

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALOHA FESTIVAL CONCERT FILLED WITH WITCHES, WIZARDS AND WONDERS!

*Susan Duehlmeier and Bonnie Gritton delight with piano duets inspired by “Wicked,”
“The Wizard of Oz” and “Porgy and Bess”*

CONCERT: “Witches, Wizards and Wonders”
Saturday, June 13, 2009, 7:30 p.m.

LOCATION: Liliu Theater of the Hawaii Convention Center

TICKETS: General admission: \$20. Student tickets are \$5 (up to age 22).

INFORMATION: www.alohapianofestival.com

PROGRAM: RACHMANINOFF: *It’s Lovely Here* (arr. Babin)
RACHMANINOFF: *Vocalise*
RACHMANINOFF: *Floods of Spring*
HAKOBYAN, KAREN: *Fantasy on Wicked* (after Stephen Schwartz)
HIRTZ, WILLIAM: *The Wizard of Oz Fantasy* (1998)
GERSHWIN: *Fantasy on Porgy and Bess* (arr. Percy Grainger)

HONOLULU – (June 2, 2009) – The Aloha International Piano Festival (AIPF) presents a grand festival finale filled with witches, wizards and wonders as the acclaimed duo of Susan Duehlmeier and Bonnie Gritton unite in a must-attend performance on Saturday, June 11 at 7:30 p.m. This family-friendly concert in the Liliu Theater of the Hawaii Convention Center features the exceptional treat of piano duets performed live by one of music’s most fêted piano partnerships. Tickets are now on sale at www.alohapianofestival.com. Adult tickets are \$20 and students up to age 22 are eligible for \$5 tickets.

At the “Witches, Wizards and Wonders” finale concert, Duehlmeier and Gritton will introduce audiences to music inspired by the Hollywood classic *The Wizard of Oz* and the Broadway blockbuster *Wicked*. The duo will also present music from Gershwin’s beautiful *Porgy and Bess*. The evening begins with popular audience favorites by Rachmaninoff, including *Vocalise* and *Floods of Spring*.

The versatile duo of Duehlmeier and Gritton has met with accolades throughout the United States and Europe as they have performed works from Bach to Stravinsky. Having received Doctorates at opposite ends of the country (Duehlmeier with Leonard Shure at Boston University and Gritton with Aube Tzerko at the University of California at Los Angeles), the two began performing as faculty members at the University of Utah. It was in Utah that they discovered that they had similar and complementary musical ideas, perhaps due to their training in the Schnabel tradition. Their continued collaboration has included not only major concert venues but also educational outreach programs.

Most recently, Duehlmeier and Gritton’s engagements have taken them to China for a performance in Nanjing; Austria for a recital at Bosendorfer Hall in Vienna; Poland for a

performance on the Autumn Warsaw Festival; Washington D.C. for a concert in honor of the Ambassador from Mongolia; Connecticut for an appearance on the Friends of Music Chamber Series; Germany for the Lake Konstanz International Chamber Music Festival; Scotland for the International Piano Festival; and Israel for a featured concert at the Jerusalem Center. They have also performed on the Dame Myra Hess series in both Chicago and Los Angeles where their recitals were broadcast on public radio. Orchestral performances include numerous collaborations with the Utah Symphony as well as with the Warsaw Philharmonic Orchestra, the Czech Radio Orchestra, the Boston Pops, the Armenian Philharmonic Orchestra, the Westminster Chamber Orchestra and the Utah Philharmonia.

At AIPF, Duehlmeier and Gritton will also present a workshop about solo repertoire on Tuesday, June 9 at 10 a.m. The Duehlmeier-Gritton concert will conclude the weeklong festival, which presents a vibrant series of recitals for the public and workshops for aspiring pianists of all ages. AIPF also hosts an annual piano competition for pianists ranging in age from five to 25.

A Conversation with Bonnie Gritton

Concert pianist Bonnie Gritton recently took time away from her busy teaching and performance schedule to answer our questions about her career in music. Dr. Gritton has been a full-time tenured faculty member at the University of Utah for many years. In 2005, she reduced her load to half-time (Adjunct Professor) to be able to have more time for teaching and performing.

What inspired you to become a musician?

I begged my mother to teach me piano when I was four. The rest is history!

What keeps you inspired on discouraging days?

I get discouraged about many things in life but music always cheers me up.

What is the most memorable performance you have ever seen and why?

Murray Perahia. He plays with such understanding and heart. It was the most moving performance I've ever heard.

If you could perform with any musician, living or dead, who would it be?

Renée Fleming or Dawn Upshaw.

If you could master another instrument, what would it be?

Cello or voice.

If you could not be a musician, what other profession would you choose?

I'd be a designer (interior or clothing).

What do you listen to for inspiration?

I get my inspiration from quiet moments. I hear music sometimes 14 hours a day. Having a few

moments of absolute silence is wonderful.

A Conversation with Susan Duehlmeier

Concert pianist Susan Duehlmeier kindly spent some time away from her busy teaching schedule at the University of Utah to answer our questions about life as a professional musician. Dr. Duehlmeier is Professor, Piano Area Chair at the University and has a rigorous recital and concert schedule. In addition to her university teaching, she maintains a class of private students who have won prizes in all major statewide competitions, as well as national and international competitions. She also co-chairs the SummerArts Piano Festival and Competition, which provides performance and educational opportunities for pianists in Utah.

What inspired you to become a musician?

I had a mother who had always wanted to be a pianist but didn't have the opportunity to study. Because she provided me the opportunity and because of her passion for music, it became an important part of my life. I had many opportunities to perform and had such inspiring teachers; I wanted to pursue a career as a performer and teacher.

What keeps you inspired on discouraging days?

Gratitude for the beauty and inspiration that music has brought into my life and the amazing opportunity to perform with friends whom I admire. Observing the progress of students and the joy music has brought to them is also an inspiration.

What is the most memorable performance you have ever seen and why?

Garrick Ohlssen's Chopin recital at Libby Hall was a highlight. His imagination and beautiful sound transformed the music.

If you could perform with any musician, living or dead, who would it be?

My duo-piano partner, Bonnie Gritton. It is a joy to perform with her.

If you could master another instrument, what would it be?

Trumpet or bagpipes.

If you could not be a musician, what other profession would you choose?

Physician.

What do you listen to for inspiration?

I attend as many "live" performances as possible.

For more information about Bonnie Gritton and Susan Duehlmeier, please visit www.alohapianofestival.com.

About the Aloha International Piano Festival

Founded in 2006 by pianist Lisa Nakamichi, the Aloha International Piano Festival (AIPF) offers

Hawaii's local piano students, as well as visiting international students, opportunities to learn from world-class pianists in a nurturing environment. The AIPF enriches the greater community with opportunities to enjoy free and low-cost concerts performed by acclaimed artists. Each year, AIPF strives to elevate the awareness of classical music while offering people of all ages the opportunity to experience music in a relaxed setting. Visit www.alohapianofestival.com for more information.

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