

Dear Members and Friends of the Salon,

It is my privilege to introduce myself to you as the new Artistic Director of Charlotte White's Salon de Virtuosi!

From the moment I met Erika White and the Salon's Board of Directors I felt a profound connection with the organization: its artistic mission, its musicians, its community and its values. The more I got to know the Salon's history and the Board's dedication and seriousness of purpose, the more inspired I felt to follow in Charlotte's footsteps. My goal is to preserve her legacy and to ensure that the incredible organization she founded and ran for over 28 years continues to thrive.

What life journey brought me here?

Well, I dove into music from a very early age in my native Bulgaria. After the political changes of 1989, I decided to move to the United States and to continue my education at the Juilliard School in New York where I was accepted with full scholarships as a student of the great pianist Seymour Lipkin.

My professional journey over the last twenty years has been multi faceted. After graduating with a doctorate from Juilliard, I had several successful years performing as a soloist, winning the Washington International Competition for pianists and traveling around the world. But my lifelong passion was to work with other talented artists and this led me to establish a successful chamber music concert series at the Consulate General of Bulgaria, performing and serving as co-chair simultaneously. Teaching talented young musicians has been yet another passion of mine, which led me to the opportunity to serve on the faculty of Mannes prep at the New School where I work with many of the leading music pedagogues of today.

Now I am eager to begin a new chapter in this journey as I join the Salon's team.

Charlotte White's goals were very similar to mine: to preserve and nurture the finest spirit of artistic creativity in classical music culture; to discover, encourage and promote the musicians of tomorrow; and to provide opportunities for sophisticated audiences, outstanding musicians and the diplomatic community to come together. These are just a few of the many reasons I already feel such great affinity for the Salon.

I believe that I have an innate understanding of the role classical music plays in our lives and the importance of organizations such as ours for its future. But I also know that this work wouldn't be possible without the mutual efforts of many individuals: renowned musicians who refer their most promising young students to us, volunteers, benefactors, partnering organizations and foundations. I am most grateful to all of you who supported the Salon over the years and helped make it what it is today.

I invite you to join us for yet another season of special concerts and can't wait to meet each and every one of you in person!

With kind regards,

Lora Tchekorotova