

FIKA

Concerts - Coffee - Cookies - Conversation

MUSIC SERIES

“Dancing on the Keys”

A delightful concert of four-hand piano duets by
composers from around the globe.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13



MOUNT OLIVET LUTHERAN CHURCH

SKA VI FIKA?

(SHOULD WE FIKA?)

In Sweden the tradition of fika (pronounced "fee-ka") is as common as breakfast; something almost everyone does at least once a day. It is the moment that you take a break, often with a cup of coffee, but alternatively with tea, and find a baked good to pair with it. At its core, fika means "to drink coffee" but it represents an entire culture and carries as much meaning for Swedish social engagements as it does for food customs. To truly fika requires a commitment to making time for a break in your day, to socialize and slow down.

We are excited to offer the second season of the Fika Music Series at Mount Olivet Lutheran Church. The mission of the Fika Music Series is to provide moments of "fika" through music, coffee, and baked goods. The concerts feature Mount Olivet School of Music & the Arts teachers as well as other Mount Olivet music staff members performing works from the classical and popular repertoire.

All concerts begin at 12:15pm in the Sanctuary and are 30-45 minutes in length. Each concert will be followed by coffee and social time afterwards in the Fellowship Hall. Please join us!

Jordan Buchholtz, Coordinator of Fika Music Series

MOUNT OLIVET SCHOOL OF MUSIC & THE ARTS *music and art made in community*

The Mount Olivet School of Music & the Arts develops and encourages artistic skill and appreciation in each student, regardless of age or ability. For additional information about private lessons and art classes please visit mtolivet.org/mosoma or contact the Coordinator of the Mount Olivet School of Music & the Arts, Elena Stabile at mosom@mtolivet.org or 612.767.2262.

BECOME A SUPPORTER OF THE FIKA MUSIC SERIES!

Thank you for sharing your time with us today. We hope today's concert has given you a welcome moment of fika! If you are interested in helping support the FIKA Music Series or you would like to be added to our Mount Olivet Music Events email list, please use the QR codes below. Thank you for your generosity and support to Mount Olivet's School of Music and the Arts where music and art are made in community! !

DONATE



EMAIL LIST



PROGRAM ORDER

<i>Norwegian Dance No. 1 Op. 35</i>	Edvard Grieg (1843-1888)
<i>Peer Gynt Suite No. 1 Op. 46</i> III. Anitra's Dance II. The Death of Åse IV. In the Hall of the Mountain King	Edvard Grieg (1843-1888)
Waltz from Masquerade Suite	Aram Khachaturian (1903-1978)
<i>Pavane pour une infante défunte</i>	Maurice Ravel (1875-1937)
<i>Libertango</i>	Astor Piazzolla (1921-1992)
Waltz from Six Morceaux, Op. 11	Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873-1943)
<i>Tico tico no fubá</i>	Zequinha de Abreu (1880-1935)
<i>Rhapsody in Blue</i>	George Gerswhin (1898-1937)
<i>Galop Marche for 8 hands</i>	Albert Lavignac (1846-1916)

Pianists:

Jordan Buchholtz
Paul Kovacovic
Osip Nikiforov
Leah Siltberg

Please join us in the Fellowship Hall for conversation with the performers, a cup of coffee, and a sweet treat of "Black and White" Cookies, Chocolate Truffles, White Chocolate Coconut Truffles, and Cream Cheese Brownies.

PROGRAM NOTES

Norwegian composer Edvard Grieg first wrote and published the **Norwegian Dances** as four-hand piano pieces in 1881. The four movements are derived from traditional Norwegian folk tunes contained in a collection published in 1853 by Ludvig Mathias Lindemans, entitled "Mountain Melodies Old and New." The first dance starts off vivaciously in an evocation of the famous Norwegian folk dance, the *halling*. An athletic affair, danced by young men at weddings and other celebrations, it puts great physical demands upon the dancers as they continuously twirl and execute various tricks.

Henrik Ibsen wrote his five-act allegorical drama **Peer Gynt** in 1867 while living in Italy. The drama tells the story of the downfall and subsequent redemption of a Norwegian peasant anti-hero. In 1874, Ibsen asked Grieg to write music for the play and he reluctantly abided. As he continued writing, his feelings about the story evolved and were transformed. The original score contains 26 movements. Grieg extracted 8 movements from the original and created two sets of suites, each containing four movements.

Aram Khachaturian was born in present-day Georgia to an Armenian family, though he did almost all of his work in the Soviet Union as he held the position of the Secretary of the Union of Soviet Composers until his death in 1978.

Masquerade was a play written by Mikhail Lermontov that depicts a hero, Arbenin, a wealthy middle-aged man endowed with a rebellious spirit and a strong will. Born into high society, he strives in vain to gain independence and freedom. He lives by the laws of his society, and, in trying to defend his honor while blinded by jealousy and pride, tragedy befalls his wife by his own hands. Khachaturian wrote a suite for orchestra in 1944 as incidental music for **Masquerade**. Considered one of his finest and most popular works, the *Waltz* is robust, lively, and energetic, with a bold almost militaristic tune.

French pianist and composer Maurice Ravel wrote **Pavane pour une infante défunte** (*Pavane for a Dead Princess*) for solo piano in 1899 while studying at the Conservatoire de Paris under Gabriel Fauré. Later in 1910, Ravel published his own orchestral version and described the piece as "an evocation of a *pavane* that a little princess might, in former times, have danced at the Spanish court." The *pavane* was a slow processional dance that enjoyed great popularity in the courts of Europe during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Even though Ravel doesn't pay tribute to any particular princess from history, in his music he expresses a nostalgic enthusiasm for Spanish customs and sensibilities.

Argentinian composer Astor Piazzolla became a revolutionary in the tango world when he incorporated jazz elements and classical music into his music. He recorded and published **Libertango** in 1974 in Milan, which symbolized his break from classical tango to tango nuevo. The title is a combination of the words “libertad” (Spanish for “liberty” and “tango.”) Throughout all of his compositions, Piazzolla blurred the lines between tango and other forms of music.

Sergei Rachmaninoff composed the **Six Morceaux** for four-hand piano in 1894 after making a reputation for himself as a pianist and composer in the Soviet Union after graduating from the Moscow Conservatory in 1892. The Waltz is reminiscent of Chopin’s style of blending different waltz melodies, as Rachmaninoff incorporates various waltz styles including the renowned Viennese waltz.

Brazilian composer Zequinha de Abreu wrote **Tico tico no fubá**, which means “rufous-collared sparrow in the cornmeal.” This song is in the style of a Brazilian choro, a cry or lament, which often has a fast and happy rhythm. Characterized by virtuosity, improvisation and subtle modulations, this style is full of syncopation and counterpoint and is considered a Brazilian sub-genre of urban popular music. Outside Brazil, the song reached its peak popularity in the 1940s with successful recordings by artists such as Ethel Smith and The Andrews Sisters.

American pianist and composer George Gershwin wrote **Rhapsody in Blue** in 1924 for solo piano and jazz band. In 1942, the now popular symphonic scoring was created by jazz bandleader Paul Whiteman’s arranger Ferde Grofé. The Rhapsody is one of Gershwin’s most recognizable creations that inaugurated a new era in America’s musical history, the Jazz Age. Differing from a concerto, a rhapsody features one extended movement instead of separate movements and often incorporates passages of an improvisational nature. When playing this piece Gershwin’s phenomenal talent as a pianist wowed the audience as much as the novelty of jazz stylings in a “classical” piece of music from the pulsing syncopated rhythms, showy music, and warm and expansive melodies.

French composer and music scholar, Albert Lavignac wrote a piece for eight hands on one piano, **Galop-Marche**. It’s off to the races with this fast gallop full of humor and rollicking fun.

MUSICIAN INFORMATION

Dr. Jordan Buchholtz is the principal organist and pianist at Mount Olivet. As an active performer, she regularly works and performs with both vocalists and instrumentalists as well as local chamber ensembles and opera companies in and around the Twin Cities. This fall, she will be working with Lyric Opera of the North on their show *The Impresario & Circe on Superior*, St. Croix Valley Opera for their fundraiser “By Special Request” and she will also be featured in concert on Mu Phi Epsilon’s Founder’s Day Program and Overdressed Duo’s fundraiser. As Fika Music Series Coordinator and a performer, she is looking forward to a second season collaborating and featuring the wonderful and talented Mount Olivet music staff and School of Music & the Arts teachers.

Dr. Paul Kovacovic enjoys a career that spans both classical and popular styles. He has been the guest soloist with several orchestras as well as the accompanist for artists such as singer-songwriter Ann Reed and Las Vegas entertainer and television host Tony Sandler. Paul has performed concerts across the United States and Czech Republic, and he has won first prizes in the Thursday Musical, Schubert Club, and Indiana University Piano Concerto Competitions. Paul was an accompanist and coach for the Florida Grand Opera in Miami and has also worked with several theater companies in his home state of Minnesota, including the Minnesota Opera, Ordway Center for the Performing Arts, and Chanhassen Dinner Theatre. Paul studied piano at Indiana University with Edward Auer and at the University of Minnesota with Alexander Braginsky. He has also studied composition at the European American Musical Alliance in Paris with students of legendary pedagogue Nadia Boulanger and at film scoring workshops in New York, Los Angeles, and Miami.

Dr. Osip Nikiforov is a Siberian pianist who studied under the tutelage of world renowned pianists--Alexander Braginsky, Yefim Bronfman, and Jon Kimura Parker. Osip is a Third prize-winner of 2016 San Antonio International Piano Competition. He is regularly invited to perform at concert series and festivals, including the Minnesota Orchestra Summer Festival, Schubert Club Courtroom Concert Series, the Myra Hess Memorial Concert Series, and the Mozart Festival Texas. Osip has also frequently collaborated with international orchestras, including the St. Petersburg Capella Symphony Orchestra, the Minnesota Orchestra, and Khakass Philharmonic. He has also appeared on Minnesota Public Radio, WFMT Radio, GetClassical, Star Tribune, and Houston Press. In 2021 Osip's first piano album "Russian Elegie" was released on all digital platforms.

Pianist **Dr. Leah Siltberg** is an active and sought-after performer in several contexts. She has performed in the Minnesota Orchestra and the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra as well as for Minnesota Public Radio, the American Composer's Forum, the James Sewell Ballet, and the Schubert Club. Siltberg most often concertizes as a collaborative pianist, and has performed both solo and collaborative recitals in the United States, Canada, Central and South America, Spain, and New Zealand. Siltberg graduated from Toronto's Glenn Gould School of the Royal Conservatory of Music with a Performance Diploma, Bachelor of Music, and Artist Diploma under the tutelage of Boris Lysenko and Peter Longworth, and from the University of Minnesota with a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in collaborative piano under Timothy Lovelace and Noriko Kawai. While not playing the piano, Siltberg homeschools her four children and soaks up all the outdoor time she can.

MUSIC & ART AT MOUNT OLIVET

FIKA MUSIC SERIES 2024-2025 SEASON

Sunday, November 17, 12:15pm, Mpls Campus

Latin Jazz Soirée

A musical fiesta featuring a Latin Jazz band.

Sunday, February 2, 12:15pm, Mpls Campus

String Danish Folk Music

The Fíora Ensemble playing Danish string quartets.

Sunday, March 9, 12:15pm, Mpls Campus

Spring Vocal Serenade

English Art Songs featuring songs by British and American composers.

Sunday, May 4, 12:15pm, Mpls Campus

Carnival of the Animals

A family concert portraying various animals with narrator and an instrumental chamber ensemble.

ART CLASSES

Monday, October 14, 6pm, Mpls Campus

Needle and Wet Felt Pumpkin Painting

Tuesday, November 12, 6pm, Mpls Campus

Watercolor Painting

Tuesday, December 3, 6pm, Mpls Campus

Acrylic Pour Ornament

MUSIC IN COMMUNITY

Sunday, December 8, 3:15pm Rehearsal, 4pm Concert

*Community Sing-Along of Handel's **Messiah***

Join in the singing of choruses and listen to the beautiful solos by Mount Olivet soloists.

Sunday, December 15, 3 & 5pm

*Mount Olivet Annual Christmas Concert - **Gloria!***

Featuring over 500 singers, string quartet, organ solo, percussionists, and handbells.