

The Program in Russian and East European Studies presents

RUSSIAN ROMANCES

*A recital of Sergei Rachmaninoff's art songs
and a conversation about their poetic,
pedagogical, and performance contexts*

Wednesday, April 16 at 5 PM
Annenberg Auditorium (in the Snite Museum of Art)

Pianist Nikolai Choubine enjoys a dynamic performance career that has taken him across the United States, Canada, and Europe. Dr. Choubine was born in the city of Krasnodar, Russia into a family of musicians and earned a Doctor of Music in Piano Performance degree from the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music. His most recent performances include Rachmaninoff's *Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini* with the Kuban Philharmonic Orchestra with Vladimir Ponkin conducting, a recital at Steinway Hall in Manhattan, and a Master Artist recital at the Golden Key Music Festival in New York City. Dr. Choubine is currently Lecturer in Piano at Saint Mary's College in Notre Dame, Indiana.



Soprano Laurel Thomas teaches voice and stagecraft, directs opera productions, and serves as a First Year Advisor at Saint Mary's College. During her undergraduate years at Occidental College, she studied voice, piano, and cello. Her vocal studies led her to the realization that a passion for music could be linked, throughout life, to a deep love of literature, poetry, and languages. She holds a Master of Music in vocal performance from the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana and a D.M.A. from the University of Texas in Austin. Dr. Thomas has performed with the South Bend Chamber Singers, the South Bend Symphony, Fleur de Lys, Claricello, the Northwest Indiana Symphony Orchestra, and frequently in recital.

Professor Alyssa Gillespie is a scholar of Russian poetry of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. She is the author of *A Russian Psyche: The Poetic Mind of Marina Tsvetaeva* (2001), the editor of *Russian Literature in the Age of Realism* (2003) and *Taboo Pushkin: Topics, Texts, Interpretations* (2012), and the author of numerous articles. She is also an award-winning translator of Russian poetry. Her research and teaching interests include Russian and Polish poetry, gender issues in literature, the poetry of exile, and the psychology of poetic genius. Dr. Gillespie has co-directed the Program in Russian and East European Studies at the University of Notre Dame since 2008.

