

Pianist to present two performances during residency

3/10/05

Pianist Gustavo Tolosa will perform at 8 p.m. Friday, March 18, in Howell Hall on the Alfred University campus as part of the guest artist series sponsored by AU's Division of Performing Arts. The program will include selections from "The Four Seasons in Buenos Aires," by Astor Piazzolla; Beethoven's Sonata in C Minor, "Pathetique;" "The Machine Age" by William Albright and "Three Argentine Dances" by Alberto Ginastera. He will also present the March 17 Bergren Forum, "Musical Pictures of Argentina," at 12:10 p.m. in Nevins Theatre, Powell Campus Center, as part of his two-day residency, made possible by funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities, ALANA Affairs and the Division of Performing Arts. Both performances are open to the public, free of charge. Tolosa, active as a soloist and chamber musician, is currently director of College Programs at Brookhaven College in Dallas, TX and is engaged in creating innovative recitals that combine music with other art forms and include multi-media presentations. He also created the "Inter-Disciplinary Concert Series," in which each year he presented a recital in conjunction with an artist from another discipline. For the first, in 1999, he presented with artist Robert Green. For the second, Albert Haley, writer-in-residence at Abilene, wrote original poetry to accompany Tolosa's recital. He has presented other inter-disciplinary recitals, including one at the Texas Music Teachers Association Convention in Austin, TX, and another at the University of Wisconsin. His major areas of interest include 20th century composers, as well as Latin American composers. In 2000, he performed Ginastera's "Piano Concerto No. 1" with the Abilene Philharmonic Orchestra. He is in frequent demand as a competition adjudicator and master class presenter. In July 1998, he was invited to give a lecture during the Piano Pedagogy Seminar at the Eastman School of Music and to serve as one of the adjudicators in the Young Artists' International Piano Competition. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Abilene Christian University; a master's degree in music from the University of Redlands in California and a doctorate in piano from the Eastman School of Music in Rochester where he studied with internationally acclaimed pianists such as Barry Snyder, Nelita True, Natalya Antonova and Malcolm Bilson. Prior to taking his present position with Brookhaven College, Tolosa spent seven years at Abilene Christian University as Piano Division director. Since 1978, he has given more than 300 performances in the U.S. and South America. His 2004-2005 tour includes 15 recitals and presentations around the country. Tolosa enjoys performing four-hand music with his mother Raquel and they have presented numerous recitals in the U.S. and have helped several organizations by offering fund-raising concerts for them. The International Biographical Centre in England selected Tolosa as one of the "outstanding musicians of the 20th century."