bruno Aprea, Ramón Tébar, Justus Frantz, Francesco Angelico, Yaron Traub, Max Bragado, Paul

Daniel, Ryan Haskins, Theodore Kuchar, Constantine Orbelian, Jonathan Pasternack, Yuri Krasnapolsky, Ormsby Wilkins, Alexis Soriano, Francisco Valero, and Miguel Ángel Gómez Martínez, as well with orchestras such as the Mariinsky Theatre Orchestra of Saint Petersburg, Orchestra Filarmonica la Fenice of Venice, George Enescu Philharmonic of Bucharest, Timisoara Philharmonic, Ploiesti Philharmonic, Orquesta Sinfónica de Bilbao, Orquesta de Valencia, Moscow Chamber Orchestra, Sioux City Symphony Orchestra, Monterey Symphony Orchestra, Orquesta Sinfónica de Euskadi, Mexico City Philharmonic Orchestra, Janacek Philharmonic Orchestra, Real Filharmonia de Galicia, Spain's Radio and Television Orchestra (RTVE), American Ballet Theatre Orchestra of New York, Lviv Philharmonic Orchestra of Ukraine, and Bari Philharmonic Orchestra of Italy. His performances have been broadcast on Spanish national radio, Taiwanese National TV, Czech National TV, as well as on New York's WQXR, Princeton's WPRB, and Chicago's WFMT.

He has recorded the complete works for piano of George Enescu for the NAXOS Grand Piano label and *Les Noces* by Stravinsky. Next season he will play with the philharmonic orchestras of Cluj, Iasi, Ploiesti, Satu Mare, Targu Mures, Bucharest, and Timisoara.

Highlights of recent seasons include performances as soloist with the Mariinsky Theatre Orchestra of Saint Petersburg, at the Mariinsky Theatre, performing both Copland's Piano Concerto and De Falla's *Nights in the Gardens of Spain*, performances as soloist with New York's American Ballet Theatre Orchestra at the Metropolitan Opera playing Britten's *Diversions* for piano and orchestra, a tour of Spain with the Basque National Orchestra playing Beethoven's Emperor Concerto, performances of the rarely heard Martucci Second Piano Concerto in Spain, Rachmaninoff's Third Piano Concerto in Lviv, Ukraine, Stravinsky's *Les Noces* at the Virginia Arts Festival, the Hummel A-Minor piano concerto in Santiago de Compostela, Manuel de Falla's *Nights in the Gardens of Spain* in the Tiles Center of New York, Beethoven's Third Piano Concerto with the Sioux City Symphony Orchestra, a solo recital in Chicago's Dame Myra Hess Memorial Concerts, at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, in Mexico City's UNAM, and his conducting debut in Spain, conducting a Mozart program with the Joven Orquesta de Malaga.

Future engagements include a tour of China, his concerto debut at the Ravello Festival, with the Orchestra of the Teatro La Fenice of Venice, a broadcast on Italian National Television (RAI), Brahms Second Piano Concerto with the Washington Idaho Symphony, Brahms First Piano Concerto with the Paul Constantinescu Philharmonic in Romania, solo recitals in Romania, Spain and the USA, chamber music performances at the Virginia Arts Festival, Rachmaninov's First Piano Concerto with the Orquesta de Valencia in Spain, and a performance of the Tchaikovsky First Piano Concerto with the Orquesta Sinfónica de Bilbao. Also, in early 2016, the NAXOS label released his recording of Stravinsky's *Les Noces* under JoAnn Falletta and members of the Virginia Symphony and Chorus, and in late 2016, his 3-CD Box Set of the complete works for piano of George Enescu.

Josu De Solaun is a graduate of the Manhattan School of Music, where his two main teachers and main musical influences were pianists Nina Svetlanova and Horacio Gutierrez.

In Spain, where he studied until the age of 17, his main teachers were Ricardo Roca, Ana Guijarro, and specially, Maria Teresa Naranjo. Throughout his almost 16 years of study in the USA, he has also benefited from the valuable advice and mentorship of Albert and Miyoko Lotto, Joaquin Achucarro, Matti Raekallio, Edna Golandsky, and Jerome Lowenthal.

He now combines his performing career with a teaching position at S. Houston State University, and lives between New York City and Houston.