

Toronto **Symphony** Orchestra

Peter Oundjian, Music Director

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Media Release

A MONSTER ARTIST TAKES ON MONSTER PIANO REP

Peter Oundjian, conductor / Yefim Bronfman, piano

December 6 at 8 pm; December 7 at 2 pm; December 9 at 7:30 pm / Roy Thomson Hall

Toronto, Ontario-- This richly melodious programme spotlights three generations of quintessentially Russian music. The supremely demanding “**Rach 3**” featured with such unforgettable impact in the Oscar-winning film *Shine*, shares the bill with **Symphony No. 6** by Rachmaninoff’s idol and mentor, **Tchaikovsky**. The “**Pathétique**” **Symphony**, Tchaikovsky’s last will and testament, bares his tormented soul with fearless honesty.

Yefim Bronfman is widely regarded as one of the most talented virtuoso pianists performing today. His commanding technique and exceptional lyrical gifts have won him consistent critical acclaim and enthusiastic audiences worldwide, whether for his solo recitals, his prestigious orchestral engagements or his rapidly growing catalogue of recordings. He is a serious globetrotter, with engagements throughout Europe, Asia, and North America. Yefim Bronfman is known for enjoying cuisine around the world, in particular, sushi. He is an approachable, down to earth musician, “Fima”, as he’s called, also enjoys fine wines and the occasional cigar.

Yefim Bronfman has collaborated with flautist Emmanuel Pahud, pianist Emanuel Ax, conductors Valery Gergiev, Zubin Mehta, David Zinman, Mariss Jansons, Yuri Temirkanov, and Vladimir Jurowski, violinists Nikolaj Znaider and Gil Shaham, cellists Truls Mørk, the Emerson String Quartet, and countless other renowned artists and orchestras world-wide. He is an exclusive Sony Classical recording artist, and has won widespread praise for his solo, chamber and orchestral recordings. He won a Grammy award in 1997 for his recording of the three Bartók Piano Concertos with Esa-Pekka Salonen and the Los Angeles Philharmonic. A devoted chamber music performer, Mr. Bronfman has collaborated with the Emerson, Cleveland, Guarneri and Juilliard quartets, as well as the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center. He has also played chamber music with Yo-Yo Ma, Joshua Bell, Lynn Harrell, Shlomo Mintz, Jean-Pierre Rampal, Pinchas Zukerman and many other artists.

Yefim Bronfman immigrated to Israel with his family in 1973, and made his international debut two years later with Zubin Mehta and the Montreal Symphony. He made his New York Philharmonic debut in May 1978, his Washington recital debut in March 1981 at the Kennedy Center and his New York recital debut in January 1982 at the 92nd Street Y. Mr. Bronfman was born in Tashkent, in the Soviet Union, on April 10, 1958. In Israel he studied with pianist Arie Vardi, head of the Rubin Academy of Music at Tel Aviv University. In the United States he studied at The Juilliard School, Marlboro and the Curtis Institute, and with Rudolf Firkusny, Leon Fleisher, and Rudolf Serkin. Yefim Bronfman became an American citizen in July 1989.

This concert is part of the Russian Festival. On December 9 there will be a post-concert reception with live music.

Tickets: Call the Roy Thomson Hall box office at 416 593 4828.

December 6: \$120, \$91.50, \$85, \$75, \$65.50, \$50, \$41.50, \$35. Dec 7 & 9: \$71, \$64, \$59, \$55, \$51, \$41, \$33, \$27.50.

Mon-Fri, 9-8. Sat, 12-5. Sun, 3 hrs prior to concert start. Purchase online: www.tso.ca VISA/MC/AMEX.

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