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## Take a trip to Russia in Omaha Symphony's *Rachmaninoff & Tchaikovsky* *Pianist Fabio Bidini performs Rachmaninoff's challenging Piano Concerto No. 3 in D Minor*

OMAHA, Neb., Oct. 10, 2017- Two of Russia's greatest composers take center stage in the Omaha Symphony's *Rachmaninoff & Tchaikovsky*, Friday, Oct. 20, and Saturday, Oct. 21, 7:30 p.m., at the Holland Performing Arts Center.

Led by guest conductor Teddy Abrams, the program will include Rachmaninoff's challenging Piano Concerto No. 3 in D Minor featuring pianist Fabio Bidini, and Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 2 in C Minor. The program will open with Michael Tilson Thomas's *Agnegram*.

Completed in 1909 in time for a trip to the United States, Rachmaninoff's Third Piano Concerto debuted in New York City, where it was favorably received. Critics noted its impressiveness and difficulty for any but the most skilled pianists. Indeed, the extraordinary virtuosic and musical demands of Rachmaninoff's Third Piano Concerto make it one of the most challenging works in the piano concerto repertoire. The soloist plays almost constantly throughout and must combine ear-popping virtuosity with a chamber musician's ability to listen and blend with the orchestra.

Tchaikovsky's Second Symphony, weaving together melody and dance, was inspired by Ukrainian folk songs that the composer wrote down after hearing peasants sing them while on vacation at his family home in Kamenka. The symphony impressed "The Five," a group of Russian nationalistic composers, which included Mussorgsky and Rimsky-Korsakov, who favored the folk song technique to give music a distinctly Russian sound. It is Tchaikovsky's shortest, most uplifting, and joyous symphony.

Conductor Teddy Abrams is an unusually versatile musician and the widely-acclaimed music director of the Louisville Orchestra and music director and conductor of the Britt Orchestra, as well as an accomplished pianist, clarinetist, and composer. He served as assistant conductor of the Detroit Symphony, and conducting fellow and assistant conductor of the New World Symphony. Abrams studied conducting under Michael Tilson Thomas, whose own piece appears on this program.

Italian pianist Fabio Bidini is one of this generation's top-flight pianists, appearing with the London Symphony Orchestra, The Philharmonia Orchestra of London, the San Francisco, New World, Dallas, and St. Louis symphonies, and festivals across Europe. He has been awarded first prize in 11 of Italy's most prestigious national piano competitions and has been the recipient of the top prizes awarded in eight international competitions, including the Van Cliburn.

Tickets to *Rachmaninoff & Tchaikovsky* start at \$19. They can be purchased by visiting [www.omahasymphony.org](http://www.omahasymphony.org) or by calling Ticket Omaha at 402.345.0606. Student Rush tickets are available one hour prior to the concert. Any student with a valid student ID may purchase up to two Student Rush tickets for \$10 each.

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Prior to each MasterWorks performance, Maestro Ernest Richardson will lead concertgoers in a step-by-step guide through the evening's program. These preconcert preludes begin at 6:45 p.m. in the Orchestra Level Lobby.

The Omaha Symphony MasterWorks series is sponsored by Omaha Steaks.

*The Omaha Symphony is a non-profit organization that presents more than 100 live orchestral performances from September through June. In addition to MasterWorks, Symphony Pops, Symphony Rocks, Movies, Symphony Joslyn, and Family series concerts, the Omaha Symphony's nationally recognized education programs touch the lives of nearly 30,000 schoolchildren each year. For tickets or information regarding the Omaha Symphony, call 402-345-0606 or visit [omahasymphony.org](http://omahasymphony.org).*

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