**YEVGENY SUDBIN PERFORMS AT CABRILLO COLLEGE**

John Orlando, Director of the Distinguished Artist and Lecture Series (DACLS) presented Russian pianist Yevgeny Sudbin in the inaugural Juanita Orlando Memorial Grand Piano Concert on April, 23 in Cabrillo’s Crocker Hall. Also featured in this one-of-a-kind gala event was the debut of the newest piano innovation since its creation in 1700: the Yamaha CFX Concert Grand, one of only two in the USA! For those several hundred in the audience, it was history in the making.

John Orlando has consistently sought out pianists who seemingly possess extraterrestrial pianistic powers; however, it appears he went over the top with Yevgeny Sudbin! The programme consisted of the Haydn Sonata in B minor, HOB XVI: 32; Shostakovich preludes No. 2, No. 6 and No. 17; Chopin Ballade No. 3 in A flat Major and Ballade No. 4 in F minor; Liszt Harmonies du Soir: Transcendental Etude No. 11 in D flat Major and ravel’s Gaspard de la Nuit: Ondine, Le Gibet and Scarbo.

The DACLS has presented a consistent flow of world class virtuoso pianists who have graced the Cabrillo stage and left many in total amazement of their pianistic abilities. However, it was perfectly clear that to date, none had quite reached the artistic plateau of Sudbin. It was an exceptional treat to hear the Haydn Sonata, a composer of great magnitude whose sonatas are superbly thought out an inspirational to following composers of the time. Sudbin possess the stunning technique that enabled him to express all of Haydn’s intended details, especially when considering the magnificent piano he had at his disposal.

In both of the Chopin Ballades, Sudbin played with great depth, introspection, poise, breath, attack and created lines of pure *bel canto* beauty. Sudbin’s performance of Gaspard de la Nuit more than conquered Ravel’s immense technical demands. He explored and exhausted an immense range of tonal coloring and artistic imagination. Cantabile melodic lines were wonderfully supported by warm and sensually nuanced left hand accompaniment. The Yamaha CFX allowed Sudbin to produce a penumbra of beautiful harmonics throughout the evening’s performance and qualities of wonderful resonance and inevitable sustained decay of sound not heard before.

In response to a thunderous, standing ovation, Sudbin played two Rachmaninoff preludes.

This writer places Yevgeny Sudbin at the top of the most exciting and outstanding list of contemporary pianists!

JOSEF SEKON, D. M. A.