

OREGON CENTER FOR THE ARTS

AT SOUTHERN OREGON UNIVERSITY

Enchanting melodies: local favorite pianists Tutunov and Hall present Valentine's concert at SOU

(Ashland, OR). The Tutunov Piano Series will host a special Valentine's Day concert featuring local pianists Brian Hall and Alexander Tutunov in a duo program on Friday, February 14, at the Southern Oregon University Music Recital Hall in Ashland.

Presented by the Oregon Center for the Arts at Southern Oregon University, the concert will begin at 7:30 p.m. Tickets for in-person and live-stream are available for purchase at <https://sou.universitytickets.com>.

"Every performance excites me, but this one holds a special place in my heart," said Alexander Tutunov, the series' namesake. "This concert is the result of a more than a decade-long friendship, united by a profound and deep love for music. On Valentine's Day, we bring you a romantic program filled with delicate, heartfelt melodies and a few delightful surprises – both on and off the stage.

The duo concert in Ashland will open with Anton Arensky's romantic "Suite, Op. 15", followed by Rachmaninoff's "Suite for Two Pianos."

Hall, a local anesthesiologist with a degree in music and a gold medal for piano playing to his name, is set to deliver a performance that will be anything but sleep-inducing.

Before attending medical school at the University of Utah, Hall completed a bachelor's degree in piano performance at Brigham Young University, where he studied with the late Dr. Paul Pollei, founder of the Gina Bachauer International Piano Foundation. With the encouragement and support of Tutunov, Hall competed in the 2015 Seattle International Piano Competition and was awarded a gold medal. He enjoys balancing a busy clinical schedule with family life with his wife Jill and their five children, three of whom are now adults. Hall has worked as an anesthesiologist for Southern Oregon Anesthesia for nearly 20 years.

"Alex is a cherished friend, and we've been performing together across the Rogue Valley for years," Hall said. "Sometimes we rehearse after we both finish long workdays – starting at 8 p.m. or later. Alex's expertise keeps me centered and striving to achieve more and push myself every time we get together. I'm thrilled to present this program and to be a guest on his series, especially on Valentine's Day. This concert promises to be a beautiful evening filled with romantic music dedicated to our families, friends and fans."

After the intermission, the pianists will switch pianos, offering the audience a dynamic view of both performers and their hands in motion across the keyboards. The program will continue with Francis Poulenc's "Élégie and L'Embarquement pour Cythère," followed by Samuel Barber's "Hesitation Tango from Souvenirs."

"This will be an unforgettable evening of music that we hope will sweeten this romantic holiday, and stay with the audience long after the final note," Tutunov said.

The concert's finale will be by William Bolcom's "The Garden of Eden" with four rags for two pianos which will include "Old Adam," "The Eternal Feminine" and "The Serpent's Kiss."

The Valentine's concert marks the fourth of seven concerts in this season's Tutunov series. Future performances will feature Russian-American pianist - Ilya Shmukler, the series' "Rising Star" on March 7th, one of the top five pianists in the world – Yefim Brofman on April 11th and a rare jewel - Margarita Shevchenko on May 2.

Some special Valentine's surprises will be in store for audience members as they exit the SOU Music Recital Hall.

Tickets for the Tutunov Piano Series are available in-person at the OCA Box Office Tuesday through Friday from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., on the SOU campus. Reserved seats are \$35 per person/\$30 for seniors. Live-stream link is \$35/household. For online tickets: <https://sou.universitytickets.com> or call the OCA Box Office at (541) 552-6348.

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