

# He passionately makes the music of Chopin sing in a manner like no other

Belgian pianist of Indian origin SEENU SINGH talks to DIVYA KAPOOR about music the celebrated composer created and how he wants to take his creative genius to the masses

He began with *Military* and went on to do the *Heroic*. No, this isn't going to turn into an armed forces coup chronicle. These are reminiscent of the pieces Belgian pianist of Indian origin Seenu Singh presented during his 70-minute performance in the Capital recently. Basing the show entirely on his favourite composer Frédéric Chopin, Singh first gave the audience a taste of a polonaise, pieces that are characteristic of Poland and then moved on to ballads, pieces that are lyrical in nature and finally to nocturnes, pieces that are suggestive of night.

"Chopin could never return to Poland after moving to France. So in his polonaise compositions, there is a longing for Poland. Nocturnes, on the other hand, are soft, intimate and gentle pieces and in history were played during the night only. I have tried to keep varied pieces so as to give people a good understanding of Chopin's works," says the 25-year-old pianist who performed here as part of 200th anniversary of Chopin.

Singh, whose love affair with piano started at the age of two when his father bought home a few tapes of Chopin, was playing nursery rhythms on his father's piano by the age of six. His interest, after encouragement from parents, metamorphosed into passion and when it came to choosing a career in medicine, engineering or music, he recalls, "Music won by a considerable margin".

There is something about Chopin's music



that makes me want to play his compositions all the time. Now looking back, I don't think I would have enjoyed doing anything else," he says, adding, "Chopin is known as the poet of piano and his pieces considered very deep and poignant. So when many the audience let out a tearful sob, Singh says he wasn't surprised. "This is the power of music. It can move you to the extent than you

get very vulnerable emotionally. It has happened during my concerts in Belgium and Scotland when people have come to me and told me how much the music has moved them. But then, it's Chopin's magic, not mine."

Seenu Singh was born in Bhopal in March 1985 but moved to France with his family, then to Australia and finally to Belgium where he has

been living for about 20 years. He has often been described by critics as "an artist of consummate technical ability" who "passionately makes the music of Chopin sing in a manner like no other" and an artist with a "true instinct for the atmospheric power of the music". Upon the kind recommendation of maestro Zubin Mehta, Seenu was guided by distinguished pianist Rudolf Buchbinder at the "Palace of Fine Arts" in Brussels during Buchbinder's concert tour of Belgium.

On his second India visit, Singh says playing for the home country is always a pleasure. "Although music is accepted in the same way everywhere, people react to it differently. I think Indians are now opening up to the magic of piano recitals. There are many societies that are promoting Western classical music and institutes that offer piano lessons. I found a number of children with passion for music this time," he says.

Although his recitals come across as seemingly effortlessly and entirely from memory, he says there is a great deal of hardwork that goes into the preparation. "When you play a piece, you have to know it by heart. Sometimes I use my visual memory but sometimes it is the long-term memory that comes to rescue. For example, if I play a piece that I haven't played for years, my mind may not remember it immediately but my fingers would still play it," says Singh who practices everyday for six to eight hours.

Not very ambitious, the young pianist believes in taking each day as it comes and besides "entertaining people with great music" he does not have any potential plans for the future. "I just want to reach as many people as possible through music," he concludes.

photo Sahil Kathpal

## SOCIETY

On the cultural and social trail



### CHOPIN LIVES ON

Celebrating the Belgian Presidency of the Council of European Union and 200th anniversary of Frederic Chopin, the Embassies of Belgium and Poland in Delhi held a Chopin recital by Seenu Singh. The one hour performance enthralled all, the notes taking one through the maestro's compositions of night, love and solitude. Singh, who lives in Belgium, would like to do his post graduation in Chopin's works and finds an enthusiastic audience in India. "Most people find that the music really uplifts them. Piano is a beautiful instrument," says the young pianist.



### LAUNCH STAR

Model Jaqueline Fernandes relaunched Dr Oetker's Fun Food division at Hotel Lalit, Delhi. Dr Oliver Mirza, managing director of Dr Oetker India Fun and Foods, said the group plans to carry forward its USP of making German recipes suited to Indian taste buds.

### PUNJAB ROCKS

Quantum in Noida organised it's first ever Punjabi Night with Sukhshinder Shinda. He celebrated the launch of his album with guests such as Shibani Kashyap, Ashok Mastie, Jasbir Jassi, Daler Mehndi, Mika, Aryans, Dilbagh Singh, Sanjana Jon, Sandeep Marwah and Sandeep Kapoor.



### GANDHI ON CANVAS

Aloke Lal, Director General of Police, Uttarakhand, held an exhibition of his paintings, titled *Gandhi and His Global Concerns*, at the ICCR Gallery, Azad Bhavan, Delhi. Margaret Alva, Governor of Uttarakhand, inaugurated the exhibition.

### ON MY PLATTER

NDTV Good Times announced its first ever Food Awards at Westin, Gurgaon. Some celebrated faces that flashed that evening were Prahlad Kakkar, Seema Goswami, Rahul Akerkar, Shiv Karan Singh, AD Singh, Suhel Seth, Rashmi Uday Singh, Marut and Anusuiya Sikka, Vinod Dua, Vir Sanghvi, Ritu Dalmia, Harmeet Bajaj, Zeba Kohli, Sanjeev Kapoor, Anjan Chatterjee, and Smeeta Chakrabarti-CEO, NDTV Lifestyle, was present too. A special musical performance by Shafqat Amanat Ali was organised; Rocky & Mayur kept the audience in splits with their humour and camaraderie.





Pune, Monday, May 5, 2008

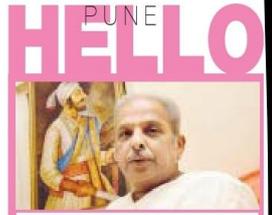


Magically mesmerising

PARTYING SHOT  
p 24

[ Entry in style

THE FIX p 23 ]



NINAD BEDEKAR, Historian

## 'No more pensioners' paradise'

I was born and brought up in Pune. And I must point out that I have seen three phases of this changing city. I have witnessed the evolving Pune, right from the collapse of Panshet dam to the present IT hub. Earlier, one could easily spot the difference in the several cultures flourishing in the city. For instance, the buildings in the east have a colonial look, while the *peths* and *wadas* lie in the western part of the city. There is a conspicuous cultural difference on either side of the Mutha River: Deccan Gymkhana and Fergusson College Road have a strong colonial influence. Today, with the influx of peo-

**My only regret is that we still don't have a Nobel laureate from our city. I hope, in the next five years, Pune will produce at least one Noble laureate**

ple from other parts of the country have transformed Pune into a cosmopolitan city. I feel, it is slowly losing the charm. In fact, one can see skyscrapers even in areas like Kasba Peth, once known for its old *wadas* and distinctive *Purneri* culture.

It is no more a sleepy town or the 'Pensioner's Paradise' as it used to be once upon a time. All this but still, Puneites love their city like nobody else. My only regret is that though Pune is known as an educational hub and a huge number of Puneites have been working abroad in big positions, we still don't have a Nobel laureate from this city. I hope, in the coming five years Pune will produce at least one Noble laureate.

—As told to Pallavi Kharade

# Sabyasachi's brand new muse

Otherwise a RANI MUKHERJI loyalist, the fashion prodigy will be paying a tribute to ZEENAT AMAN in an upcoming awards event, reports VIDYA PRABHU



Sabyasachi Mukherjee, the king of kitsch, is all set to unveil his latest 'summery' collection at Aza this Thursday. What's more it's 'affordable'.

### Reaching wider

Sabya agrees, "This time around, I have come up with a range that starts at as low as Rs 6,500. It has *Ahadis*, cotton saris, *kur-tas* and *lehengas*. It's an out and out summer collection, which is bright with a lot of patchwork."

The collection is divided into four parts. "There's the craft-oriented section, the weaves line, my trademark cross cultural influences and a line of separates as in the tunics and shirt dresses," he elaborates, adding that with many a bird motif, the line is an extension of his previous collection titled Sanctuary. "There's also a *lehenga* that has been made out of table cloth checks, which has a very *katputhli* feel to it," explains Sabya.

### All for Zeenat

Sabya also has a show coming up this June as part of the IIFA awards. "Fashion shows are a pain but I have agreed to do this one. Since it's part of a film awards function, the line will be a Bollywood inspired one," he reveals.

Does this mean Rani Mukherji (who he designed for in *Black*) is going to be his muse for this collection as well? "No, no. Through this line, I'm revisiting the '60s and the '70s. It's an ode to Zeenat Aman, who has been my favourite actress all along," reveals Sabya.

My life has turned out to be so colourful that I might as well write an autobiography

Sabyasachi Mukherjee

### A colourful life

And what is the latest where his movie is concerned? "I've started work on the script and have got a couple of enquiries. I should begin it by the end of next year. I also love writing and while I don't really maintain a diary, I note down interesting observations. But my life has turned out to be so colourful that I might as well write an autobiography! On a serious note, we fashion designers take ourselves too seriously. So I'd love to write something that has a lot of wry humour in it," he replies.

### Passionate pursuits

While most designers are looking at joining at the b'r'andwagon by branching out into interiors, restaurants, perfumes and the works, Sabya is eying the world of furniture and jewellery. "I have even designed that odd chair but nothing at a professional level. Now that my sister Payal has graduated, she is helping me out with the fashion business. So once this IIFA show is done, I'll go on a holiday and pursue all these special interests," he ends.

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Zeena Aman



INDIAN born, BELGIAN citizen SEENU SINGH is a PIANIST who wants to spread WESTERN CLASSICAL MUSIC in India

Pune has a good following of Western classical music. All they need is a little exposure of the form

Seenu Singh

# The piano man

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HIS inclination to the piano was conspicuous even when he was a 6-year-old, for then, he coincidentally began playing nursery rhymes on the instrument without any formal training. His penchant for music had him taking private piano lessons till the end of high school and now, at 23, the dexterity with which his fingers move on the instrument's keys only prove what Seenu Singh was born to do: taking Western classical music to uncanny heights all across the globe. In Pune for a concert, Singh spoke to After Hours about life as an artiste and the competition that can deter the best in the field.

"After high school, I joined the Royal Conservatory of Flanders in Antwerp. I'm pursuing a 5-year master's degree, which entails music analysis and hardcore practice. For me, it is music full time and I am into it because learning the piano is a beautiful experience. I also play numerous pieces composed by Frédéric Chopin, and his work has always been an impetus," explains Singh, who was originally born in Bhopal but moved to France when he was 3. After having stayed there for two years, the pianist shifted to Australia and it has been 16 years since he

has settled in Belgium.

He expresses his desire to play in India and propagate Western classical music in the country. The urge prompted him to perform at NCPA, Mumbai on April 29 with the Mehli Mehta Music Foundation. "The positive reception with which music aficionados greeted Singh re-enforced his belief about the immense love that Indians have for this genre. "In Pune too, it has a good following. Many are a little scared of the form because they have not really been exposed to it and do not know what to expect. I am quite sure that there are many in India who appreciate the genre, because after my concert in Mumbai, the foundation received quite a lot of calls on what a delight the show was," says he.

But competition in the field has made Singh's journey all the more difficult. "It is tough to get concerts, as everybody from countries like China, Russia and even America vies for the highest rung. The only way to prove one's worth is through winning competitions, where there are about a hundred pianists competing and only three take home the winner's tag," he enthuses.

And have you ever felt racism creeping in during these competitions? He says, "Not really. One should just try to do one's best. They judge a lot of subjective and objective elements."

Play on

# Where have all the jingles gone?

With multiple channels and 'idea and visual-based ads', the sing-song way of endorsing a product has taken a backseat

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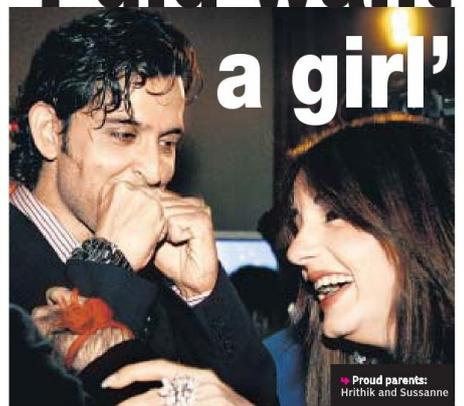
WHILE watching Amitabh Bachchan doing all the tricks to get a bite of Cadbury's Dairy Milk chocolate, you miss the jingle *Kya suaad hai zindagi mein*, which was once associat-



Celebrities list their favourite jingles

Shweta Salve—*Jab main chota bachha tha* (Bajaj bulbs)  
Rohit Roy—*Dip Dip Dip add some sugar, dip dip*

# 'I did want a girl'



Proud parents: Hrithik and Sussanne

...But HRITHIK ROSHAN was 'as content' when he saw his newborn baby boy's face last Thursday

Another star from the Roshan family?

"Probably," Hrithik chuckled happily. "All of us are here at the hospital. Only my dad is missing. He's in Santa Fe (US) hunting for locations for our film *Kites*. But we just e-



Seenu Singh, jong opkomend talent, mocht in januari voor het Oost-Vlaamse Dendermonde het Chopinjaar inleiden. Dit eerbetoon deed hij in alle stijl.

Seenu Singh (\*1985)

## Enkel muziek drijft me

Zijn naam verraadt zijn roots. Seenu Singh, geboren in Bhopal, India, verhuisde op zijn 5e met zijn ouders naar België. Het Hindi blijft zijn moedertaal en nog steeds is hij sterk verbonden met de Indiase cultuur.

Seenu stelt dat Indiase klassieke muziek een zeer rijke traditie volgt. Er is voor het eerst sprake van Indiase klassieke muziek in de Vedas, spirituele teksten die tot ruim 3.000 jaar geleden dateren. Deze muziek is gebaseerd op 'raga's' die volgens traditie geassocieerd worden met de verschillende periodes van een dag, of de seizoenen. Raga's kunnen beschouwd worden als een raamwerk waarmee men kan componeren en improviseren. Dankzij zijn achtergrond komt Seenu geregeld in contact met Indiase klassieke muziek, wat hem muzikaal verruimt.

Tot het derde jaar middelbaar onderwijs bezocht hij de Engelstalige Amerikaanse school in Antwerpen en stapte toen zonder problemen over naar het reguliere onderwijs, wat écht niet iedereen gegeven is, maar voor Seenu duidelijk niets bijzonders. Ook de combinatie met privépianostudies liep vlot. Na zijn humaniora twijfelde hij tussen een studie voor ingenieur of medicus, of een studie aan het conservatorium. Zijn passie voor muziek gaf uiteindelijk de doorslag.

Eén jaar voor hij zijn opleiding aan het Koninklijk Vlaams Conservatorium te Antwerpen begon, volgde hij privélessen bij Heidi Hendrickx, de vrouw van Levente Kende. Hierdoor kreeg hij de kans om, naast het gewone repertoire, zich specifiek te kunnen wijden aan de grote romantici zoals Chopin en Liszt. In het conservatorium van Antwerpen kwam Seenu in contact met een zeer gevarieerd programma. Op deze manier leerde hij ook modernere werken appreciëren. Daar waar hij bij Heidi Hendrickx o.a. zeer gedetailleerd leerde werken, ervoer hij zijn nieuwe docent Levente Kende meer als de man die veel belang hecht aan de grote lijnen in een werk, zonder de details uit het oog te verliezen. Maar het blijft de Russische school, zeer perfectionistisch. Een vorming die zich er op toelegt een werk op een hoog muzikaal niveau karakter te geven. Op deze manier vult het echtpaar en gerenommeerd pianoduo in België elkaar pedagogisch zeer goed aan. Daarom was het voor Seenu interessant om met beiden te mogen werken.

### Prestigieuze beurs

Nog voor zijn Masterdiploma ontving hij in 2007 reeds een prestigieuze beurs die hem in staat stelde om aan verschillende internationale wedstrijden deel te nemen met telkens mooie resultaten tot gevolg (zie [www.seenusingh.com](http://www.seenusingh.com)). In datzelfde jaar toerde hij al met zijn Chopinrecital rond. Dit programma kreeg ook waardering van de Vlaamse Gemeenschap door hem op te nemen in de lijst van 'Nieuw Talent', een cultureel project dat jonge kunstenaars steunt op weg naar concertpodia. Door het volgen van masterclasses en het geven van concerten laat Seenu in de eenvoud en rust die hij uitstraalt het pianistische leven op hem afkomen. Hij wil zijn kennis aan verschillende culturen overbrengen, zien wat de toekomst brengt en hoe het groeit. Die toekomst lacht hem ondertussen internationaal toe. Met verschillende concerttournees, waarvan pas afgestudeerden alleen maar kunnen dromen, mag Seenu dit jaar met zijn Chopinrecitals richting Tjechië, Polen, Slowakije, Schotland, Nederland, Maleisië en India. Een jong pianist om in het oog te houden.

### Chopinrecital - 31 januari - Dendermonde

Als concertpianist wint Seenu onmiddellijk de sympathie van het publiek door tijd te nemen om contact te leggen. Op een charmante ongedwongen wijze situeert hij elk werk binnen zijn cultuur-historische en muzikaal-technische context. Het publiek werd opgewarmd met de *Fantasie Impromptu*, opus 66. Bij de eerste maten maak je kennis met zijn temperament, het hoog muzikaal niveau en de fijne feilloze techniek. In de twee daaropvolgende nocturnes nam hij het publiek mee in de romantische sfeer die hij opbouwde door prachtige uitgetrokken muzikale bogen, balancerend op een regelmatig metrum. Een staaltje van muzikale maturiteit. Ook de etudes getuigden van deze evenwichtige muzikale persoonlijkheid. In de ballade nr.4 opus 52 trekt hij nog meer registers open en verrast het publiek met een uiterst muzikale expressie. Als slot speelt hij het beroemde scherzo nr.1 opus 20, waar hij zich technisch zeer goed verdedigt. Wat opvalt bij zo'n jong pianist is dat hij de economie van de bewegingen uitermate beheerst zodat al zijn energie naar de interpretatie gaat. Een pianist die de lyriek en poëzie van Chopins tijdgeest begrijpt en fantastisch vertolkt.

Piano  
WERELD

CHOPIN RECITAL - 31 JANUARY 2010 - DENDERMONDE

*As concert pianist, Seenu immediately wins the sympathy of the public by taking time to make contact. In a charming and natural way, he situates each work within its cultural-historic and musical-technical context.*

*The public was warmed up with Fantasie Impromptu opus 66 in c sharp minor. From the first bars, you get to know his temperament, the high musical level and the fine flawless technique.*

*In the following two Nocturnes, he took the public into the romantic atmosphere which he built by magnificently spanned musical bows, balancing on a fixed regular meter. An illustration of musical maturity.*

*The Etudes testified of his balanced musical personality. In the Ballade No. 4 in F minor, Opus 52 he opens even more registers of the piano and surprises the audience with a tremendous musical expression.*

*Finally, he plays the famous Scherzo no. 1 opus 20 in si minor in which he defends himself very well technically. What strikes us in this young pianist is that he masters the economy of the movements extremely well so that all his energy goes to the interpretation. A pianist who understands the lyricism and poetry of Chopin's spirit and performs it fantastically."*

'CHOPIN RECITAL'

27 DECEMBER 2009, THEATERZAAL, RIJSWIJCK, NEDERLAND

*"Rijswijk - Ademloos luisteren de ruim negentig aanwezigen zondagmiddag in Theater Van Steenvoorde naar de expressieve klanken van Frederic Chopin. Seenu Singh, een jonge veelbelovende concertpianist (24 jaar) uit België (oorspronkelijk uit India), raakt de luisteraars met de muziek die hij maakt. Vol overgave laat hij de werken van Chopin zingen op een manier als geen ander. Speciaal voor deze derde kerstdag speelt hij aan het slot Scherzo No.1 Op. 20 in Si klein waarvan het middelste deel door Chopin gearrangeerd was naar een Pools kerstlied. Een uur lang weet Singh de luisteraar te boeien met prachtige muziekstukken.*

*Na een groots applaus nemen de toehoorders met een goed gevoel afscheid van deze virtuoze pianist die nu al bekend is om zijn verfijnde toon en de zeer persoonlijke wijze waarop hij een compositie neerzet. De staande ovatie die hij aan het slot krijgt is dan ook verdiend en op zijn plaats. Daarna volgt de rituele bloemenhulde door Jannie de Brouwer, de coördinator van dit concert, waarna Seenu Singh als beloning Etude Op.10 No. 1 in Do groot als toegift speelt. Zo komt een einde aan een zeer genietbare middag in Steenvoorde."*

- Dhr. Henri Boshouwer Kroet, De Toonzetter, Steenvoorde, The Netherlands,

Sunday, 28th of December, 2009

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Did you think SU•DO•KU on the previous page was easy? Try this. Solution tomorrow.

Yesterday's Solution

6	8	4	3	7	5	1	2	9
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People

The British border agency is appealing for a second time to keep the rapper Snoop Dogg out of the country, the BBC reported. The agency maintains that "a material error in law" was made at Snoop Dogg's hearing in January, when he was cleared to enter Britain by an immigration judge. In April, the agency lost its appeal of that ruling. The case began when Snoop Dogg, whose real name is Calvin Broadus, was refused a visa for a tour after he and five members of his entourage were arrested during a reported melee at Heathrow Airport in 2006.

Lindsay Lohan will make a guest appearance on the season finale of the ABC television comedy series Ugly Betty. The 21-year-old actress is set to play an old schoolmate of America Ferrera's



WINNING PAGE: American actress Ellen Page poses for photographers in Tokyo on Wednesday. Page is in Tokyo to promote her film Juno. (AP)

songs he loved best. The rocker Randy Bachman, the guitarist David Wilcox, the bluesman Colin James and the singer Alannah Myles were among the artists who took the stage in a tribute to Healey, who died in March at the age of 41 after a lifelong battle against a rare cancer of the eyes. Healey rose to stardom as the leader of the Jeff Healey Band, a blues-oriented trio that gained

FOCUS | Jane Borges  
Classic tunes found anew

The rave reception that NRI pianist Seenu Singh received in Mumbai was not just testimony to his talent but also proof that Western classical music has a following amongst Indians



Mumbai: It is true that the keys of a piano play into the hearts of its listeners. Since the invention of the Cristofori Grand Piano in 1722, the piano has evolved and gone on to become one of the most popular concert instruments in the world, inspiring generations and striking the right chord with musicians and audience alike.

A young Indian born NRI has been following the Polish composer Frederick Chopin of the romantic period very closely. Chopin is considered one of the finest virtuoso pianists and composers of the 19th century. Seenu Singh, 23, a final year student at the Royal Conservatory of Flanders in



CLASSICAL TUNES: Seenu Singh performing Chopin's compositions in Mumbai

Antwerp, Belgium, was recently in the city performing Chopin's recitals at the NCPA.

With the hip hop and jazz culture invading the music scene, Western classical music is on the verge of becoming obsolete. Yet the everlasting music of the maestros still lingers in the hearts of a few passionate music lovers.

Though the music compositions of Western classics by Beethoven and romanticists by Liszt seem centuries old, they still strike a chord in the hearts of young Indians. And they did Singh's performance in Mumbai recently.

Singh, who has been living in Belgium for 16 years, says, "I chose Chopin's recitals since his music is a union of elegant, expressive melodies and experimental, rich harmonies, all combined with a brilliant piano technique.

His works were composed expressly for the instrument and is a synthesis between Polish tradition and the classical elements of Western Europe."

In India, where Western classical music is not very popular, Singh was awestruck by the reception he got. "The reception was very warm in the city. The audience seemed to enjoy Chopin's compositions. In a country where Indian classical music flourishes, such appreciation for

music was unexpected," says Singh. Singh, who is currently learning under the guidance of Prof. Levente Kende and Prof. Heidi Henderickx, is also a winner of several international piano competitions in France, including the Alexandre Scriabin held in Paris in 2007.

Singh started playing the piano when he was six. After high school, he chose to take up music. "I was planning to pursue a career in medicine or engineering but my piano teacher convinced me to take the entrance examination at the Royal Conservatory in Antwerp," he remarks.

A young talent with a lot to prove, Singh has planned an Indian tour this year where he will be enchanting his audience with music recitals of Chopin. After performing in Mumbai and Pune, he will now be coming back in October to perform in New Delhi at the India International Centre. Singh will also be performing at discussing concerts in France and Czech Republic between 2008 and 2009. Seenu intends to get into fulltime music teaching in the future, but for the present, he wishes to concentrate on completing his course at the RC and perform at concerts.

**10,000 teachers, non-academic staff**

for absorption of about 10,000 teachers and led educational institutions into the State-run ajasthan: Page 5



**Mayawati does a U-turn**

The Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister has now directed party legislators to concentrate on development factor in the State: Page 7

# A unique combination of culture, politics and nations

Staff Reporter

**NEW DELHI:** To celebrate 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Polish composer Frederic Chopin and the Belgian Presidency of the Council of the European Union, the Belgian and Polish Embassies here are hosting a solo piano recital by Seenu Singh at Teen Murti Auditorium at Nehru Memorial Museum and Library here this Thursday.

Described as a unique combination of culture, politics and nations, Seenu is a young pianist originally from India. He is now a Belgian national.

The Belgian and Polish Embassies in India have invited him to perform solo piano recitals ("Chopin Recitals").

The Bhopal-born Seenu started playing piano at the age of six. At the age of two, he moved to France with his family, then to Australia and finally to Belgium, where he has been living for the past 19 years.



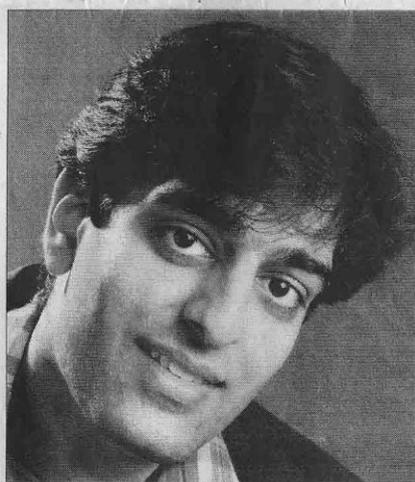
**'CHOPIN RECITALS':** Pianist Seenu Singh, who is a Belgian national of Indian origin, will perform at Teen Murti Auditorium in New Delhi on Thursday.

He has been described by critics as "an artist of consummate technical ability" who passionately makes the music of Chopin sing in a manner like no other and an artist with a "true instinct for the atmospheric power of the music".

According to Seenu, Chopin has long been recognised as one of the most significant and individual

composers of the romantic era. "He composed works almost solely for the piano; works that delicately weave poetically expressive melodies and rich harmonies together with high technical demands. The masterpieces are considered by many to be the most profound pages of music composed in piano literature."

- The Hindu, Thursday,  
2nd of December, 2010



## Melody at his fingertips

Music knows no bar, it just makes you slave to its sheer exquisiteness," says renowned pianist Seenu Singh, who enthralled music aficionados yesterday at Mazda Hall. After meeting the man, you can't help but notice his good looks and humility.

Singh, who was born in Bhopal and brought up in Australia and Belgium, started playing piano at the age of six, beginning with nursery rhymes. From then on, there was no looking back. He has been the guest soloist at many major concerts in Belgium,

France, and Chez Republic. He has been honoured with many international awards abroad. However, he believes that as a pianist, it is more challenging for him to play in an orchestra.

Though Singh idolises Arthur Rubinstein, one of the greatest piano virtuosos, the music fraternity of the world regards him as a leading performer of Chopin. Leaving no one in doubt about his mastery over

the medium, Singh had the audience in raptures by playing different musical pieces to unbelievable levels of perfection.

He reminded everyone that his own recital was yet another tribute to the great composers.

On the relation between the music and a nation's identity, he waxed eloquent, "Indian music is unique. I have observed that Indians are very serious about western classical music too. They are not partial towards vocalists and there is huge fan following for

instrumental music also."

Dwelling on his future projects, he confides, "I plan to teach youngsters in India provided I finds a good sponsor. We need concert presenters like The Poona Music Society to constantly bring artists into the lime-light to generate curiosity and hype among the youngsters, so that it creates a yearning in them to learn music."

And he signs off, "I am sure I will come here again. In fact, I am coming to Delhi in October for a concert." Music lovers would wish the same for this young artist.

—ANAMIKA RAWAT

**BIG SCREEN**

**ENGLISH FILMS**

**Iron Man (Action):** Starring Robert Downey Jr., Terrence Howard, Jeff Bridges at Inox 9.05, 10.45, 1.05, 3.30, 5.55, 8.20, 10.45 pm.  
**Also at E-Square, Gold Adlabs, Citycentre (Kothrud), Naks, Vijay (Hindi Version) at Mangala 9.15, 3, 10.45 pm. Also at Adlabs (Chinchwad), Citycentre (Sastara rd.), Fame Jai Ganesh, Alankar.**  
**The Forlidden Kingdom (Action):** Starring Jai L. Michael Angarano, Jackie Chan, Akshay Singh at Gold Adlabs 9.05, 11.50, 4.25, 8.45, 11.50 pm. Also at Inox, E-Square, Citycentre (Kothrud).

**U Me Aur Hum (Drama):** Starring Ajay Devgan, Kajol, Karan Khanna, Isha Sharwat, Sanku, at Citycentre (Sastara rd.) 9.20 am & 10.30 pm.  
**Also at Inox, Gold Adlabs, Adlabs (Chinchwad), Citycentre (Kothrud), Fame Jai Ganesh, Mangala, Victory, Bharat.**  
**Shaurya (Drama):** Starring Rahul Bose, Minissha Lamba, Kay Kay Menon at E-Square 10.45 pm.  
**Khuda Kay Liye (Drama):** Starring Austin Martin Sayre, Fawad Khan, Hanmeed Shaikh, Iman Ali, Nasseruddin Shah at E-Square 8 pm.  
**Race (Action):** Starring Saif Ali Khan, Akshaya Khanna, Katrina Kaif.

**MOVIES ON TV**

**STAR MOVIES**

0905 Drunken Monkey  
1300 Comeback Season  
1500 Date Movie  
1640 The Ringer  
1835 Killer Tomatoes Eat France  
2100 X-Men: The Last Stand  
2305 Police Story III: Super Cop

**MOVIES SCAN**



**SARFAROSH**

In John Matthew's film Aamir Khan plays a fearless cop fighting against border gun running. Also starring Nasseruddin Shah and Sonali Bendre.

## “Een vleugelpiano op kot lukte niet”

Seenu Singh (25) is concertpianist en deeltijds student informatiemanagement.

### TINE BERGEN

“Toen ik zes was, kocht mijn vader een piano voor zichzelf. Hij heeft er eigenlijk nooit op gespeeld, maar dat heb ik ruimschoots gecompenseerd. Ik ben begonnen met kinderliedjes, ik volgde muzieklessen, kreeg veel positieve reacties van mijn ouders en vrienden ... Na mijn middelbaar heb ik toelatingsexamen gedaan voor het conservatorium in Antwerpen, waar ik nu ook afgestudeerd ben. Wat begonnen is als een hobby, is ondertussen echt een passie geworden. Ik geniet ervan als mensen van mijn muziek genieten.”

“Leven van je muziek is een behoorlijk onzeker bestaan. Het ene moment heb je veel concerten, dan is het weer rustig. Vandaar dat ik ook deeltijds een master in informatiemanagement volg, met een kunstenaarsstatuut. De richting bestaat nog maar een paar jaar, we slaan eigenlijk een brug tussen de business- en de ICT-afdeling van een bedrijf. Na vijf jaar Antwerpen is het leuk om van het Leuvense studentenleven

te proeven. Ik pendel vanuit Kapellen, want het is moeilijk om een vleugelpiano op kot te zetten. Maar er is ruim gelegenheid om te genieten van alle mogelijkheden die het studentenleven hier biedt. Er zijn studenten die me eigenlijk helemaal niet kennen, maar die me aanspreken omdat ze weten dat ik pianist ben. Dat vind ik echt heel tof.”

“Het waren mijn medestudenten die me vroegen of ik niet eens in Leuven kon komen spelen. Dus ben ik gaan polsen bij de culturele centra. Op 28 maart speel ik in het Oratoriënhof, een programma dat gesteund wordt door de Vlaamse Overheid in het kader van ‘Nieuw Talent’. Ik speel Chopin, want hij is een van de redenen waarom ik piano ben beginnen spelen. Zijn werk vormt een synthese van de rijkste harmonieën, delicaatste melodieën en een briljante pianotechniek ... Hij wordt weleens de poëet van de piano genoemd. Elke keer dat ik Chopin speel, ontdek ik er nog iets anders in. Een nieuw verband, een element dat ik nog niet eerder had gezien.

Er zijn pianisten van zeventig die zijn stukken nog niet beu zijn gespeeld en dat kan ik me perfect voorstellen.”

“Zolang ik kan, wil ik blijven spelen. Als pianist sla je ‘bruggen’, net zoals bij informatiemanagement. De rol van een pianist is om de gedachten en gevoelens van de componist, allemaal verborgen in de partituren, eerst te ontrafelen, en daarna op een fascinerende manier aan te bieden aan het publiek.”

“Mijn muziek maakt dat ik op veel plaatsen kom. Dit jaar ga ik bijvoorbeeld spelen op de Belgische en de Poolse Ambassade in India. Er is ook sprake van concerten in Maleisië, Japan en Zuid-Korea. Dat zijn plekken waar ik anders nooit zou komen. Het is heel leuk, al die werelden die door elkaar lopen. De ene dag speel ik in India voor de ambassade, de volgende dag zit ik hier in Leuven in de les. Die afwisseling houdt het ook allemaal interessant.”

*Chopin-recital met of zonder brunch, reserveren via oratorienhof@skynet.be of 016 22 81 07*  
<http://www.seenusingh.com>



Concertpianist Seenu Singh

(© Rob Stevens)

- Campuskrant, Leuven, March 2010

***"Seenu has already been a guest at Kerkske with his Chopin Recital. Due to the many enthusiastic reactions of the public, we invite Seenu with great pleasure to interpret this Beethoven Recital."***

- Cultural Centre of Kapellen, Belgium, program brochure 2009 - 2010

***"The 'Chopin Recital' of Seenu Singh on the 21st of October was such an overwhelming success that Seenu will be returning to the Kerkske! Those who did not get the chance to buy tickets last time will be offered a second chance." (The repetition was also sold out.)***

- Cultural Centre of Kapellen, Belgium, website, Thursday, 1st of November 2007

<http://www.indoreplus.com/fullStory.asp?articleID=INDO2ART530200843320>

- Interview for The Times of India, Bhopal Plus, Friday, 30th of May 2008

-Pune Mirror  
28.11.10

# variety



tushonline

**P**une tweets

Nothing more fun than reaching home. Back in #Pune :)



## Piggy Tales

NITIN BRAHME

Being presented by a Mumbai-based theatre group, Gillo, *Suar Chala Space Ko* is a funny play about a pig and his friends who travel to outer space. Gillo exclusively produces drama for children and this play is suitable for kids who are between five to twelve years of age. "This is our first performance in Pune. We performed the play for the first time at Prithvi Theatre Summertime Season of Plays in May this year," says Shaí Sathyu, the artistic director and writer of *Suar Chala Space Ko*. The story touches upon the themes of friendship, adventure, owning up to one's mistakes, being responsible and of course to swine flu!

**Date:** November 28

**Time:** 3.30 pm

**Venue:** MES Auditorium, B. Shikshan Mandir, Mayur Colony

VEDA AGGARWAL

Seenu Singh was born in Bhopal in 1985. He started playing the piano at the age of six, but that was in Belgium. Seenu and his family had moved to France and Australia, before settling down in Belgium, where they now live. To celebrate the 200th anniversary of Fryderyk Chopin in 2010, Seenu has been invited by the Polish Embassy to perform Chopin Recitals in different countries. He's playing in Pune today, as part of his four-city India tour.

**How did you get the opportunity to perform for the Chopin in India series?**

I had given a concert in Delhi in 2008 and people from the Polish Embassy came to listen. The next year, the Ambassador of Poland to India, keeping in mind Chopin's 200th anniversary, contacted the Ambassador of Belgium to India to organise a concert tour with me in India. It also helped that the Belgian Embassy is celebrating the Belgian Presidency of the European Union Council and that I'm an NRI.

**How did you decide on this programme for the tour?**

I tried to make a wide selection of pieces which depict the true character of Chopin. Each piece has its own emotions and as I am playing a wide range of genres of Chopin (Nocturnes, Ballades, Polonaises etc.). The

audience can get a better understanding of who Chopin really was through his music.

**You graduated with a Masters in Information Management. How did that happen?**

I first studied music at the Royal Conservatory of Flanders in Antwerp and graduated with a Master in Music - Concert Pianist in 2008 (full time 5 year course) and then graduated with a Master in Information Management in 2010. The Master in Information Management was purely out of my interest in business and ICT.

**How do you manage time for education in business while having to keep up with a hectic tour schedule and practice routine?**

I think that it mostly depends on the amount of discipline that you have for yourself. Even a small amount of discipline can get you quite far. When there are concerts, I usually practice six to eight hours a day. When studying the Master in Information Management, the University of Leuven also granted me an "Artist Statute" so there was more flexibility when following the courses and doing the exams.

**Now that you have a business degree and are a concert pianist, what plans do you have for the future?**

My plan is to just do my best in all the things I can and see what the future has planned for me.



# CHOPIN'S KEYS

**Date:** November 28

**Time:** 6.30 pm

**Venue:** Mazda Hall,

Dastur Primary School, Camp

## Seenu Singh imponeert

MAANDAG, 22 AUGUSTUS 2011 09:25 CULTUREEL NIEUWS



Voorschoten - De jonge in België wonende charmante pianist speelde op afgelopen zaterdag 20 augustus een gevarieerd programma - met voornamelijk Liszt in een eerbetoon aan 200 jaar Liszt - in een prachtige setting in kasteel Duivenvoorde te Voorschoten, waar de grote ramen openstonden om de zwoele zomeravond te kunnen voelen. (Tekst: Piet Bal, Foto: Homeira Rastegar)



Seenu Singh begon poëtisch met Chopins 'Fantasie Impromptu' opus 66, gevolgd door de 'Etude d'exécution transcendente', No. 7, 'Eroica', met octavenspel en mooi pedaalgebruik. Singh liet de Steinway zingen bij 'Ständchen' van Schubert/Liszt, waarna Liszts *Années de pèlerinage, première année, Suisse - 'Au lac de Wallenstadt'* lieflijk klonk en uit hetzelfde werk 'Orage' met ook hier heftig octavenspel. Een gevoelig 'Liebestraume' van Liszt werd gevolgd door de Etude d'exécution transcendente, No 11, 'Harmonies du soir', inderdaad harmonieus en met een stevig slot.

Na de pauze een fraaie 'Nocturne opus 27 No. 1' van Chopin, waarna een zeer melodieuze Etude de concert, No. 3 'Un sospiro' (zucht) volgde waarna met een groots werk besloten werd: De 'Ballade No.2 in B minor'.

Seenu Singh, een bescheiden pianist met eenvoud en rust die hij uitstraalt heeft toch een enorm potentieel aan soepel spelen met gevoel voor stijl. In langzame delen vertoont hij bedachtzaam spel met nu en dan stiltes. In de snelle delen daarentegen is hij zeer virtuoos en speelt feilloos en met groot gemak.

Hij heeft dan ook al een grote staat van dienst, ondermeer te lezen op zijn website: [www.seenusingh.com](http://www.seenusingh.com)

Het volgende Kasteelconcert vindt plaats op 5 november m.m.v. Dana Zemtsov (altviool) en Cathelijne Noorland (piano).  
Voor informatie zie [www.toonzetter.nl](http://www.toonzetter.nl)



***"Very talented! A wonderful technique and a beautiful sound!"***

- Maestro Zubin Mehta

***"Recreating magic: Seenu Singh"***

- Times of India, Sunday, 4th of May 2008

***"...now, at 23, the dexterousness with which his fingers move on the instrument's keys only prove what Seenu Singh was born to do: taking Western classical music to uncanny heights all across the globe."***

- DNA, Monday, 5th of May 2008

***"The rave reception that NRI pianist Seenu Singh received in Mumbai was not just testimony to his talent but also proof that Western classical music has a following amongst Indians."***

- The Asian Age, Thursday, 8th of May 2008

***"Music knows no bar, it just makes you slave to its sheer exquisiteness," says renowned pianist Seenu Singh, who enthralled music aficionados yesterday at Mazda Hall. After meeting the man, you can't help but notice his good looks and humility.***

...

***Leaving no one in doubt about his mastery over the medium, Singh had the audience in raptures by playing different musical pieces to unbelievable levels of perfection. He reminded everyone that his own recital was yet another tribute to the great composers."***

- The Maharashtra Herald, Sunday, 4th of May 2008

***"The young sympathetic pianist Seenu Singh, currently residing in Belgium, belongs to one of the most promising piano talents of India, and also received a special recommendation from the famous conductor Maestro Zubin Mehta.***

***He possesses the subtle and lyrical touché so specific to Chopin's own piano playing in the salons of Paris. Singh lets the Polish melancholy, passion and romance sing poetically. His concert is a Chopin festivity. "***

- Foundation Iskra, Castricum, The Netherlands, February 2010

- Times of India,  
Sunday, 4th of May  
2008

# Justice awaited as history fades

## Set Up In 1916, Ogale Glass Factory Shut Down 25 Yrs Ago; Workers Wait For Their Dues

Ram Jagtap

Just 120 km away from the city, in Ogalewadi near Karad, a small piece of history is slowly dying. The remains of the world famous Ogale glass factory, which was closed exactly 25 years ago, stands mute testimony to the struggle of its workers who did not forget to celebrate World Labour Day on May 1, hoping that the government would find time to sort out their issues.

Located six km from Karad, the Ogale glass factory was famous world over for the quality of glass it produced. It is no wonder then that the factory's name features prominently on the world industrial map.

The factory was started by the late Atmaram Ogale in 1916 in a small hut. In the beginning, it manufactured steel items, toilets for the railways and tin boards for shops. Soon, however, the factory made the first-ever 'Made in India' glass and, impressed by the achievement, the erstwhile princely state of Aundh gave Ogale a piece of land for the factory. The factory later flourished under the expert guid-



WHAT USED TO BE: The ruins of the Ogale glass factory

ance of Shankar Ogale, Atmaram's son.

The importance of the Ogale glass factory can be gauged from the fact that when the Ogales first started out, Maharashtra was not known for its industry. A couple of small foundries,

few cotton ginning, pressing factories and oil mills were all what constituted industry in the state. A small metal factory did exist in Pune and the Palsa Fund Glass Works had been started at Talegaon only a few years earlier.

Glass-makers in the country developed the industry at great sacrifice and cost to themselves. The town of Firozabad had made a revolution in bangle-making and the credit of starting and developing the manufacture of sheet glass in the country goes to Ishwar Das Varshnei who went through grave financial difficulties. It was with the help of Shrimant Rajasaheb of Aundh that the Ogales were successful when faced with similar difficulties.

Workers who have been continuing their struggle, told TOI that the Ogale glass factory started facing financial difficulties in the 1970s. In 1981, the factory was leased out, but this move was not successful and the factory was closed in 1983. Since then, the action committee set up by the workers has been fighting for their dues, including salaries, provident fund, gratuity and bonus amount to about Rs 6 crore. In the 25th year of the factory's closure, workers continue to hope that the government will give them justice.

Meanwhile, the dilapidated home of the Ogales, which was sealed by the provident fund office, collapsed in January this year.

# An evening with Chopin

They were tender, soulful renditions that best expressed Frédéric Chopin's musical genius on the piano. Saturday evening saw a classical music rendition and lecture by Seenu Singh on the much-celebrated Polish composer's works at Mazda Hall.

The audience was treated to 'Nocturnes' or 'night pieces', followed by 'Opus:27', a musical composition that exuded a dark, clouded melody full of suspense leading to a passionate outburst culminating in a sentimental climax.

And, presenting it all, was 23-year-old Singh, at his inspired best. Currently the only Indian studying at the prestigious Royal Conservatory of Flanders in Antwerp, Belgium, Singh gave his reasons for taking to the romantic composer's music. "Composers before Chopin did pieces that were only meant to strengthen one's piano-playing technique. In fact, they were quite repetitive. But Chopin went much beyond this and developed music in the form of full-fledged concert pieces. He gave the piano much more depth," explains Singh.

It just requires careful listening to understand what Chopin has left behind to the world. "It's more important to just feel the music, instead of analysing it too much," says Singh, who is in his fifth and final year.

This was Singh's first performance in India. "It's a way of preparing a solid foundation for a career as a professional pianist. Back home in Belgium, students are encouraged to give professional performances that are judged as strict criteria," says Singh, who was born in Bhopal.

Studying Chopin's elegant, expressive melodies and experimental, rich harmonies, all combined with a brilliant piano technique, Singh has done some Chopin recitals in December 2007. He was also given a special award for the year 2007-2008 by his institute for outstanding achievement.

Most importantly, it's the masterclasses with renowned musicians, that Singh looks forward to in order to hone his artistic skills. And, there's more to be done. Tough competition between students at his institute and in Europe, are reason enough for Singh to summon his musical passion. He will soon present his thesis on Chopin's works before graduating this June. **TN**



RECREATING MAGIC: Seenu Singh



*They live in the heart of us*

**DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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**OBITUARY**



**Mrs. Rukaiya S. Bengali**  
w/o. Safakat Y. Bengali  
**passed away on 24th April, 2008.**  
Ladies' Sipara at Residence from 4 to 6 p.m. upto 31st May 2008.

**C-1-601, Ganga Satellite, Wanowarie.**

Mourning by all family members:  
Husband- Safakat Bengali

Sons- Sadiq, Yusuf & Idris

Daughters-in-law Muntaz, Azra, Nisreen

Grandchildren : Nardia, Shiraz, Ali Akbar, Umme Salma, Amir & Asif .... Bengali & Moonim families

**OBITUARY SERVICES**

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**TENTH DAY KIRYA**



We regret to inform the sudden demise of **Romesh Koul** on 26-04-08

Tenth Day Kriya will be held on **Sunday 04-05-2008** at Omkareshwar Ghat, Behind Balgandharva at 9.30am Pune

Fondly remembered by **Wife Rima Koul**

**Daughters** Arushi & Aashima Koul

**Sisters** Usha Kaul, Sarita Motta, Basanti Garyali

**Brother** Dilip Kaul.

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**DEATH ANNIVERSARY**

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**2nd Death Anniversary**



Mind, Body, Spirit & You

### Yoga for Parkinson's disease

**Practice of the following mudra will not only help in controlling the disease but also improve body strength, says Acharya Vikramaditya**

**P**arkinson's disease is a chronic disorder that requires broad-based management including patient and family education, support group services, general wellness maintenance, exercise and nutrition. Even modern therapy recommends regular physical exercise, including yoga, various breathing exercises and dance. These help maintaining and improving mobility, flexibility, balance and a range of motion.

**Benefits:** Practice of this mudra will not only help in controlling the disease but also improve body strength. This Mudra also improves balance, helping people minimize gait problems and can strengthen certain muscles so that people can speak and swallow better. Try to practice this Mudra for at least 45 minutes daily.

**Gyan Mudra:** If the *Gyan Mudra* is practised with the above said *mudra* for Parkinson's disease, then it helps in improving the self confidence of the patient. So try to practice this *mudra* with either of the hand as much as you can. Simply by touching the tip of index finger (*Targni*) with the tip of Thumb i.e. by joining the fire element with air element this *Gyan Mudra* is formed.

This *Gyan Mudra* calms the whole nervous system in a natural way. The practice of this *mudra* will help in overcoming all the weaknesses of the nervous system.

(Send in your feedback to [timesfoundation@timesgroup.com](mailto:timesfoundation@timesgroup.com))



### CINEMA OF THE WEEK

**NIKHAT KAZMI**



**Mr White Mr Black (comedy) 1/2**  
**Cast:** Arshad Warsi, Suneil Shetty, Rashmi Nigam, Sandhya Mridul  
**Direction:** Deepak Shivdasani

Sometimes, it surprises men make, specially actors. If last week it was Anil who cries 'Kiss me, kiss me', and gives him a chance to n

rily lies in its sensitive introspection on the film industry itself, chronicling the agony and counts, rather than shortcuts. The film is slated for a Hindi re-make too, *Shortcut*, with Akshay Khanna and Arshad Warsi playing the Howard Roarks and Peter Keatings of Bollywood. Want some sensible drama? Go for *Vellitherali*.

**Iron Man (action) ★★1/2**  
**Cast:** Robert Downey Jr., Gwyneth Paltrow, Terence Howard, Jeff Bridges  
**Direction:** Jon Favreau

*Iron Man* may not have been the Big Hero of Marvel Comics, but here, in his first film avatar, he stands as tall as the rest of masked crusaders. And the fact that he talks about contemporary problems — demilitarisation, end of war — only makes him more alluring.



**Angarano**  
**Direction:** Rob Minkoff

quite despicable. And he doesn't love himself either. Thus, when he gets a chance to a redeem himself after being imprisoned by an Afghan warlord, he simply grabs the opportunity. Instead of creating the Jericho missile for the wily Afghan, he creates Iron Man, a one-man missile that can defend the world against all kinds of missiles. But when he manages to escape from the hideout, he realises the enemy lies within his Malibu mansion: his business partner (Jeff Bridges) who dreams of world domination. But take heart, there's Iron Man, with his iron maiden — the delectable Ms Pepper Potts (Gwyneth Paltrow) — and his iron heart to teach all bad guys a lesson in peace. So what if it means more explosions, more

There's got to be magic when two maestros meet. And there is. *The Forbidden Kingdom* creates moments of high action and fun when the champions of chopstick, Jackie Chan and Jet Li, clash in this quaint oriental tale that takes you back to ancient China, when warriors ruled, monks fought and Monkey King metamorphosed into stone. And to ensure you don't lose yourself in this testosterone time machine, there's our teen hero, an American kid who spends his time watching old Kung Fu videos from the local pawn shop, to keep you grounded.

The drama is almost relentless, from the time the kid enters the pawn shop to discover the antique mask and listen to the mumbo-jumbo of the old Chinese shopkeeper. It's the mask that catapults him back in time, since it has to be returned to its rightful owner, the Monkey King. And the only two people who can help him reach

**"ABERDEEN INTERNATIONAL YOUTH FESTIVAL  
SEENU SINGH / CHOPIN RECITAL  
CRAIGIEBUCKLER CHURCH, ABERDEEN, SCOTLAND  
Wednesday 5th August 2009  
ALAN COOPER**

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*Can there be any more exciting or compelling offering from the world of piano music than an all Chopin recital performed by an artist of consummate technical ability who knows his repertoire as intimately as the young Indian born pianist Seenu Singh? He delighted the audience in Craigiebuckler Church on Wednesday afternoon with a non stop selection of Chopin's most popular piano music – no fewer than ten items including the encore and all played seemingly effortlessly and entirely from memory.*

*He began his recital with the Fantasie-Impromptu. Its gloriously liquid opening was poured out with amazing fluency and ease before a fulsome and warm hearted exposition of the famous core melody. The equally well-loved Etude Op.10 No.3 better known to some as Tristesse begins with the famous melody before the more acrobatic twists and turns which give problems to the likes of me but which Seenu Singh played as if it was the easiest thing in the world.*

*The darker, more pensive Nocturnes were accomplished with a true instinct for the atmospheric power of the music while with the Barcarolle Op.60 in F# major Singh gave us a splendidly expansive performance that delivered a vision of the dark waters of the Venetian Canals with his instinct for the underlying rhythms of the music before building to a shattering climax of pianistic brilliance. Singh's technical virtuosity was equally impressive in one of the composer's most demanding pieces, the Ballade No.4 Op.52 in f minor and then, in the final piece of the official programme, the Scherzo No.1 Op.20 in b minor, the piano seemed to be in danger of catching fire. Actually, the piano itself provided the only disappointing notes of the recital; it was somewhat in need of attention from a tuner. In an act of considerable generosity, Seenu Singh had agreed to continue with the recital and time and again the sheer technical brilliance of his playing and his heartfelt understanding of Chopin's music transcended any of the jarring edges presented by the instrument. The enthusiastic response of a grateful audience meant that surely this will go down as one of the most memorable recitals of the Chamber Music Series."*

- Mr. Alan Cooper, senior music critic for The Glasgow Herald  
Thursday, 6th of August 2009

