

Simons Center for Geometry and Physics Art and Outreach Program Presents

# SUMMER 2023 TUESDAY CONCERTS

Tuesday, August 15

Dandy in Long Island

Performance By

Bela Horvath (violin)

Boris Nekrasov (actor – reading)

Catherine Zuber (costume designer and sketches)

Inessa Gordeiko (film – performer)

Leon Livshin (piano, director and creator)

## **A Note About Our Concert:**

On August 15th we invite you to the first part of our Dandyism Project. We call it Dandy in Long Island. All dandies from the past (the composers) and the present (the performers) will meet to discuss this enigmatic topic... in addition to Snobbism, Narcissism and Minimalism. In order to do so, we will use a deeply moving novella about Ravel, written by a French novelist Jean Echenoz. This novella touched my heart so much that I remember I couldn't talk for a few hours ... and what a contrast it presents to the usual banal biographies of composers!

At the first concert we will play pieces by Prokofiev, Ravel and Stravinsky. Each of them at some point paid tribute to dandyism - just as Oscar Wilde, Pushkin, and Tchaikovsky. But why?! Let's try to figure out this phenomenon.

This time our guest star is charming and stylish violinist, a "live dandy himself," Bela Horvath. Also I am privileged to work with the innovative and surprising film performer Inessa Gordeiko and a Tony Award-winning (8 times!!!) costume designer Catherine Zuber. Along with Boris Nekrasov who will play the role of our enigmatic Dandy...

So what is the definition (the essence) of a Dandy? One of many definitions belongs to a great Charles Baudelaire: "The man, who has no profession other than elegance... and who has to live and die before a mirror."

In his novella, Echenoz's personal reminiscences and biographical accounts of Ravel consistently affirm his dandyism, as well as the dandyism of his friend Stravinsky, and that of Prokofiev. At the same time, biographers usually discuss Ravel's "sexual enigma," proposing that his sexual energy was sublimated into the creation of his artworks. In the second part of our Dandyism Project (performed here at the Simons Center on August 22), I suggest that we talk about the sexuality of composers, and using Ravel as an example, try to figure out how it affects their creativity.

Musically yours,  
Leon