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December 13, 2010

Dear students, alumni and friends,

Now that the opening concert of the new hall at Manhattan School of Music has taken place on October 3, 2010, I want to share with you the excitement of the occasion.

I am attaching the first announcement that appeared in the MSM Spring 2010 *Intermezzo* newsletter, a related article from the *Wall Street Journal*, my invitation letter, the announcement poster, a *New York Times* advertisement, the program of the concert, the article in the *New York Concert Review*, and the final sum-up in the MSM Fall 2010 *Intermezzo* newsletter.

The concert was recorded in DVD format. More than 90 photos of the event are also available on a CD. If you wish to have either one of these, all you have to do is send me a simple email with your postal address specifying whether you want the DVD or the CD or both. My assistant will be glad to post mail them to you.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all of those who attended the concert and shared it with me personally; the many friends, colleagues and students who sent me warm greetings and best wishes; the performing participants who went out of their way to travel from so many distant countries and honor me with their playing; the many other students I wished could have been included, whose musical and pianistic standing made them absolutely eligible; the countless students who have helped me realize myself as a teacher for over three decades; the hard working and efficient staff who took care of every detail with total dedication; and the members of the MSM faculty, Board of Trustees and administration, from the President down, who supported me in this project all along.

I hope you enjoy reviewing the attached materials.

With best wishes for the New Year!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Mikowsky', with a horizontal line underneath it.

Solomon Mikowsky

The Newsletter of
Manhattan School of Music
Spring 2010
Vol. 4, No. 2

interMezzo

The Solomon Gadles Mikowsky Recital Hall Receives Finishing Touches



Solomon Mikowsky, a member of the Manhattan School of Music piano faculty since 1974, has financed the construction of a new performance space as a gift to the School. Recently completed, the Solomon Gadles Mikowsky Recital Hall is a flexible performance space with a raised wooden stage large enough to accommodate two concert grand pianos. It is housed in the school's main building, in the space formerly held by the library.

Dr. Mikowsky, who was awarded a Presidential Medal by the School in 2008, has a long history in the building and feels a deep affinity with the place. After spending five years in it as a Juilliard student, he went on to teach as a member of the Juilliard Precollege faculty for seven more years until invited by the Manhattan School of Music, all of that at the same Claremont Avenue address.

The 740-square-foot hall has an adjoining vestibule, which will be used both as a green room and storage for the two Steinway concert grand pianos when they are not in use. The recital hall includes state-of-the-art video and recording equipment and sound/vibration isolation doors and walls, designed to give clarity and intimacy to performances and to provide noise-vibration control between the hall and the adjoining studios. The windows look out over Riverside Park and Grant's Tomb.

Dr. Mikowsky, born in Cuba of Russian-Polish parentage, was granted scholarships by the Cuban government and the Juilliard School to study in New York with Sascha Gorodnitzki, earning both his Bachelor's and Master's degrees. While studying at Juilliard he made the decision to make his career under his mother's maiden name, Mikowsky. It is as a tribute to his

“It was at Manhattan School of Music where I devoted myself completely to teaching. I love this school and I am confident in its future. My trust in President Sirota has led me to do something beyond my means.”

—Dr. Solomon Mikowsky

father that the name of the hall now includes his full name, Solomon Gadles Mikowsky.

Dr. Mikowsky says he is happy and excited with the results: “The hall is beautiful and it will be very useful for the school. Two-piano concerts will be possible and it will allow piano students to perform *concerti* for piano

and orchestra, accompanied on the second piano. The piano faculty will have the opportunity to hear our best students play on a concert grand when they are preparing for competitions and important performances. Playing on a full sized piano rather than on the studio pianos will make it possible for teachers to make adjustments to sound and interpretation when necessary.”

Teacher's Lesson in Giving

By SHELLY BANJO

Renowned piano professor Solomon Mikowsky once bought an apartment for his students. Now, he's sold his apartment for them.

Taking all the proceeds from the \$325,000 sale of the one-bedroom in Morningside Heights near Columbia University, Mr. Mikowsky made a \$500,000 donation to the nearby Manhattan School of Music. With the money, the school was able to build a new performance space in the old library. He also donated three Steinway grand pianos and state-of-the-art recording equipment.

The Cuban-born pianist has been teaching at the Manhattan School of Music since he came to America after the Cuban government awarded him a scholarship to attend the Julliard School and study under Russian concert pianist and teacher Sascha Gorodnitzki.

When a neurological impediment prevented him from contemplating a performing career, he began teaching at the Manhattan School of Music. As he stated, "I could no longer express music through my own hands. Manhattan School of Music allowed me to do that through my students."

In the 1980s, he bought the apartment for \$33,000 to house his students. At the time, Manhattan School of Music didn't have a dormitory, which drove

away talented musicians who couldn't afford New York apartment prices. So he would let his students rent the apartment from him at a lower cost or without charge.

Now, students face a new challenge. Over the past 10 years, the size of the campus and number of students has more than doubled. Because of the school's growth, there aren't enough spaces for students to perform. Many students wait months for access to recording facilities.

The new recital hall, built in the renovated building where Mr. Mikowsky has been teaching for decades, adds another space for students to use. New recording equipment will allow students to make CDs or DVDs of their performances to enter music competitions. The concert grand in the hall will allow students to practice on the type of piano used at major competitions and in performance, rather than on the slightly smaller pianos on which students take their lessons.

Mr. Mikowsky is gathering a dozen of his best students from around the world, including China, Egypt, Israel, Korea, Philippines, Russia and Spain, to perform at an inaugural concert when the space opens in October.

"Every student playing also came on full scholarship to Manhattan School of Music," he said. "This will be their way of saying thank you to the school."



Solomon Mikowsky

-
- Hall opening concert invitation

Dear students, alumni, colleagues and friends,

As some of you might know, I have contributed the funds for the conversion of the old library on the third floor of the original building at Manhattan School of Music into a performance space. The gift includes the structural renovation, a Steinway concert grand, a second Steinway Model “B” (and another one for my new studio next door), as well as state-of-the-art recording facilities.

This project was one of a few that I contemplated years ago to be realized through my will when I would no longer be here. The other projects include the renovation of a 400-seat performance hall in a beautiful landmark building in Havana, Cuba, the country of my birth, which also includes a concert grand Steinway, the renovation of a small performance space at the Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University, where I am also a member of the faculty, and the purchase of another Steinway Model “B” for this hall.

So, why has it been done sooner than expected? My dear brother-in-law, unfortunately no longer with us, when hearing about these projects, encouraged me to try to realize them while my hand was “still warm.” He was right! Nothing in my life has given me more pleasure than my present involvement with the enhancement of the facilities at the cultural and educational institutions that are dear to me.

The purpose of this email is to alert you to the forthcoming opening concert of the new hall at Manhattan School of Music, which will take place on Sunday, October 3rd, at 4:00 PM. Since my hall only allows a maximum of 50 persons (by Fire Department regulations), I felt quite restrained in my capability to invite everyone I wished to! Fortunately, it has been decided that the program will be simultaneously broadcast into the larger Miller Recital Hall, which has first-rate facilities for that purpose. For those of you who live in New York City and would like to attend, the added space offered by the Miller Recital Hall makes it possible. I would be honored by your presence!

The program will bring together twelve of my former students, coming from various countries. Each of them will perform one piece around five minutes long. They are, in alphabetical order, Jovianney Emmanuel Cruz, Gustavo Diaz-

Jerez, Simone Dinnerstein, Wael Farouk, Kiril Gerstein, Kookhee Hong, Yunghoo Kim, Alexander Moutouzkine, Yuan Sheng, Inesa Sinkveych, Ian Yungwook Yoo and Ren Zhang. There will be some remarks by Dr. James Gandre, former Dean of Admissions at MSM and current Provost at Roosevelt University; Dianne Flagello, former Director of the MSM Preparatory Division; and MSM President Robert Sirota. I look forward to the opportunity to express my appreciation to the many persons involved in the realization of this project.

I must devote a few words to explaining how the performers were selected. Though I was originally asked to submit only four or five names, I pleaded and submitted a list of more than 30 possible performers. I feel so strongly that there are so many among my former students (current students could not even be considered) who would honor me with their performances, that I had to expand the list way beyond what was originally requested. President Sirota and the senior staff then made the final decision based on considerations such as international success; major prizes; press reviews; current professional standing in their countries; and scholarships, competitions, and performances during their student years at MSM.

I hope that many of you who can will come and join me on this special day of my life. Those who will be listening to the broadcast from Miller Recital Hall, I invite to visit my own hall and my new studio next door, which is full of teaching memorabilia.

Thank you very much for your attention.

Solomon Mikowsky

OCT 3 / SUN / 4:00 PM

Solomon Gadles

Mikowsky Recital Hall

**INAUGURAL CONCERT WILL BE SIMULCAST AT 4PM IN
THE WILLIAM R. AND IRENE D. MILLER RECITAL HALL
AND ONLINE AT WWW.DL.MSMNYC.EDU/LIVE**

With performances by **Jovianney Emmanuel Cruz,**
Gustavo Diaz-Jerez, Simone Dinnerstein, Wael Farouk,
Kirill Gerstein, Kookhee Hong, Youngho Kim,
Alexander Moutouzkine, Yuan Sheng, Inesa Sinkevych,
Ian Yungwook Yoo, and Ren Zhang.

SCARLATTI Sonata in A Minor, L. 241, K.54
and Sonata in A Major, L. 395, K. 533

LISZT *La leggerezza*

CHOPIN Etude in C-sharp Minor,
Op. 10, No. 4

ALBENIZ *Asturias and El Puerto*
(from the Suite Iberia)

LECUONA *Cordoba*

ALBENIZ-GODOWSKY *Tango*

RAVEL *Pavane pour
une infante defunte*

SCRIABIN Etude in C-sharp Minor,
Op. 8 No. 12

RACHMANINOFF Prelude, Op. 32,
No. 5 in G Major

BUSONI Sonatina super
"Carmen", Kind. 284

BACH Aria from the Goldberg Variations

Simulcast in Miller Recital Hall

**SEATING IS AVAILABLE ON A
FIRST-COME FIRST-SERVED BASIS.**



Manhattan School of Music
is pleased to announce the opening of the

SOLOMON GADLES MIKOWSKY
RECITAL HALL

Today, Sunday, October 3, 2010 at 4 PM

Current and former students will be performing
in homage to their teacher

Jovianney Emmanuel Cruz, Gustavo Diaz-Jerez,
Simone Dinnerstein, Wael Farouk,
Kirill Gerstein, Kookhee Hong, Youngho Kim,
Alexander Moutouzkine, Yuan Sheng,
Inesa Sinkevych, Ian Yungwook Yoo, and Ren Zhang

*The event will be simulcast live in the
William R. and Irene D. Miller Recital Hall
and online at www.dl.msmnyc.edu/live.
Seating on a first-come first-served basis*

Manhattan School of Music

120 Claremont Avenue (122nd at Broadway) New York City

www.msmnyc.edu | 917 493 4428



The Solomon Gadles Mikowsky Recital Hall Inaugural Concert

The Solomon Gadles Mikowsky Recital Hall Inaugural Concert

*An homage to Dr. Mikowsky by
his current and former students*

Jovianney Emmanuel Cruz, Gustavo Díaz-Jerez,
Simone Dinnerstein, Wael Farouk,
Kirill Gerstein, Kookhee Hong, Youngho Kim,
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PROGRAM

JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH
(1685–1750)

Fantasy in Fugue in A Minor

Solomon Mikowsky
Recorded at age 14 in Havana, Cuba
on a Chickering grand piano on reel-to-reel tape

Introductory Remarks

Robert Sirota,
President of Manhattan School of Music

ALESSANDRO SCARLATTI
(1660–1725)

Sonata in A Minor, L. 241, K. 54
Sonata in A Major, L. 395, K. 533
Inesa Sinkevych

FRANZ LISZT
(1811–1886)

La leggerezza
Ian Yungwook Yoo

FREDERIC CHOPIN
(1810–1849)

Etude in C-sharp Minor, op. 10, no. 4
Kookhee Hong

ISAAC ALBENIZ
(1860–1909)

Asturias
Jovianney Emmanuel Cruz

Remarks	Dianne Flagello, <i>Former Director of the Precollege Division, Manhattan School of Music</i>
ISAAC ALBENIZ	<i>El Puerto (from Iberia)</i> <i>Gustavo Díaz-Jerez</i>
ERNESTO LECUONA (1895–1963)	<i>Córdoba</i> <i>Yuan Sheng</i>
<i>Intermission</i>	
ISAAC ALBENIZ (arr. Leopold Godowsky)	Tango <i>Ren Zhang</i>
MAURICE RAVEL (1875–1937)	<i>Pavane pour une infante defunte</i> <i>Youngho Kim</i>
Remarks	James Gandre, <i>Provost and Executive Vice President of Roosevelt University</i> <i>Former Dean of Manhattan School of Music and of the Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University</i>
ALEXANDER SCRIABIN (1872–1915)	Etude in C-sharp Minor, op. 8, no. 12 <i>Alexander Moutouzkine</i>
SERGEI RACHMANINOFF (1873–1943)	Prelude in G Major, op. 32, no. 5 <i>Wael Farouk</i>
FERRUCCIO BUSONI (1866–1924)	<i>Sonatina super Carmen</i> No. 6, K. 284 <i>Kirill Gerstein</i>
JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH	Aria from the <i>Goldberg Variations</i> <i>Simone Dinnerstein</i>
Closing Remarks	Solomon Mikowsky

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Jovianney Emmanuel Cruz

Filipino concert pianist Jovianney Emmanuel Cruz has won numerous international competitions, scholarships, and awards in his forty years of playing the piano. He began piano studies with his mother at age 3 and was invited to perform at the Malacañang Palace at age 6. After winning first prize in the National Music Competitions for Young Artists, he made his orchestral debut at age 10 and was granted a scholarship by Sir Lennox Berkley to study at Chetham's School of Music in England. In 1980, Mr. Cruz was awarded the Elva van Gelder Memorial Scholarship and began his studies with Solomon Mikowsky at Manhattan School of Music, where he received his Bachelor and Master of Music degrees in Piano Performance. Mr. Cruz received the Anne Marie McDermott Memorial Scholarship for Chamber Music and the Stanley Thomas Johnson Foundation Scholarship; was a laureate of both the preparatory and college divisions' concerto competitions; and was awarded the coveted Harold Bauer Award at MSM.

Labeled "the Magnificent Cruz" by the *Philippine Star*, Mr. Cruz received rave reviews as the featured soloist of the Nagoya Philharmonic Orchestra in the 2006 Toyota Classics and as a participant for three consecutive years at the International Piano Festival in Malaysia. He has produced prize-winning students, conducts master classes worldwide, and was invited to serve as a juror in the 1st ASEAN International Chopin Piano

Competition in Kuala Lumpur and twice as an adjudicator in the Hong Kong Schools Music Festival. A pioneer of the renaissance of classical music awareness in the Philippines, he is the founder and Artistic Director of OPUSFEST: The International Piano and Chamber Music Festival Philippines; of the Ultimate Pianist Competition: The Lourdes L. Villanueva-Cruz Memorial Award; and formerly of FILFEST, a two-year season of classical music concerts held at the Insular Life Theater. In 1996, Philippine President Fidel V. Ramos conferred The Outstanding Young Men (TOYM) Award on Mr. Cruz for his contribution to the arts.

Gustavo Díaz-Jerez

One of the foremost Spanish pianists of his generation, Gustavo Díaz-Jerez has gained an international following and critical acclaim for his performances. Born in the Spanish Canary Islands, Gustavo Díaz-Jerez studied piano with J. A. Rodriguez at the Conservatorio Superior of Santa Cruz (Tenerife) and with Solomon Mikowsky at Manhattan School of Music, where he was awarded the prestigious Harold Bauer Award and won first prize in the conservatory's concerto competition.

Gustavo Díaz-Jerez has performed extensively throughout Europe, Asia, South America, Australia, the U.K. and the U.S., in many of the world's most renowned halls, including Carnegie Hall and Alice Tully Hall in New York, Royal Festival Hall in London, and the Sydney Opera House in Sydney. He has performed as soloist with orchestras

such as the Berlin Philharmonic, the Budapest Festival Orchestra, the Turin Symphony, and the Northern Sinfonia, as well as the major Spanish orchestras. He has collaborated with such conductors as Ivan Fischer, Victor Pablo, Cristian Mandeal, Matthias Bamert, Gunther Herbig, Adrian Leaper, José R. Encinar, Stanislaw Skrowaczewski, among others. He has been invited to play at various international music festivals, including the Festival Internacional de Canarias, La Roque d'Anthéron, Quincena Musical Donostiarra, Festival Internacional de Santander, Lucena, Granada, and Úbeda. His forthcoming engagements include a tour of Europe, where he will present Albéniz's *Iberia* in commemoration of the centenary of its composition.

Mr. Díaz-Jerez has recorded a significant portion of his native country's repertoire for piano, including Albéniz's *Iberia*; the complete works of Manuel de Falla; the music of Carlos Surinach for piano solo and piano with orchestra with the Orquesta Sinfónica de Tenerife under the baton of Victor Pablo; the major works of Canary Island composer Teobaldo Power (RALS); music of Oscar Esplá for violin and piano with Margherita Marseglia (RTVE Música); and his own works for various chamber ensembles (RALS). Since 2002, Gustavo Díaz-Jerez has taught piano at the Centro Superior de Música del País Vasco, Musikene.

Simone Dinnerstein

American pianist Simone Dinnerstein has been called "a throwback to such high priestesses of music as Wanda Landowska and Myra Hess" by *Slate* magazine and praised by *Time* for

her "arresting freshness and subtlety." The New York-based pianist gained an international following with the remarkable success of her recording of Bach's *Goldberg Variations*, which she raised the funds to record. Released in 2007, it ranked No. 1 on the U.S. Billboard Classical Chart in its first week of sales and was named to many "Best of 2007" lists, including those of the *New York Times*, the *Los Angeles Times*, and the *New Yorker*. Her follow-up album, *The Berlin Concert*, also gained the No. 1 spot on the chart. Ms. Dinnerstein has recently signed an exclusive agreement with Sony Classical; her first album for that label—an all-Bach disc—will be released in January 2011.

Ms. Dinnerstein's performance schedule has taken her around the world since her New York recital debut at Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall in 2005, performing the *Goldberg Variations*. Recent and upcoming performances include her recital debuts at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, the Vienna Konzerthaus, and London's Wigmore Hall, as well as debut performances with the Frankfurt Radio Symphony Orchestra, Dresden Philharmonic, Czech Philharmonic, New York Philharmonic, Minnesota Orchestra, Atlanta Symphony, Baltimore Symphony, Orchestra of St. Luke's, Kristjan Järvi's Absolute Ensemble, and the Tokyo Symphony. In New York she has performed on Lincoln Center's Great Performers series and in three sold-out recitals at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. She is also a frequent performer at New York's (Le) Poisson Rouge.

Ms. Dinnerstein has played concerts throughout the U.S. for the Piatigorsky Foundation, an organization dedicated

to bringing classical music to nontraditional venues such as nursing homes, schools, and community centers. She gave the first classical music performance in a Louisiana state prison when she played at the Avoyelles Correctional Center and performed at the Maryland Correctional Institution for Women in a concert organized by the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra to coincide with her BSO debut. Ms. Dinnerstein also founded P.S. 321 Neighborhood Concerts, a concert series at her son's Brooklyn public elementary school, where her husband teaches fifth grade.

Ms. Dinnerstein studied with Solomon Mikowsky at Manhattan School of Music, where she was a student in the Precollege Division from 1981 to 1989, and is a graduate of Juilliard, where she was a student of Peter Serkin.

Wael Farouk

Praised as “a dazzling pianist” by David Dubal, author of *The Art of the Piano*, Egyptian pianist Wael Farouk, at age 28, has already had an extensive performing career. He has appeared as a soloist with the North Czech Philharmonic Orchestra, the Saint-Etienne National Orchestra, the Academy of the Arts Orchestra, the Manhattan Symphony, and the Cairo Symphony Orchestra for more than twenty concertos, including the Egyptian premieres of Rachmaninoff's Concerto No. 3, Brahms's Second Piano Concerto, and Prokofiev's Concertos Nos. 1, 2, and 3.

Wael Farouk has performed with numerous conductors, including Christoph Muller, Steven Lloyd, Patrick Fournilier, and Phillippe Entremont. He

has toured England, Russia, Italy, France, Spain, Hungary, Germany, the Czech Republic, Spain, and Japan, appearing in venues such as the White Hall in St. Petersburg, the Kurt Masur Hall at the Johann Sebastian Bach Music School in Leipzig, and Schumann's house.

Wael Farouk received a Special Award from the First Lady of Egypt, Susan Mubarak, for his talent and potential soon after beginning his studies at age 7 at the Cairo Conservatory. Following his studies and tours abroad he was also honored by President Hosni Mubarak as the youngest Egyptian artist to have represented Egypt internationally.

Since 2001, Wael Farouk has studied on seven full scholarships in the United States: at the Brevard Music Center; the Catholic University of America (on a Fulbright fellowship) with Marilyn Neeley; Converse College, where he earned his Master's degree with Doug Weeks; and Manhattan School of Music, where he studied with Solomon Mikowsky and was the recipient of the Elva van Gelder Memorial Scholarship, having received the highest audition scores of the 300 pianists who auditioned from all over the world. He graduated from MSM in 2007 with a Professional Diploma and earned the Artist Diploma Degree from Chicago School of Performing Arts in 2009 as a student of Dr. Mikowsky. Wael Farouk was highly praised during master classes with pianists such as György Sándor, Nikolai Petrov, and Abbey Simon.

In 2010, Wael Farouk will honor the two hundredth anniversary of Chopin's birth, performing the composer's complete solo piano works in a series of eight recital programs in the United States and Europe.

Kirill Gerstein

Russian pianist Kirill Gerstein has quickly proven to be one of today's most intriguing young musicians, known for his masterful technique, musical curiosity, and probing interpretations.

In January 2010 Mr. Gerstein was named the recipient of the 2010 Gilmore Artist Award, only the sixth pianist to have been so honored. The award is made to an exceptional pianist who, regardless of age or nationality, possesses broad and profound musicianship and can sustain a career as a major international concert artist. He was also honored in April 2010 by being awarded a 2010 Avery Fisher Career Grant.

Highlights of Mr. Gerstein's 2010–11 season include debuts with the Boston Symphony at Tanglewood, the Cleveland Orchestra on subscription, the St. Louis, Milwaukee, Columbus, Pacific, and Nashville symphonies, Stockholm Philharmonic and London's Philharmonia; re-engagements with the San Francisco and Baltimore symphonies and the Philadelphia Orchestra at Saratoga; recitals at New York's 92nd Street Y and in Portland, Maine; and a tour to Germany and Israel with the Hagen Quartet. His first recording for Myrios Classics of recital works by Schumann, Liszt, and Oliver Knussen is being released this month, followed by a duo recital disc with Tabea Zimmermann.

Mr. Gerstein's recent engagements in North America include performances with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the Chicago, San Francisco, Atlanta, Detroit, Houston, Dallas, Indianapolis and Vancouver symphonies and the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, among

others; festival appearances at Chicago's Grant Park, the Mann Music Center, and Saratoga with the Philadelphia Orchestra and Blossom with the Cleveland Orchestra; and recitals in Boston, New York's Town Hall, Cincinnati, Detroit, Vancouver, and Washington's Kennedy Center.

Internationally, Kirill Gerstein has worked with the Munich, Rotterdam and Royal Philharmonics, the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Dresden Staatskapelle, Zurich Tonhalle, the Finnish and Swedish Radio Orchestras, WDR Symphony Orchestra Cologne, and the Deutsches Symphonie Orchester Berlin, as well as with the NHK Symphony Orchestra in Tokyo and the Simon Bolivar Youth Orchestra in Caracas with Gustavo Dudamel. He has also performed recitals in Paris, Prague, Hamburg, London's Wigmore and Queen Elizabeth Halls and at the Liszt Academy in Budapest. He made his Salzburg Festival debut playing solo and two-piano works with Andras Schiff in 2008 and has also appeared at the Verbier, Lucerne, and Jerusalem Chamber Music Festivals.

Born in 1979 in Voronezh, Russia, Mr. Gerstein attended one of the country's special music schools for gifted children and taught himself to play jazz by listening to his parents' extensive record collection. He came to the U.S. at 14 to continue his studies in jazz piano as the youngest student ever to attend Boston's Berklee College of Music, though he continued to work on the classical piano repertoire. Following his second summer at the Boston University program at Tanglewood, he decided to focus on classical music and moved to New York to attend Manhattan School of Music, where he studied with Solomon

Mikowsky and earned his Bachelor and Master of Music degrees. He continued his studies with Dmitri Bashkirov in Madrid and Ferenc Rados in Budapest. Kirill Gerstein was awarded first prize at the 2001 Arthur Rubinstein Piano Competition in Tel Aviv; received a 2002 Gilmore Young Artist Award, and was chosen as Carnegie Hall's Rising Star for the 2005–06 season. He became an American citizen in 2003 and is currently a professor of piano at the Musikhochschule in Stuttgart.

Kookhee Hong

Kookhee Hong, a native of Korea, began piano lessons at age four and won first prizes in the Jang-Hak and the Music Chun-Choo national competitions as a child. She entered the Sun-Hwa Art School as a student of Kyu-Young Lee and at age 13 became a student of Ernest Lejano, professor at the University of Alberta, Canada. She continued her studies as a full-scholarship student at the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia, where she worked with Eleanor Sokoloff and participated in master classes by Emanuel Ax, Gary Graffman, and Claude Frank. At the Merano Festival in Italy, she performed for Sergio Perticarioli, Lev Natocheny, and Peter Ficher.

Ms. Hong has been a full-scholarship student of Solomon Mikowsky since entering Manhattan School of Music in 1998. Under his tutelage, she received her Bachelor and Master of Music degrees and Professional Studies Diploma and is currently a DMA candidate. She won first prize at the Carlet International Competition in Valencia, second prize at the Maria Canals International Competition in

Barcelona, the audience prize and the Alicia de Larrocha Spanish Prize at the Andorra International Competition, and was a prizewinner at the Panama International Competition.

She has performed the Chopin No. 1 and Prokofiev No. 1 piano concertos with the Tenerife Symphony in the Canary Islands and the Gershwin Concerto in F with the Manhattan Symphony Orchestra and the Gran Canaria Philharmonic of Spain. She has also performed the Mozart Concerto No. 20 with the Carlet Sinfonia in Valencia, Spain, and the Chopin Concerto No. 1 with the Panama National Symphony Orchestra. She has been invited numerous times to participate in the International Piano Festivals in Europe during the summers as a solo recitalist.

Youngho Kim

Youngho Kim is one of Korea's most active pianists as a soloist and as a teacher. In 2009 he appeared as a soloist with the conductorless string orchestra Sejong, the Manhattan Chamber Orchestra, the Busan Philharmonic and Gwangju Symphony, as well as other orchestras in Korea. In July of 2009 Youngho Kim performed with the Dae Jeon Philharmonic Orchestra, celebrating its 25th anniversary, and played a solo recital in Cairo, Egypt. In 2010 highlight performances will include appearances at the Seoul Spring Festival, the Busan Maru International Music festival, the Konzerthaus in Berlin, Germany, and recitals in Beijing, Tianjin, and Wuhan in China.

After winning first prize in the prestigious Ewha-Kyunghyang national music competition in Korea at the

age of 12, Youngho Kim came to New York to pursue his piano studies. He attended Columbia Grammar and Preparatory School, earned his Bachelor's and Master's degrees at the Juilliard School, and received his Doctor of Musical Arts degree from Manhattan School of Music as a recipient of the Elva Van Gelder Scholarship. His teachers include Solomon Mikowsky, Sascha Gorodnitzki, Byron Janis, and Herbert Stessin. Mr. Kim has won top prizes in numerous competitions, including the Kosciuszko Chopin, Helen Hart, and Frinna Awerbuch international piano competitions in the U.S., as well as second prize in the Pilar Bayona International Piano competition in Spain.

Mr. Kim is a founding member of the Seoul Spring Festival, now in its fifth successful season, which offers more than 20 concerts in Seoul and other cities each year. The Seoul Spring Festival was invited to the Grand National Theater in Beijing in 2008 as part of the Olympic Festival and to Casals Hall in Tokyo in the summer of 2009. In 2010 the Seoul Spring Festival will tour Shanghai for the celebration of world Expo. Mr. Kim also performs regularly in the Great Mountains Music Festival in Korea, as well as the Festival Music Alp in France and the chamber music festival in Tenerife, Spain.

Youngho Kim has recorded Saint-Saens's *Carnival of Animals* with the Philharmonia of London and Tchaikovsky's Concerto No. 1 with the Moscow Philharmonic. Since 1996, he has served as a professor of piano at the Yonsei University School of Music. Mr. Kim's pupils have won top prizes in international competitions in France, Portugal, the U.S., and Korea.

Alexandre Moutouzkine

Russian pianist Alexandre Moutouzkine burst onto the U.S. concert scene at the age of 19, when he received the Special Award for Artistic Potential at the XI Van Cliburn International Piano Competition. The *Dallas Morning News* wrote of his performance of Brahms's *Op. 117 Intermezzi* that it was "playing of heart-stopping intimacy and elegance." Hailed by *International Piano* magazine as "technically dazzling," he has appeared widely on the world's great concert stages.

In April 2011 Mr. Moutouzkine debuts at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts in Philadelphia's inaugural International Festival of the Arts, performing Stravinsky's *Firebird Suite*. Other highlights of the 2010–11 season include performances of the complete solo piano works of John Corigliano. Recent performance highlights include debuts at the Great Hall of Berlin Philharmonic, performing Brahms's Piano Concerto No. 1 with the Berliner Symphoniker under the baton of Lior Shambadal, and at Lincoln Center's Kaplan Penthouse with the Jasper String Quartet, as well as a performance of Scriabin's Piano Concerto with the Stamford Symphony under Eckart Preu.

Mr. Moutouzkine has toured throughout Europe, Russia, Ukraine, and Kazakhstan, as well as North and South America. He has appeared as soloist with the Tivoli Symphony Orchestra, the Radio Television Orchestra of Spain, Cleveland Orchestra, Louisiana Philharmonic, Valencia Philharmonic, Gran Canary Symphony and Tenerife Symphony, the National Symphonic

Orchestra of Panama, the National Symphonic Orchestra of Cuba, and the Brno Philharmonic Orchestra of the Czech Republic, among others.

Recently named the second-prize winner of the Walter W. Naumburg International Piano Competition, Mr. Moutouzkyne has captured top prizes at the Cleveland, Montréal, Tivoli, Andorra, José Iturbi, New Orleans, Maria Canals, Shanghai, Tongyeong, Calabria, Guerrero, Cervantes (Cuba), Pilar Bayona (Spain), St. Petersburg, and Panama international competitions. Also a winner of Astral Artists' 2009 National Auditions, he is an Astral Artist. Mr. Moutouzkyne holds degrees from the Hochschule für Musik und Theater in Hannover and Russia's Nizhny Novgorod Music Academy and a Master's and postgraduate degree from Manhattan School of Music, where he studied with Solomon Mikowsky.

Yuan Sheng

Yuan Sheng has gained international recognition through his extensive performances in the United States, Canada, Cuba, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Poland, Croatia, Finland, Switzerland, Egypt, Morocco, South Africa, Hong Kong, Malaysia, the Philippines, South Korea, Kazakhstan, and his home country, China. Proclaimed "an artist of the highest quality" by Harris Goldsmith of *New York Concert Review*, he is considered "the nation's [China's] premier interpreter of Bach" according to *International Piano Magazine*.

Mr. Sheng's performances and research on the music of Bach have attracted international attention in recent years.

The *New York Times* said that his "A major and A minor Preludes and Fugues from Bach's *Well-Tempered Clavier*, Book I, were models of clarity, balance and proportion." He is currently recording a series of CDs of Bach's keyboard music, as well as compiling and writing a method book for teaching Bach's keyboard music. His articles have appeared in China's leading music magazines.

Mr. Sheng has participated in the Seoul Spring Festival for Chamber Music and performed in duo-recitals with violinists Aaron Rosand, Arnold Steinhardt, and Rachel Barton Pine. He founded the China Trio with violinist Vera Tsu and cellist Chu Yi-Bing in 2009. He has been seen and heard on WQXR and NPR stations throughout the U.S.; CCTV and Beijing Music Radio in China; and national TV and radio stations in Cuba, France, Hong Kong, the Philippines, Poland, and Spain.

Currently on the piano faculty of the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing, Mr. Sheng has given lectures and master classes in the U.S., Canada, China, Croatia, Germany, France, the U.K., South Korea, and the Philippines.

Born into a family of musicians in Beijing, Yuan Sheng began his music studies with his mother at age 5, continuing at the Central Conservatory with Professors Qifang Li, Huili Li, and Guangren Zhou. From 1991 to 1997 he was a scholarship student of Solomon Mikowsky at Manhattan School of Music, where he completed his Bachelor and Master of Music degrees. His interest in the music of Bach inspired him to study intensively with Rosalyn Tureck.

Inesa Sinkevych

Ukrainian-born Inesa Sinkevych has established herself as one of the leading pianists of her generation, praised for her “very personal sound and rich cantabile” (*Ritmo*, Spain) and “intense, structurally sophisticated and thrilling playing” (*General-Anzeiger*, Germany). She has performed in many countries as recitalist, chamber musician, and orchestral soloist, in venues such as the Mann Auditorium in Tel Aviv, the Purcell Room at the Royal Festival Hall in London, the Minnesota Symphony Hall, the Palau de la Música Catalana in Barcelona, the Hong Kong City Hall, and the Great Hall of the Centro Cultural de Belém in Lisbon.

Ms. Sinkevych has performed as soloist with the Israel Philharmonic, the Minnesota Symphony, the Gulbenkian Orchestra of Lisbon, the Gran Canaria Philharmonic of Spain, the Porto Symphony of Portugal, and the Tenerife Symphony of the Canary Islands, among others. She has also been featured in numerous international summer festivals in France, mainland Spain, and the Canary Islands.

Inesa Sinkevych was a prizewinner at the 12th Arthur Rubinstein International Piano Master Competition in Israel; the Maria Canals International Piano Competition in Barcelona (first prize); the Vianna da Motta and the Porto international competitions in Portugal; the Cidade del Ferrol, Spanish Composers Competition, and Premio Jaén (First Prize) in Spain; the Casagrande International Competition in Italy; the Panama International Competition; and the Yamaha Piano-e-Competition in Minnesota.

Ms. Sinkevych began her piano studies at the Kharkov Conservatory in her native country with Victor Makarov and later studied with Alexander Volkov at the Rubin Academy of Music in Tel Aviv. In Israel she was awarded a scholarship by the America–Israel Cultural Foundation, which enabled her to continue her studies with Solomon Mikowsky in the United States, first at the Chicago College of Performing Arts (Master’s degree) and later at Manhattan School of Music, where she is currently completing her doctoral degree.

Ian Yungwook Yoo

Ian Yungwook Yoo’s professional career was launched when he won first prize by unanimous vote in the 13th Paloma O’Shea Santander International Piano Competition in 1998. In 2007, he received first prize in the Second Beethoven Competition in Bonn. Among the other international competitions in which he was a prizewinner are the Richter Competition in Moscow, Vianna da Motta in Portugal, the International E-Competition, and the Montreal International Music Competition.

Mr. Yoo has recently released his first commercial CD on the Naxos label, featuring piano transcriptions by Franz Liszt. He has performed in over twenty countries, with orchestras such as the St. Petersburg Symphony, France National, Spanish National, and Dresden Symphony, under the baton of such notable conductors as James Conlon, Sergiu Comissiona, Pinchas Steinberg, Jesus Lopez Cobos, Rafael Fruhbeck de Burgos, and Victor Pablo. The venues he has performed in include Wigmore Hall

in London, Gewandhaus in Leipzig, the 92nd Street Y in New York, Tonhalle in Zurich, UNESCO Hall in Paris, Palau de la Musica in Barcelona, and the Auditorio Nacional de Musica in Madrid. He has also been a featured soloist in many international festivals, including the Berliner Begegnungen, Ruhr Klavierfestival, Hundisburg, Yokohama, Radio France, and Al Bustan.

Born in 1977 in Seoul, Ian Yungwook Yoo gave his first recital at age 10, performing his own compositions. As a result of his exceptional talent, he received several grants to support his education in Korea and later in the United States. In 1996, he enrolled at the Juilliard School in the studio of Martin Canin. In 1997, he moved to the studio of Jerome Lowenthal, receiving his Bachelor's degree in 2001. In 2002, he began studying with Solomon Mikowsky at Manhattan School of Music, where he received the Master of Music degree in 2004. Since the spring of 2009, Mr. Yoo has been a professor at Yonsei University in Korea.

After a successful New York recital debut at Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall, in recognition of his artistry, Ren Zhang was a recipient of the Shura Cherkassky Award from Artists International in 1996. Mr. Zhang has been a guest artist at music festivals in the Canary Islands and in mainland Spain and has appeared in concert series and festivals across the United States, including the Myra Hess series in Chicago and the Newport Festival in Rhode Island. Ren Zhang has also been heard in performance at the Metropolitan Museum of Art and on WQXR in New York City, where he now resides.

Ren Zhang

Born in Shanghai, China, Ren Zhang began his piano studies at the age of 4. At age 12, he entered the Shanghai Conservatory of Music, where he studied for six years. After winning several prestigious competitions in China, Ren Zhang came to the United States to further his studies in New York, where he was a full scholarship student of Solomon Mikowsky and the recipient of the Elva van Gelder Memorial Scholarship. Ren Zhang holds Bachelor and Master of Music degrees from Manhattan School of Music.

Solomon Mikowsky

Solomon Mikowsky has been called “one of the world’s most sought-after artist teachers” (*Clavier*), with “a magical ability to develop his piano students into artists” (*Sur Exprès*). Included in Benjamin Saver’s *The Most Wanted Piano Teachers in the USA*, he has been a member of the piano faculty at Manhattan School of Music for over 30 years and is recipient of the school’s Presidential Medal. He also a member of the Artist Faculty at Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University.

His pupils have won over 100 top prizes in some of the most important international competitions, including the Gilmore Artist Award, the Avery Fisher Artist Career Grant and first prizes in the Rubinstein (Tel-Aviv), Santander, Beethoven (Bonn), Iturbi (Valencia), Maria Canals (Barcelona), Pilar Bayona (Zaragoza), Jaén, Andorra, Panama and New Orleans, and other top prizes in the Tchaikovsky, Dublin, Sviatoslav Richter (Moscow), Vianna da Motta (Lisbon), Porto, Villa del Mar (Chile), Cleveland, Montreal, Naumburg and E-Competition (Minneapolis).

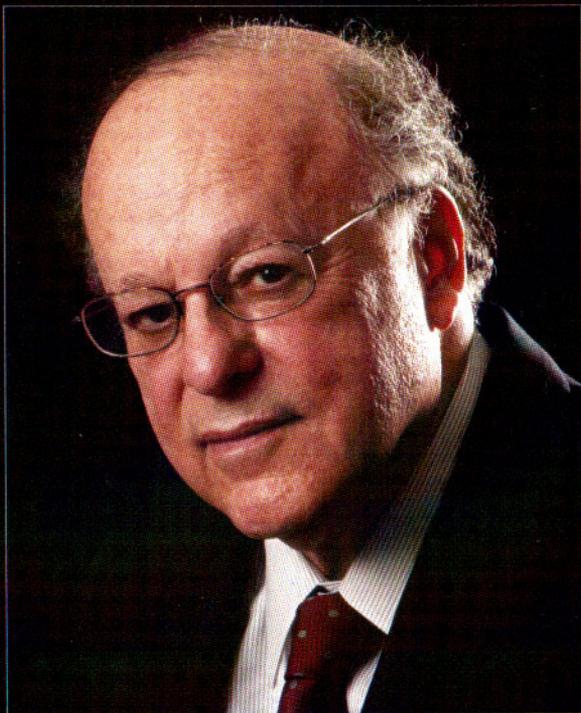
They have performed as soloists with the Boston, Chicago, Cleveland, Dallas, Detroit, Houston, Los Angeles, Minnesota, Philadelphia, San Francisco, Berlin, Budapest, Frankfurt, Jerusalem, Munich, St. Petersburg and Tokyo symphony orchestras; the BBC, Berlin, Dresden, London (Royal), Moscow, New York, Rotterdam and Israel philharmonic orchestras; the Zürich Tonhalle; the Dresden Staatskappelle Orchestra and the national orchestras of Finland, France, Mexico and the Czech Republic, with such noted conductors as Comissiona, Dudamel, Dutoit, Ehrling, Eschenbach, Fischer, Frübeck de Burgos, Gielen, Graf,

Herbig, Macal, Masur, Semkow, Skrowaczewski and Zinman.

Solomon Mikowsky was born in Cuba of Russian-Polish parentage. His early training was with César Pérez Sentenat, who had studied in Madrid with Cubiles and in Paris with Joaquín Nin, a pupil of Moszkowski, himself a pupil of Liszt. He was later granted scholarships by the Cuban government and the Juilliard School to continue his studies in New York with Sascha Gorodnitzki, the foremost pupil of the legendary Russian virtuoso Josef Lhevinne, receiving bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Juilliard and a doctorate from Columbia University.

Mikowsky is regularly invited to serve on the juries of some of the most important international piano competitions. He has given master classes at the leading conservatories in Moscow, St. Petersburg, Warsaw, Krakow, Budapest, Salzburg, London, Paris, Rotterdam, Madrid, Valencia, Istanbul, Tel-Aviv, Jerusalem, and throughout Australia and the Far East. A Steinway Artist, he participated early on in festivals in France, Italy, Spain, Korea and Taiwan. During the summers, he directs his *International Piano Festivals* which consist of piano courses in various countries in Europe and Asia, and the participation of his piano students as performers in numerous recitals.

Mikowsky has published a book on nineteenth-century Cuban music, has contributed to *Américas*, the Organization of American States journal and has been featured in interviews in *Clavier* (USA), *Chopin* (Japan), *Piano Artistry* (China), *Sur Exprès* (Spain) and *Musica di Pianoforte* (Korea). In recognition of his pedagogical contribution, Solomon Mikowsky has been awarded the Cintas Prize by the Institute of International Education.



The Solomon Gadles Mikowsky Recital Hall, with moveable seating for 50, is a flexible teaching, rehearsal, and performance facility that features a raised stage for two grand pianos and a sophisticated level of acoustic treatment and isolation. The hall has capacity for audio and video recording, live webstreaming, and CD and iPod playback for classroom teaching. The outer wall is devoted to Dr. Mikowsky's teaching memorabilia, including posters announcing his students many achievements. His gift of the hall to the school also included three Steinway grand pianos: a concert grand for piano recitals, a Model B for chamber and vocal concerts, and another Model B for his adjacent studio.

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Manhattan School of Music is recognized internationally as a preeminent conservatory of music granting bachelor of music, master of music, and doctor of musical arts degrees. Founded in 1918, the School is dedicated to the personal, artistic, and intellectual development of each of its students, who range in age from the precollege through the postgraduate level. The School trains students in performance and composition and provides a broad-based education in music theory, history, and the humanities. In addition to the more than 800 students in the College Division, who come from some 45 countries, the School serves 450 New York-area students, ages 5 to 18, in the Precollege Division; almost 2000 New York City schoolchildren through its Arts-in-Education Program; and an additional 1700 students through its International Distance Learning Program. The School employs a superb artist-teacher faculty of 250 professional musicians and presents more than 400 public performances annually. Manhattan School of Music's more than 10,000 alumni are active in every aspect of contemporary musical life. Many are among the most distinguished artists performing in opera houses and concert halls and on jazz stages throughout the world today.

[« “Crossing Waves”](#)[The Gemini Piano Trio in Review »](#)

Solomon Mikowsky Dedication Concert in Review

Solomon Mikowsky Dedication Concert in Review
Solomon Gadles Mikowsky Recital Hall, New York, NY
Manhattan School of Music
October 3, 2010



Dr. Solomon Mikowsky

“Turnabout is fair play”, the saying goes. Frequently, an institution will pay homage to a great and distinguished member of its faculty. But this time, Solomon Mikowsky – who has certainly earned a tribute for his years as a renowned piano pedagogue who has produced many fine artists (and competition winners) – honored the Manhattan School of Music with a beautiful and heartwarming gesture: a gift of a superb recital hall, replete with two Steinway concert grand pianos and a capacity for audio and video recording (plus a third Steinway Model B grand for his adjacent studio). On Sunday afternoon, October 3rd, I was honored to be present for the grand opening festivities of the Solomon Gadles Mikowsky Recital Hall on the third floor of the MSM. Dr. Mikowsky’s tribute was not only to this school, but also in honor of 12 of his former and present pupils who held forth with a fine concert by way of a retrospect. The live recital commenced with a recorded performance of Bach’s Fantasy and Fugue in A Minor as performed by Mikowsky at the age of fourteen. In front of the audience was a photograph of the fledgling virtuoso (what a handsome devil he was!). Later on, at the behest of many of his appreciative charges, Dr. Mikowsky (who was going to remain silent) played a Galuppi Sonata with elegant taste and good tone, showing us all that he can still “do” as well as teach!

Dr. Mikowsky was born Solomon Gadles in Cuba of Russian-Polish parentage and his mother’s maiden name was Mikowska. His early musical training was with Cesar Perez Sentenat, who had studied in Madrid with Cubiles and in Paris with Joaquin Nin, a pupil of Moszkowski, himself a pupil of Liszt. Later, he earned his degrees at the Juilliard School, working with Sascha Gorodnitzki (Bachelors and Masters degrees) and a doctorate from Columbia University. Frequently invited to serve on the juries of important international

piano competitions, he has given master classes worldwide, and is the author of a book on nineteenth-century Cuban music.



Dr. Solomon Mikowsky with his students. Photo Credit: Brian Hatton

The impressive recitalists included two Domenico Scarlatti sonatas (A Minor, Longo 241, Kirkpatrick 54; and A Major, L. 395, K. 533) played with brilliant note-perfect fluency by Inesa Sinkevych, but with one gaffe: the printed program attributed them to Domenico's father, Alessandro, 1660-1725 (who wrote vocal music!); Liszt's F Minor Concert Etude, La Leggerezza (Ian Yungwook Yoo); Chopin's C-sharp Minor Etude, Op. 10, No. 4 (Kookhee Hong); Albeniz's Asturias (Jovianney Emmanuel Cruz); Albeniz's Evocacion from Iberia (Gustavo Diaz-Jerez (who had originally intended to play El Puerto from the same work); Lecuona's Cordoba (Yuan Sheng, who played lustily, although I have heard him play Bach wonderfully well and also had glowing words for his Schubert B flat Sonata, D. 960); the ubiquitous Albeniz Tango in Godowsky's gussied-up arrangement (Ren Zhang); Scriabin's Etude in C-sharp Minor, Op 8, No. 12 (Alexander Moutouzkin); Ravel's "Pavane pour une infante defunte" (Youngho Kim); Rachmaninoff's Prelude in G Major, Op. 32, No. 5 (Wael Farouk, a Shura Cherkassy look-alike who I glowingly reviewed in New York Concert Review for his account of Rachmaninoff's Third Concerto with the MSM orchestra last year); Busoni's Sonatine super Carmen No. 6, K. 284 (Kirill Gerstein, a recent Gilmore Artist Award and Avery Fisher Grant winner); and finally the Aria from Bach's Goldberg Variations (Simone Dinnerstein; truly an Aria da Capo; the first time I heard her play at the tender age of 11, Ms. Dinnerstein was a pupil of Dr. Mikowsky and she has many accomplishments to her credit in the intervening years—subsequent studies with Herbert Stessin, Maria Diamond (a student of Artur Schnabel) and Peter Serkin. Herself-produced CD of the Goldberg, now available on Telarc, has been acclaimed a best-seller).

I must comment that the room can accommodate an audience of 50, and that its acoustics are ideally crystal clear, absolutely perfect for the obvious ideals of Dr. Mikowsky's taste for extreme digital clarity and articulation, Spartan and judicious pedaling and discipline, as opposed to an often esteemed and encountered murkiness that could (and often does) hide a multitude of sins by less technically adroit students.

The concert was followed by a lavish reception and dinner, capping a joyously memorable and touching occasion. Congratulations to all, and especially to Solomon Mikowsky!

-Harris Goldsmith for New York Concert Review; New York, NY

interMezzo

Inaugural Concert Honors Solomon Mikowsky



Brian Halton

By Recital Hall

Front row (l. to r.): Pianists Gustavo Diaz-Jerez, Wael Farouk, Simone Dinnerstein, Kookhee Hong, Inesa Sinkevych, and Ian Yungwook Yoo. Back row (l. to r.): Ren Zhang, Youngho Kim, Yuan Sheng, Dr. Mikowsky, Kirill Gerstein, Jovianney Emmanuel Cruz, and Alexander Moutouzkine.

Sunday, October 3, 2010 was a great day in the history of Manhattan School of Music: the inauguration of the Solomon Gadles Mikowsky Recital Hall. Twelve distinguished pianists, each of whom had studied with Dr. Mikowsky over the past three decades, performed in tribute to his enormous generosity—both in giving the Recital Hall to MSM and in serving as a mentor to so many throughout his tenure on MSM's piano faculty. The celebration included superb performances to a full house of honored guests, video conferencing of the recital to an overflow crowd in The William R. and Irene D. Miller Recital Hall, and a joyous reception of supporters and friends in The Peter Jay Sharp President's Residence. Simone Dinnerstein, the final pianist on the program, said she couldn't shake the feeling that she and her fellow performers were part of the same family. Dr. Mikowsky fostered that kinship in his students and, through the Solomon Gadles Mikowsky Recital Hall, has shared his generous spirit with the entire MSM community.