

For immediate release

**RUSSIAN PIANIST OLGA KERN TO MAKE ALICE TULLY HALL DEBUT
THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 2006, 8 P.M.**

**PROGRAM OF ROMANTIC MUSIC WILL INCLUDE
MENDELSSOHN, RACHMANINOFF, CHOPIN AND LISZT**

Russian pianist Olga Kern, the 30-year-old Gold Medalist of the 2001 Van Cliburn International Piano Competition, will make her Alice Tully Hall, Lincoln Center, debut on Thursday, March 16, 2006, at 8 p.m. Ms. Kern will perform a program of works by Mendelssohn, Rachmaninoff, Mendelssohn transcribed by Rachmaninoff, Chopin and Liszt.

The complete program is as follows:

Variations sérieuses in D minor, Op. 54	Felix Mendelssohn
Scherzo from a <i>Midsummer Night's Dream</i>	Mendelssohn-Rachmaninoff
Sonata No. 2 in B flat minor, Op. 35	Frédéric Chopin
Morceaux de fantaisie, Op. 3	Sergei Rachmaninoff
Élégie in E flat minor	
Prélude in C sharp minor	
Mélodie in E major	
Polichinelle in F sharp minor	
Sérénade in B flat minor	
Réminiscences de Don Juan	Franz Liszt

(The program is subject to change)

Tickets and Information

Tickets are \$50 to \$20, available by calling CenterCharge at 212/721-6500; the Alice Tully Hall Box Office (for information) at 212/875-5050; and online at lincolncenter.org.

Ms. Kern chose the works on her program for their individual character as well as their contrasting natures. "The Mendelssohn Variations," Ms. Kern says, "was a favorite of Vladimir Horowitz, but has not been prominent on programs since his death. It is a wonderful work and should be played and heard often. I hope to record this piece in the very near future, and did recently record the Chopin Sonata which will be released soon.

I have already released both the Mendelssohn-Rachmaninoff and the Liszt, and am thrilled to have an opportunity now to perform them live in New York City.”

About Olga Kern

In May, 2004, Olga Kern made a highly acclaimed New York City recital debut at Carnegie Hall’s new venue, Zankel Hall. Eleven days later, on May 12, 2004, in an unprecedented turn of events, Olga Kern was invited by Carnegie Hall to give a recital in the venue’s main hall, the Isaac Stern Auditorium.

Olga Kern’s professional career began in 2001 when she was awarded the Gold Medal at the Eleventh Van Cliburn International Piano Competition – the first woman to have achieved this distinction in more than 30 years. Since then, Ms. Kern has toured the United States, captivating fans and critics alike with her passionate and sensitive musicianship and vivid stage presence. Additional highlights in 2001 included her Boston Pops debut and a performance at Kennedy Center with soprano Reneé Fleming.

Ms. Kern has been a recent guest artist at several international music festivals, including the Klavier Ruhr and Kissinger Sommer festivals in Germany, the Radio-France Montpellier and Casadesus festivals in France, the Ohrid Festival in Macedonia, and the Busoni Festival in Italy.

In summer of 2005, Ms. Kern performed Grieg’s Piano Concerto in A minor with the St. Petersburg Philharmonic in Wiesbaden. Her summer 2005 festival appearances included the Bravo! Vail Valley, Lancaster and Interlochen Festivals. She also appeared at the Ravinia Festival, performing with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra under the direction of James Conlon. In August, 2005, she made her Hollywood Bowl debut performing Tchaikovsky’s First Piano Concerto with the Los Angeles Philharmonic.

Ms. Kern has performed in many of the world’s most important venues, including the Great Hall of the Moscow Conservatory, Salzburger Festspielehaus, Symphony Hall in Osaka, La Scala in Milan, Tonhalle in Zurich, and the Châtelet in Paris; she has appeared as soloist with the Bolshoi Theater, Moscow Philharmonic, St. Petersburg Symphony, Russian National, China Symphony, Belgrade Philharmonic, La Scala Philharmonic, Torino Symphony, and Cape Town Symphony Orchestras. She has performed with the Kirov Orchestra under the direction of Valery Gergiev at Kennedy Center, and at the Ravinia Festival with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra led by Christoph Eschenbach.

Ms. Kern was born into a family of musicians with direct links to Tchaikovsky and Rachmaninoff and began studying piano at the age of five. Winner of the first Rachmaninoff International Piano Competition when she was seventeen, she is a laureate of eleven international competitions and has toured throughout her native Russia, Europe, and the United States, as well as in Japan, South Africa, and South Korea. The recipient of an honorary scholarship from the President of Russia in 1996, she is a member of Russia’s International Academy of Arts.

Ms. Kern records exclusively for Harmonia Mundi. Her releases, to date, include the Tchaikovsky Piano Concerto No. 1 with the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra and Christopher Seaman (2003), a recording of Rachmaninoff's transcriptions including the Corelli Variations (2004) and her newest recording, released in May of 2005, of works by Rachmaninoff and Balakirev. She was also featured in the award-winning film documentary, *Playing on the Edge*.

Ms. Kern's full 2005-2006 schedule includes two coast to coast tours of the United States. in fall of 2005 and spring of 2006. Ms. Kern will return to the Casals Festival in Puerto Rico in February and will make her debut with the Taipei Symphony in June, 2006. Ms. Kern will also make her debut at Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall on March 16, 2006. In 2006-2007, Ms. Kern will tour the United States with the National Philharmonic of Russia under the direction of Vladimir Spivakov. Highlights of her 2007-2008 season will include her debut with the National Symphony Orchestra and Music Director Leonard Slatkin.

In the 2004-2005 season, Ms. Kern was soloist for the opening season gala concert of the Utah Symphony and Music Director Keith Lockhart, followed by a month-long tour of the United States with the Warsaw Philharmonic and its Artistic and General Director, Antoni Wit. Ms. Kern embarked on her second tour of the United States in spring, 2005, which included recitals in New York City (Metropolitan Museum of Art) and Atlanta (Spivey Hall). Her 2004-2005 orchestral engagements included the symphony orchestras of Albuquerque, Denver, Charleston, Syracuse, Salt Lake City, Phoenix and Nashville.

Internationally, Ms. Kern has toured throughout Europe and Russia, and made an extensive tour of South Africa in June of 2002, where she returned to tour again in February of 2005, performing all four Rachmaninoff piano concertos and *Rhapsody on a Theme by Paganini*, with her brother, Vladimir Kern, conducting, three times over a span of six days, an unprecedented feat undertaken especially for the South African audience. She has toured Alaska with the Moscow Chamber Orchestra, and in Spring of 2004 toured Austria with the Warsaw Philharmonic led by Artistic and General Director Antoni Wit.

Olga Kern began her formal training with acclaimed teacher Evgeny Timakin at the Moscow Central School and continued with Professor Sergei Dorensky at the Moscow Tchaikovsky Conservatory, where she was also a postgraduate student. She also studied with Boris Petrushansky at the acclaimed Accademia Pianistica Incontri col Maestro in Imola, Italy.

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NOT FOR PUBLICATION:

For CDs, additional information about Olga Kern, interview access or photographs, please contact Nancy Shear Arts Services, Press Representatives for this concert, 212/496-9418. sheararts@aol.com --
www.nancyshear.com