

Research Grant – Fall 2014

Faculty member: Svetozar Ivanov

Unit: School of Music

Project/Proposal Title: *European Tour – Multimedia Recitals, Teaching Residency, and Steinway Piano Selection*

Abstract:

Funds from this grant will help cover expenses for my concert tour in Europe. The tour included solo multimedia recitals at two International Festivals: Pianotune in Belgium and PianoEchos in Italy, as well as at the Deutsche Demokratische Republik Radio Studio in Berlin, Germany. I also had a two-day teaching residency at University of Southern Denmark presenting a series of master classes for the piano students at the University.

Proposal:

This concert tour included three performances of my solo-piano multimedia recital “Blood of a Poet”. In this program I combine footage from Jean Cocteau’s film “Le sang d’un Poète” (Blood of a Poet) with music by Satie, Cage, Stravinsky, Barber, Scriabin, and Cowell. I presented this program as guest-artist at two very prestigious music festivals: Pianotune in Belgium (<http://www.ccmaasmechelen.be/site/inhoud/activiteit.php?id=2398>) and PianoEchos in Italy (<http://www.pianoechos.it/~svetozar-ivanov/>). Pianotune (<http://pianotune.be>) is a major piano festival in Belgium that invites every year six pianists from around the world to present recitals at different venues in Flanders (the Northern part of Belgium). PianoEchos (<http://www.pianoechos.it>) is one of the most prestigious festivals in Italy and it presents piano concerts at different venues in Northern Italy. My recital took place in the historic city of Alessandria (Monferrato region).

I was also invited to perform “Blood of a Poet” at the former DDR Radio Studio in Berlin, Germany. This was a really rare and special opportunity to present a recital at the studio where so many of the great musicians from the Eastern Block have performed and made some legendary recordings.

During my tour, I had a short residency at University of Southern Denmark. I presented two days of master classes for the piano students from this university. As a result, next semester I will be organizing a student exchange between our universities: some of our piano students will go to Denmark for 2 weeks, they will take lessons with my colleagues at the Danish University, present a concert, visit classes, and experience the student life at that institution. At the same time, several of the piano students from Denmark will be visiting our school for lessons, recital, and chamber music performances with our string students.

Although not a research activity, an interesting part of my travels included a visit to the Steinway factory in Hamburg, Germany. I selected a new Hamburg Steinway B piano that was the final purchase for the College of the Arts “Steinway Initiative”. Our college completed the initiative and the School of Music is now an “All-Steinway School” with a great collection of Steinway pianos (both from the New York and the Hamburg factories). Pictures and videos from my Steinway selection are currently used by USF development for preparing a media campaign about this event.