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Martin Bookspan, ``Voice of Lincoln Center," Narrates ``Carnival of the Animals" at Dranoff Dec. 6 Concert

“Commissions & Classics” Program Features Goldina & Loumbrozo and Duo Antithesis Two Piano Teams with Florida Classical Orchestra

MIAMI—(BUSINESS WIRE)—Martin Bookspan, the renowned classical music authority and broadcast “Voice of Lincoln Center,” will bring his talents as narrator to one of classical music’s most enchanting creations as he highlights “Commissions & Classics,” the Murray Dranoff Foundation season opening concert at the Gusman Center for the Performing Arts in downtown Miami, December 6.

Mr. Bookspan will be joined by Two Piano team Duo Antithesis and the Florida Classical Orchestra led by Stewart Robertson in “Carnival of the Animals” by French composer-pianist Camille-Saint-Saens (1835-1921).

The suite of whimsical musical depictions received only private performances during Saint-Saens lifetime as the composer feared it would detract from his reputation as a serious artist. Published posthumously, it has gained enduring popularity, especially with the addition of humorous verses written and spoken by Mr. Bookspan.

Also featured on the Two-Piano program will be the Mozart E-Flat Major Concerto performed by the Two Piano team Goldina & Loumbrozo with Maestro Robertson, and two works added to the repertoire since 1980 as a result of the Dranoff Foundation’s commissioning program – Morton Gould’s “Two Pianos” played by Goldina & Loumbrozo, and William Bolcom’s “Recuerdos,” played by Duo Antithesis.

Both Goldina & Loumbrozo and Duo Antithesis are past winners of the biennial Murray Dranoff International Two Piano Competition which will next be held in Miami in March of 2008. The competition has awarded almost \$500,000 in prizes to top duo-pianist teams from around the world since its founding. The program’s conclusion will offer a rare treat with both teams joining in an *eight hand* performance of Aram Khachaturian’s “Sabre Dance.”

“Commissions & Classics” will be presented Wednesday, December 6 at 7PM at the Gusman Center for the Performing Arts Olympia Theater, 174 E. Flagler St., Miami. For ticket information call 305 572-9900.

About the Murray Dranoff Foundation

The Murray Dranoff Foundation is dedicated to the presentation of Two Piano music, and its outstanding artists to the publics of the world. Foundation programs develop audiences and appreciation for this unique art form through education, performance, and the commission of new compositions by world renowned composers, including Morton Gould, John Corigliano, William Bolcom, and Ned Rorem.