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## **NEWS RELEASE**

*For Immediate Release*

*February 1, 2007*

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## **Colorado Springs Philharmonic Orchestra is joined by Joyce Yang, the 2005 Van Cliburn Competition Silver Medalist**

The Colorado Springs Philharmonic Orchestra under the baton of Maestro Lawrence Leighton Smith will feature Joyce Yang, who at nineteen years of age was the 2005 Van Cliburn Competition Silver Medalist. Joyce Yang continues to captivate audiences and colleagues with her warm and generous personality, combined with musicianship that belies her age. Ms. Yang will be performing Prokofiev's *Piano Concerto No. 3* on Saturday, February 24 at 8:00 pm and again on Sunday, February 25 at 2:30 pm at Pikes Peak Center. Ms. Yang will be autographing cds in the lobby. Also on the program is Dvořák's *Symphony No. 6*.

Joyce Yang began playing piano at age four as her aunt's first piano student; at age ten, she entered the Korean National Conservatory. In 1997, Joyce moved to New York and began studying in Juilliard's pre-college division. She gained international renown during the 2005 Van Cliburn International Piano Competition, in which she was awarded the silver medal despite being the competition's youngest participant. During the same competition, Joyce was also awarded both the Steven De Groote Memorial Award for Best Performance of Chamber Music, as well as the Beverley Taylor Smith Award for the Best Performance of a New Work. Her interests include shopping, visiting art museums, and listening to smooth jazz.

The Van Cliburn Competition is named for the acclaimed pianist who gained prominence after winning the first Tchaikovsky International Competition in Moscow in 1958. A few years later, some music teachers in Cliburn's hometown of Fort Worth created a contest in his honor. Cliburn, 70, is not a judge but attends many performances and presents the awards.

Sergei Prokofiev was a Russian composer who mastered numerous musical genres and came to be admired as one of the greatest composers of the 20th century. Prokofiev is perhaps most famous for music he composed for the children's story Peter and the Wolf. He proved his talent as a pianist and composer at a very early age, and in 1904 moved with his mother to St. Petersburg, where he studied at the St. Petersburg Conservatory. As a young man he traveled to England and Europe on tour, and in 1918 he left Russia for the United States. During the 1920s he toured New York, Chicago, London and Paris,

gaining popularity with audiences, if not with critics. In 1927 he returned to perform in the Soviet Union and was greeted as a national hero. In the early 1930s he traveled between Paris and Moscow, finally settling in Moscow in 1936. A few years later, World War II marked the beginning of Prokofiev's rocky relationship with the Soviet government of Joseph Stalin. Although he continued to be a productive composer, in the late 1940s Prokofiev fell out of favor with government officials and spent his last years in failing health and financial insecurity.

Of the five piano concertos written by Prokofiev, the Piano Concerto No. 3 in C major, Op. 26, has garnered the greatest popularity and critical acclaim.

In his own words....

*"When I was in the United States and England I often heard discussions on the subject of whom music ought to serve, for whom a composer ought to write, and to whom his music should be addressed. In my view the composer, just as the poet, the sculptor, or the painter, is in duty bound to serve man, the people. He must beautify human life and defend it. He must be a citizen first and foremost, so that his art may consciously extol human life and lead man to a radiant future. Such, as I see it, is the immutable goal of art."*

## Public Service Announcement

### **30 Second PSA**

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## CALENDAR

- Who:** **The Colorado Springs Philharmonic Orchestra**, Van Cliburn Competition Silver Medalist **Joyce Yang** and conductor **Lawrence Leighton Smith**
- What:** 2005 Van Cliburn Competition Silver Medalist, Joyce Yang will astound you with her virtuosity and warmth. Prokofiev's demanding and thrilling third piano concerto is his most popular and Yang fills it with the fire and excitement Prokofiev intended.

**When:** Saturday, February 24, 2007 at 8 pm  
Sunday, February 25, 2007 at 2:30 pm

***Pre-concert Conversation** led by Maestro Smith and Michael Campion, program host and producer from KCME 88.7 FM, in **Studio Bee** for ticket holders one hour before each concert.*

**Where:** Pikes Peak Center for the Performing Arts, 190 South Cascade Avenue,  
Colorado Springs

**Tickets:** Ticket prices range from \$12-\$50. Available at Pikes Peak Center Box Office, all TicketsWest outlets; by calling 520-SHOW (7469) or 866- 464-2626 (toll free); online at [www.ticketwest.com](http://www.ticketwest.com).

Visit [www.csphilharmonic.org](http://www.csphilharmonic.org) or call 719-884-2110 for more information.

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