

OREGON CENTER FOR THE ARTS

AT SOUTHERN OREGON UNIVERSITY

International 'rising star' performs piano concert at SOU

(Ashland, OR). The Tutunov Piano Series will feature rising star Ilya Shmukler in concert on Friday, March 7, 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., in-person and live-streamed, with admission available for purchase at <https://sou.universitytickets.com>

"Fifteen months ago, when we first approached Ilya about performing here, he was an emerging talent," said Alexander Tutunov the artistic director and namesake of the series. "Today, he is an internationally acclaimed pianist and multiple gold medal winner. With recent victories in London just two weeks ago and Rio last week, he continues to rise quickly in the piano world. Audiences in Ashland have a rare opportunity to witness his extraordinary artistry firsthand."

Shmukler gave his first recital at the age of 12 and made his orchestral debut by 14. Since then, he has captivated audiences across Europe and North America as a soloist, performing with esteemed ensembles such as the Mariinsky Theatre Orchestra, Sendai Philharmonic, Bayer Symphoniker, Tambov Symphony Orchestra and New Music Orchestra, among others. His dynamic artistry and commanding stage presence continue to earn him recognition on the international stage.

"The program promises to be a musical tour de force, featuring beloved masterworks by Bach, Schubert, Liszt, and Debussy, culminating in Mussorgsky's iconic "Pictures at an Exhibition," Tutunov said. "His performances are nothing short of breathtaking – an experience not to be missed."

The evening program in Ashland marks the fifth of seven concerts in this season's series.

The final two concerts of the series will feature one of the top five pianists in the world on April 11 with Yefim Bronfman, and May 2 promises to be an unforgettable evening with Russian pianist Margarita Shevchenko – a true gem in the piano world. Prior to the May performance, Tutunov will unveil the lineup for the 2025-26 season, offering concertgoers the chance to secure season tickets for next year.

Tickets for the Tutunov Piano Series are available in-person at the OCA Box Office, Tuesday through Friday from 3 to 6 p.m., on the SOU campus. Reserved seats are \$35 per person/\$30 for seniors. The 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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