

## Yevgeny Sudbin

Hailed as one of the world's finest pianists the Russian superstar will be performing at the Shoe Factory later this month

**Y**evgeny Sudbin definitely thinks laughter is the best medicine and believes that a healthy dose of Joseph Haydn twice daily is the best prescription.

This marvellous young pianist who has been hailed by music critics around the world as potentially one of the greatest pianists of the 21st century will appear at The Shoe Factory on February 17 in a recital of works by Scarlatti, Chopin, Liszt, Medtner, Rachmaninov and Scriabin.

Born in St Petersburg in 1980, Yevgeny's exceptional musical talents were recognised from an early age and in 1987, he entered the Specialist Music School of the St Petersburg Conservatory. After furthering his education in Berlin, he moved to London in 1997 and studied

with Christopher Elton at the Royal Academy of Music. He has also had master-classes and lessons with Murray Perahia, Claude Frank, Leon Fleisher, Stephen Hough and Alexander Satz amongst others.

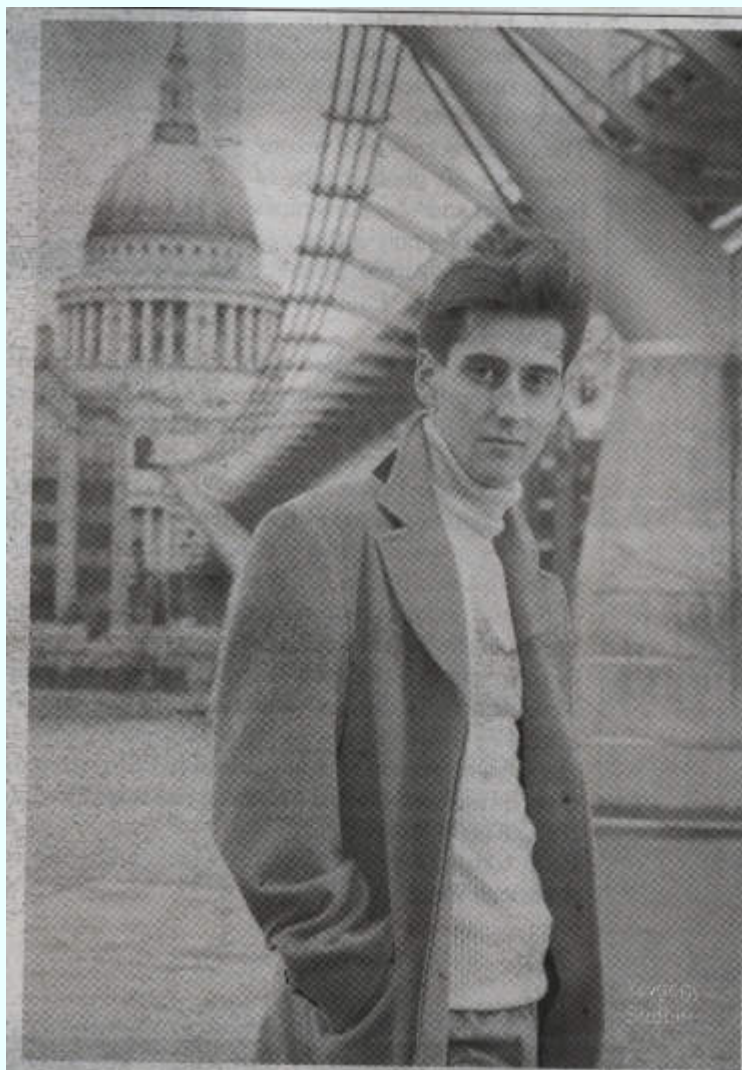
Sudbin has an extensive repertoire which he continually expands. "I try to be diverse" he explains. For a long time, he revered (and still does) the warm and respectful friendship between two of Russia's greatest composers who will feature on his programme at The Shoe Factory – Rachmaninov and Nikolai Medtner.

"The support and encouragement that Rachmaninov offered to his friend and colleague during the periods of tormenting self-doubt were always reciprocated by Medtner, which we witness through his letters. Unfor-

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Unfortunately, Medtner never attained the same level of recognition as Rachmaninov – in life or subsequently. Rachmaninov however pronounced Medtner the greatest composer of our time.”

Yevgeny says that it is easy to become possessed by Scriabin whom he describes as “one of the most enigmatic and controversial artistic personalities of all time.”

He colourfully compares it to being bitten “once one is bitten and the venom, in the form of his sound world enters the body and soul, the effects become all-encompassing and even life-threatening. Not only emotionally, as ones desperate quest for

answers only results in more questions, but also physically with the reactions severe. When I first became involved with Scriabin’s music, he eclipsed everything in my life.

The passion and curiosity for the music and the persona seemed self-nourishing and even destructive in its nature, almost like a type of lust which wouldn’t subside.

Even if I wasn’t always swimming in oceans, the penetrating cosmic sounds which imploded space and time and the often erotic sub-contexts, ignited every cell in my body. As

with all over-reactions, what is important is what is left after the initial sensations cool off – enduring reverence or an evaporation like smoke?”

Sudbin further explains that it is not only Scriabin’s ideas.

“For pianists, the music is a real treasure. If you have good acoustics and a good piano, sometimes you can really do magic.

“The things one can achieve with Scriabin’s sound-world are not, to my knowledge, possible with many other composers. You can talk about the Russianness of Rachmaninov, but Scriabin is not so clear cut – he sort of transcends.”

Sudbin’s other passion is his family and his new daughter with whom he is understandably smitten. Absolutely beautiful, he has taken thousands of pictures of her and finds it very difficult to be apart from her, and his piano-teacher wife, Sally Wei.

“I always want to know what is going on with them and don’t want to miss a minute” he adds.

Yevgeny’s Cyprus recitals are always sold out – don’t leave it to the last minute – go online and book now at [www.pharostickets.org](http://www.pharostickets.org)

## COMPETITION

Win two tickets to the Pharos Arts Foundation concert on February 8 by answering this question: When did the Tchaikovsky Trio form? Send the answer by email to [saskia@cytanet.com.cy](mailto:saskia@cytanet.com.cy)

