

UCSB Arts & Lectures: *Up Close and Musical***Pianist Lise de la Salle — Vive la France!**

A POWERFUL FORCE DESERVING SERIOUS ATTENTION AND RESPECT is the definition of the word formidable. Whether pronounced in the French manner or in English, Lise de la Salle, the amazing 27 year-old French pianist making her Santa Barbara recital debut as part of UCSB Arts & Lectures' *Up Close and Musical* series at Hahn Hall this Sunday, November

DANIEL KEPL MUSIC INTERVIEW

8th at 4pm, is not only formidable, she is *incroyable!*

A critic for *The Washington Post* wrote of her playing, "For much of the concert, the audience had to remember to breathe...The exhilaration didn't let up for a second until her hands came off the keyboard." De la Salle's Hahn Hall program Sunday will include Beethoven's *Piano Sonata in C Major, Op. 2, No. 3*; Ravel's *Gaspard de la nuit*; six Debussy *Preludes*; and Brahms' *Variations and Fugue in B flat Major on a Theme of Handel, Op. 24*.

De la Salle began playing the piano at age four and made her first recording at the extraordinarily young age of 14; it was a CD of piano works by Rachmaninov and Ravel for the visionary French record label Naïve. Since that 2003 debut album, de la Salle has recorded six additional highly acclaimed CDs for Naïve.

"I guess in a way, I was lucky," she remarked, during a telephone interview

For me, the studio is where you can go deeper and further into the piece, to explore, which you don't have the chance to do on stage. It's a great chance for an artist to really focus on a one hour program for a couple of days and share that with millions later.

– Lise de la Salle

with CASA recently. "It was a very important point in my career and in my professional life, when I met the right person at the right moment, one of the founders of Naïve (Records), who is now the head of Medici TV (the European classical music television channel). For him to trust me when I was 14 was a little bit crazy to tell you the truth," she laughed. "For me, the studio is where you can go deeper and further into the piece, to explore, which you don't have the chance to do on stage. It's a great chance for an artist to really focus on a one hour program for a couple of days and share that with millions later."

Known for her passionate and intuitive playing, de la Salle, while a little hesitant to pinpoint how she as a French woman approaches French repertoire, nevertheless credited early exposure to the nuances of the genre: "One of my teachers introduced me to this music when I was nine years old and I feel very grateful and lucky,

because for me it became very natural. It's like that with kids, you can learn and understand in a quicker way, and it sounds very natural later. It's difficult to talk about. It's a very specific language, very precise, incredibly clever."

Considering that her program Sunday will include works inspired by poetry, including Ravel's *Gaspard de la Nuit* which uses three descriptive prose poems by Aloysius Bertrand, *Ondine*, *Le gibet*, and *Scarbo*, and Debussy's titles for his *Preludes* such as warm evening breezes (*Les sons et les parfums*) or figures from literature (*La danse de Puck*), the inevitable question had to be asked; which came first for de la Salle during preparation, the words or the music? "For me it was always the music first and then I discovered the poetry, which added sense to what I already felt.... It's fascinating."

UCSB Arts & Lectures' *Up Close and Musical* series is sponsored by Dr. Bob Weinman. SAGE is a major corporate supporter of UCSB Arts & Lectures' 2015-2016 season.

Photo by Lynn Goldsmith



Pianist **Lise de la Salle**

For tickets (\$32 general admission/\$10 UCSB students) call 893-3535 or visit www.artsandlectures.sa.ucsb.edu.

Daniel Kepl has been writing music, theatre, and dance reviews for Santa Barbara publications since he was a teenager. His professional expertise is as an orchestra conductor.

Horses Healing Hearts

By **Olivia Davi** / CASA

HEALING HEARTS AND RAISING SPIRITS THROUGH HORSEBACK RIDING forms the backbone of Hearts Therapeutic Equestrian Center. The organization held its annual fundraiser, the *Pegasus Luncheon*, on Wednesday October 7th at the Montecito Country Club.

"The event, overall, was filled with high energy and goodwill," shared Alexis Weaver, Executive Director of Hearts Therapeutic Equestrian Center. "The funds raised support the programs and operations of Hearts, specifically providing comprehensive care and feed for our horses, scholarships, and maintenance of our facility. It also ensures our Veterans will continue to ride at low or no cost and our therapeutic riding lesson pricing remains accessible to the community."

The décor was minimal and elegant, with cream linens and fall theme centerpieces. Lunch was grilled chicken over spinach with a basil vinaigrette and cheesecake for dessert. The Fess Parker Winery donated wine to round out the meal.

A memorable feature of the evening

included a special video shedding light on the Hearts Community. "The video demonstrates what therapeutic riding is, and how it affects both the riders and volunteers," Weaver explained. "The attendees were extremely moved by the video, expressing particular interest in both our veterans program and the positive impact this alternative therapy has with our riders."

Several people presented their stories of how the organization has impacted their lives. "The speakers were absolutely the highlight of the event," Weaver related. "There was laughter and tears!"

US Army Veteran Aaron

Swaney gave a talk about his transition into civilian life; Carrie McKiddie spoke about her five year old daughter's fight with cerebral palsy and how Hearts has helped her learn how to walk; Teresa Ulloa, a Hearts rider, explained how living with MS has affected her life, noting that riding has helped her to expand her limitations in ways she never thought possible; and finally, Hearts' youngest instructor, Jalene Amling, gave an overview on why she began volunteering with the organization at only 15 years old.



Therapeutic riding...affects both the riders and volunteers – Alexis Weaver



Courtesy Photos

Advisory Board Member and Riding Instructor **Thom Bateman**, Hearts Volunteer Coordinator **Dawn Nelson**, Riding Instructor **Kate Sulzbach**, Hearts Executive Director **Alexis Weaver**, Program Director and Riding Instructor **Devon Sachey**, Riding Instructor **Amanda Zeddy**, and Program Assistant and Instructor **Kari Osie**

Today she is 21 and continues teaching, "I never looked back," she related.

"It was a fun event—something that can't be said for all fundraisers!" Weaver concluded. "We are grateful to the Santa Barbara community for such overwhelming support, and can't wait to

see everyone again at the next event, a Barn Dance in the Spring!"

Hearts has been able to provide over \$60,000 of lessons to adults and children with physical, emotional, and cognitive disabilities since 1985. For info visit heartstriding.org or contact 964-1519



Hearts annual horse show this past May