



SOCIETY FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS
Bringing the World's Best to Houston

Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Pianist Leif Ove Andsnes Makes Houston Recital Debut with Multimedia Project, *Pictures Reframed*

HOUSTON (Nov. 3, 2009) – Society for the Performing Arts (SPA), bringing the world's best to Houston, presents the Houston debut recital of Norwegian pianist Leif Ove Andsnes and *Pictures Reframed*, his multimedia collaboration with South African artist Robin Rhode, on Sunday, Nov. 22, at 2 p.m. in Wortham Center's Cullen Theater. *Pictures Reframed* makes its world premiere at New York's Lincoln Center on Nov. 13, just before traveling to Houston.

Andsnes and Rhode, known for his bold "moving" creations and performance-based videos, conceived a program that brings together music and film in one evocative event. *Pictures Reframed*, inspired by Mussorgsky's epic piano suite *Pictures at an Exhibition*, will feature a video installation by Rhode. The program also includes other solo works such as *What becomes*, a new commission by Austrian composer Thomas Larcher; *Candle and Spray Painting*, two visual pieces without music by Rhode; selections from Schumann's *Kinderszenen*, Op. 15; and Mussorgsky's *From Memories of Childhood*.

Composed in 1874, Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition* was experimental in its day and highly visual in its content. One of the most famous pieces of classical music, the work has been visited and re-visited by countless artists over its 130-year history.

Andsnes has recorded more than 30 discs spanning repertoire from Bach to present-day composers. *The New York Times* said of Andsnes, "When he sits in front of the keyboard...extraordinary things happen." Over the past decade he has received seven Grammy nominations and many international awards, upholding *The New York Times'* claim that he is "the most accomplished pianist of the new generation." Leif Ove Andsnes' latest disc titled *Shadows of Silence* features works by Danish composer Bent Sorensen, which Andsnes premiered at New York's Carnegie Hall and London's Proms.

Rhode has emerged as one of the most exciting young artists in his field, avoiding the limitations of working in one artistic genre. His work often consists of physical human interaction with the images he creates. He draws commonplace objects on walls or on the floor and then takes photographs or films using these objects to create a sequence of events, a fluid action or interaction. In 2005 he was the youngest artist ever to be featured at the Venice Biennale's Italian Pavilion in the company of Francis Bacon, William Kentridge and Stan Douglas, and since then he has mounted solo exhibitions at a number of leading galleries and

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LEIF OVE ANDSNES/ADD 2

institutions including Perry Rubenstein Gallery in New York, Haus der Kunst in Munich, White Cube and the Hayward Galleries in London. His recent Hayward Gallery exhibition marked him out as the youngest ever solo exhibiting artist there.

Part of SPA's Family Fun Series, this performance is generously sponsored Cooper Industries, Wells Fargo, Continental Airlines, H-E-B, The Brown Hand Center and BMC Software.

Prior to the performance, patrons are welcome to attend the HEB Performance Prelude at 6:30 p.m. in the Jones Hall lobby featuring Elmer Bondy Intermediate School Chamber. Patrons may also attend the BMC Software Arts Talk!, a pre-performance discussion given by BOWFIRE Artistic Director and Performer Lenny Solomon at 7 p.m. in the Jones Hall lobby, balcony level.

Tickets range from \$20-\$60 and can be purchased online at www.spahouston.org, by phone at 713-227-4SPA or at the courtyard level ticket office at Jones Hall located at 615 Louisiana St. Hours of operation: 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. Monday – Friday, and 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. on Saturday. For groups of 15 or more, call 713-632-8113.

About Society for the Performing Arts

Founded in 1966, Society for the Performing Arts (SPA) is the largest independent non-profit presenting organization in the Southwest. Since its inception, SPA has sponsored more than 800 performances of the world's finest music, dance and theater events, in adherence to the belief that the arts are fundamental to the overall enrichment and quality of life within the community. In addition to presenting artists, SPA seeks to provide a variety of learning experiences for adults and children through master classes, lectures and special student performances, as well as build relationships between the performing arts and other interests within the greater Houston area and throughout the state of Texas.

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