

CHICAGO SISTER CITIES HOSTS RECEPTION FOR RUSSIAN MUSICIANS SPIVAKOV AND KERN

On February 19, 2012, in Chicago, IL, the Moscow Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International hosted a VIP pre-performance reception for one of the most prominent Russian classical musicians Vladimir Spivakov and Olga Kern at Symphony Center.

The reception was attended by over 150 esteemed guests, held at the Private Club Room. Guests enjoyed wine and had an opportunity to network.

Ms. Kern greeted the guests and talked about how pleased she was to see so many people supporting her and Maestro Spivakov.

Following the reception, guests attended the concert at Symphony Center, which featured some of the most incredible and engaging pieces including Brahms' Violin Sonata No. 3 in D Minor, Stravinsky's "Suite Italienne," and works by Part and Franck.

Maestro Spivakov certainly needs no introduction. Having performed for over the three decades, he is considered one of the most acclaimed violin virtuosos of our time. He was called a violinist of "soulful and technical finesse," he appears regularly as a recitalist and orchestra soloist in all major international music capitals. **The New York Times** wrote "...a refined and aristocratic artist. His playing is not only extraordinarily persuasive, even exhilarating on a purely technical level, but bespeaks a refined and probing musical mind."

Pianist Olga Kern, launched her career by winning the Gold Medal at the Van Cliburn Piano Competition in 2001. She's been captivating and enthralling her audience and critics around the world. **The Washington Post** remarked "Kern's musicality radiates off the stage and saturates the hall, and it is joyously alive, immediately communicative, fragrantly sensual, and almost visual in its intensity. Whatever it is — call it star quality — music likes Kern the way the camera liked Garbo."

The event was sponsored by Dennis S. Gregor; Ameriprise Financial, Maestro Artist Management and The Russian American Cultural Heritage Center. Media sponsors included Kontinent Media Group.

Aleksandra Efimova, reception mc, remarked that "I hope that these kinds of personal interactions help build bridges of support and understanding between both countries."

Leonard Mogul on behalf of Kontinent Media Group stated that "building stronger ties between the two countries through enriching events would help to facilitate a greater appreciation for each respected and unique culture."

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