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## **Behzod Abduraimov comes to Melbourne.**

**The first Great Performers Series concert for 2012 highlights the astonishing 22-year-old pianist from Uzbekistan.**

**MELBOURNE, January 2012** – Melbourne audiences will be dazzled by one of the most talked-about new talents on the international music scene when **Behzod Abduraimov** makes his Melbourne Recital Centre debut on **27 March 2012**, inaugurating the Recital Centre's 2012 Great Performers series. The 22-year-old pianist galvanised the classical music world when he won the Grand Prize for the **London International Piano Competition** in 2009 with a spectacular performance of Prokofiev's Third Piano Concerto.

With his combination of youthful energy, skill and intelligence, the young Uzbek has already been compared to Vladimir Horowitz, one of the most exciting and virtuosic pianists of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Naturally, this has led to solo and concerto engagements with prestigious orchestras like the London Philharmonic and at Wigmore Hall. *The Independent's* music critic rhapsodized over his Wigmore recital: "The entire hall – despite not being used to doing such things – rose to its feet. Behzod Abduraimov, who takes his bow with both hands modestly on heart, is a quintessential showman, but of the greatest refinement. And he just might be the new Horowitz."

In 2012, Abduraimov will perform with the Sydney Symphony and the West Australian Symphony Orchestra, though he's no stranger to the Sydney Symphony, having been invited by Vladimir Ashkenazy to tour Asia with the Orchestra in 2010. His 2012 performances mark his Australian debut.

Abduraimov's Melbourne recital program displays his versatility and brilliance. The spritely sonatas of Scarlatti and the young Beethoven, and Liszt's *Blessing of God* demonstrate Abduraimov's lyrical gifts. The formidable challenges of Brahms' Paganini Variations are a test of any pianist's stamina and ability to structure a musical argument. Finally Liszt's transcription of Saint-Saens' *Danse macabre* (with extra special effects from Horowitz) and Liszt's *Mephisto Waltz* showcase Abduraimov's transcendent technique.

In 2011, Abduraimov signed an exclusive recording deal with Decca Classics, with his first recording slated for release in 2012.

### **PROGRAM**

Scarlatti, Sonata in B minor (Kp.27), Sonata in G minor (Kp.450) & Sonata in D major (Kp.96)  
Beethoven Sonata in D major, Op.10, No.3  
Brahms, Variations on a Theme of Paganini, Op.35, Book 1  
Saint-Saens/Liszt/Horowitz, *Danse macabre*  
Liszt, *The Blessing of God in the Solitude* from *Poetic and Religious Harmonies* & *Mephisto Waltz* No.1

### **EVENT DETAILS**

Tuesday 27 March 2012, 7.30pm  
Elisabeth Murdoch Hall, Melbourne Recital Centre  
Single tickets from \$50, Season Tickets available.  
Book at [melbournerecital.com.au](http://melbournerecital.com.au) or call the Box Office on 03 9699 3333.

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