

# ***THE PRIDONOFF DUO***

## **Just a Few of the Many Quotes**

“The Pridonoffs were charming...they favor a crisp precise style...buoyant and rhythmically alive, and marked by impressive unanimity of attack.”  
*John Rockwell, The New York Times*

“They have honed their performance to the highest possible degree of pianistic artistry.”  
*The Arizona Republic*

“The Pridonoffs played with excellent timing and technique...energized but sensitive, elegiac in the Lento, exuberant in the finale.”  
*The Cincinnati Post*

“What is sure is that the Pridonoffs make an exciting team in a pepertory that isn't played in public enough.”  
*The Denver Post*

## **CCM Piano Faculty and Philharmonia Orchestra Shine in 'Pianopalooza IV' April 26**

**Fourth annual musical extravaganza features thrilling feats of piano virtuosity and celebrates CCM's designation as an "All-Steinway School."**

Date: 3/25/2009 12:00:00 AM

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Virtuosity takes center stage at **PIANOPALOOZA IV**. The University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music (CCM) presents the fourth installment of this popular annual event, hosted by the Friends of CCM and featuring performances from all six of CCM's esteemed piano faculty members: [Michael Chertock](#), [Awadagin Pratt](#), [Eugene](#) and [Elisabeth Pridonoff](#), [James Tocco](#) and [Frank Weinstock](#). The performance will be held **Sunday, April 26, at 7 p.m.** in CCM's Corbett Auditorium. Cincinnati television news anchor **Jack Atherton** will serve as the event's emcee.



CCM's piano faculty shine in Pianopalooza IV



In November 2008, CCM made history by making the largest ever unit purchase of pianos—165 instruments in all—from New York-based manufacturer [Steinway & Sons](#). **Pianopalooza IV marks the formal debut of CCM's new collection of Steinway concert grands.** Performance highlights include all six pianists performing Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue" with the CCM Philharmonia Orchestra, led by conductor Mark Gibson. Representatives from Steinway will also be on hand to help celebrate CCM's new designation as an "All-Steinway School."

Proceeds from the event benefit the Friends of CCM, which supports scholarships and career development grants for CCM students. Tickets range from \$20 to \$50. For ordering information, contact CCM External Relations at 513-556-2100.

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#### *CCM Event Details*

#### **PIANOPALOOZA IV**

A benefit concert featuring CCM's celebrated piano faculty and Philharmonia Orchestra performing piano favorites, including Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue."

#### **Event Date & Time:**

Sunday, April 26, 7 p.m.

#### **Location:**

Corbett Auditorium  
University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music

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## Pridonoff Duo Celebrate 25 Years of Harmonious Music Together with CCM Concert

**Acclaimed husband-and-wife pianists Eugene and Elizabeth Pridonoff are joined by Percussion Group Cincinnati for a very special anniversary concert, celebrating the couple's 25th anniversary as a performing duo. Repertoire includes works by Rachmaninoff, Arensky, Stravinsky and Ravel.**

Date: 1/31/2008 12:00:00 AM

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The University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music (CCM) is proud to present the Pridonoff Duo 25th Anniversary Concert, Tuesday, Feb. 12, at 8 p.m. in CCM's Corbett Auditorium. Acclaimed husband-and-wife pianists Eugene and Elizabeth Pridonoff celebrate 25 years of performing together with a special concert event featuring guest artists Percussion Group Cincinnati. Admission is free and open to the public.

In 1982, Eugene and Elizabeth Pridonoff formed the Pridonoff Duo, making their formal debut with the Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra under the direction of Paul Nadler. They were appointed Duo-in-Residence at CCM in 1986, shortly after they gave their debuts at New York's Alice Tully Hall and the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. They have since performed extensively throughout the United States, Europe, Mexico, China, Hong Kong, Japan, Taiwan and Korea. The New York Times has described their sound as "buoyant and rhythmically alive [and] marked by impressive unanimity of attack."

The Pridonoffs have invited Percussion Group Cincinnati, featuring CCM faculty members Allen Otte, James Culley and Russell Burge, to join them onstage for this special concert event.



Elizabeth and Eugene Pridonoff

"We are particularly excited to perform with Percussion Group because we made our Alice Tully Hall debut with them in 1986," said Eugene Pridonoff. Repertoire for the concert includes Sergei Rachmaninoff's "Three Songs," Alexander Arensky's Suite No. 1, Op. 15, Maurice Ravel's "La Valse," and with Percussion Group Cincinnati, Ravel's "Mother Goose" and Igor Stravinsky's "Rite of Spring." Continued Mr. Pridonoff, "Special arrangements of 'Rite of Spring' and 'Mother Goose' for two pianos and percussion are the result of Al Otte's ingenious application of orchestral materials into the percussion parts, giving the works unusual color and effectiveness."

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# For Wyoming couple, Steinway purchase shows college program's value

By Kelly McBride Reddy • [kreddy@communitypress.com](mailto:kreddy@communitypress.com) • August 21, 2009

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A Wyoming couple will be featured in an upcoming edition of CBS "Sunday Morning" after their participation in a historic purchase of Steinway pianos for the University of Cincinnati. Eugene and Elizabeth Pridonoff, both professors at the College-Conservatory of Music, had been accompanied by film crews as they traveled to New York City to choose pianos for the university. UC had approved the purchase of 165 Steinways at a cost of \$4.1 million.

The pianos, which had been delivered between December and April this year, have enhanced all departments at the college, and have elevated the school's appeal for incoming students, the Pridonoffs said. "When you go into a voice studio, it helps them to sing better if they hear an instrument that plays so beautifully," Elizabeth said. "Everyone got a Steinway in their studio."

The Sunday morning program on CBS will air Sept. 20. It will be simulcast on Fountain Square that morning, starting at 9:30 a.m. It will show the process by which the musicians chose several pianos in a Steinway showroom. "That is not so easy," Eugene said. "You play an instrument, and then move to the next. "It's subjective, the feel and sound of each instrument." "There is a tremendous difference in sound," Elizabeth said. "The soul of each piano is personal." Elizabeth said the purchases show the school's commitment to a legacy of beauty in music.

"In our culture where things are fleeting and the world is taken by immediate gratification," she said, "to have these, which will last for centuries, they thought enough of our faculty so we can give to our students." Eugene agreed. "This is a gift to the community," he said. "It represents a legacy for UC and is an indication of investment and endorsement to what CCM is to the university and the community. "It makes the school even more a global center for the arts."

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