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Italian Pianist to Perform at IWU

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--Andrea Padova, the 1995 winner of the J.S. Bach International Piano Competition, will perform three pieces ranging from classical to contemporary at Illinois Wesleyan University on Tuesday, Feb. 1 at 7:30 p.m.

Free and open to the public, the concert will be held in Westbrook Auditorium of Presser Hall, 303 E. University Ave., Bloomington.

Padova will perform the entire "Goldberg Variations" of J.S. Bach, "Toccatà" by Goffredo Petrassi and "Invention for Solo Piano: B-A-C-H Recalled" by Mario J. Pelusi, IWU associate professor of composition and theory and director of the School of Music.

Last spring, Padova commissioned Pelusi to compose "Invention for Solo Piano: B-A-C-H Recalled," a contemporary tribute piece to Bach. Pelusi met Padova a few years ago after observing Padova conducting a master class for piano students. Pelusi and Padova corresponded since their initial encounter.

"I was very impressed with his musicianship and by his ability to perform a tremendous range of piano music including contemporary music," said Pelusi.

Considered one of the most convincing and innovative Bach interpreters of the new generation, Padova studied pianoforte with Vincenzo Vitale, Aldo Ciccolini and Eric Larsen, and composition at the Accademia di Santa Cecilia in Rome under the direction of Franco Donatoni.

In 1993, the North Carolina School of the Arts awarded Padova the "Berti Fellowship," which enabled Padova to dedicate himself to the study and reconstruction of Bach's musical fragments.

The magazine, *CD Classica*, declared Padova's CD, "Bach: Complete Fantasias," to be one of the best three piano recordings of 1997. Released on the Stradivarius label, the CD is the first complete recording of Bach's *Fantasias*.

In 1998, Padova opened the chamber music season at Carnegie Hall in New York City.

A scholar as well as a musician, Padova studies 18th century performance practices and instruments, which includes the clavichord and the pianoforte. In addition, Padova examines the problems that occur when performing Bach's compositions on the modern instrument.

Padova will perform the world premiere of "Invention for Solo Piano:

B-A-C-H Recalled" on Sunday, Jan. 23, 2000, in Washington, D.C. at the Phillips Collection, the country's first modern art museum. The program in Washington, D.C. will contain the same music to be performed at IWU.

Also, in 2000, Padova will perform Pelusi's "Invention for Solo Piano:

B-A-C-H Recalled," Bach's "Goldberg Variations" and other pieces by Italian composers in Pittsburgh, Vancouver, Toronto, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Millikin University in Decatur, Ill.

Padova has also given recitals in Italy, France, Germany, Poland, Sweden, Denmark, Greece, Turkey and Israel.

"As a performer, Padova is one of the most brilliant keyboard players in the world," said Pelusi. "To win the J.S. Bach International Piano Competition, you have to be an exceptionally fine pianist," said Pelusi.

The J.S. Bach International Piano Competition offers young pianists of all nationalities, who want to promote the importance of the "Bach-image" both in public concerts and in the field of teaching, the opportunity to compete. Candidates in the competition demonstrate piano and artistic skills and a keenly developed awareness of style within their Bach interpretations.

The program is part of the IWU School of Music's New Music Series 1999-2000. A celebration of 20th century music, musical elements of the early part of the 20th century to the present are featured in the performances of world premieres, music by Eastern European composers, music by contemporary American composers and student compositions. The New Music Series 1999-2000 also includes performances by the IWU Jazz Ensemble and Collegiate Choir.

For more information on Andrea Padova and the New Music Series 1999-2000, contact the IWU School of Music at (309)556-3061.