

Symphony Orchestra to perform all-Russian concert with guest David Peter Coppen

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Alfred University's (AU) Division of Performing Arts invites the public to enjoy a free concert featuring an all-Russian program by the AU Symphony Orchestra and guest pianist David Peter Coppen, Saturday, April 18 at 7:30 p.m. in Miller Theater.

The concert will showcase the ever-popular "Night on Bald Mountain" by Modest Mussorgsky followed by the hauntingly lyrical "Third Piano Concerto" by Serge Rachmaninoff - an Alfred debut. The AU Symphony is directed by Dr. Lisa Lantz, associate professor of music/strings and chairman of the Performing Arts Division.

"For me, the "Third" represents a pinnacle of the piano literature, and scaling its heights feels like an Everest-ian undertaking that requires the discipline of an athlete," said Coppen. "Equally important, though, it is a profound artistic and musical statement, one that nearly every pianist longs to interact with. It's a privilege for a pianist to be granted the opportunity to perform it, and for this I am truly grateful to Dr. Lantz and the AU Symphony Orchestra."

Coppen is Special Collections librarian and archivist at the Sibley Library of the Eastman School of Music, Rochester. He holds a bachelor's of music degree in piano performance from the University of Michigan and has studied piano at the Eastman School.

Lantz earned a bachelor's degree in music from the University of Toledo; a master's degree in music and a specialist certification in music performance, both from the University of Michigan; and a Ph. D. in musical arts from The Ohio State University.

As an experienced orchestral and chamber musician, Lantz has performed with many regional orchestras including as co-concertmaster of the Southern Tier Symphony; The Orchestra of the Finger Lakes; and the Flint, Saginaw, and Ashland (MI) symphonies.

Within the community, Lantz is the music director of the AU Youth Orchestra and Junior Strings, and heads the Beginning Strings program.