

## **Music is the language of South High School student**

By Dina Soresi Winter

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Ivan Moshchuk, born in Moscow, and a senior at Grosse Pointe South High School, gave his first full piano recital at South's auditorium Friday, Feb. 27.

The audience of students and friends, musicians and others, were either invited or saw the poster announcing the event. They may have been curious, as I was, to see and hear what an 18-year-old, who writes words like "music is a language which brings us together like no other", could and would do.

What we heard was astonishing.

Here is a young artist of superior training, musical sensitivity and a very high level of achievement. His playing exemplified the best of top-notch schooling. His performance was well paced - never rushed - giving time for the music to speak for itself, while paying attention to subtle balances and shading.

The program he chose was extremely challenging. And he played it - not to impress with a blatant display of technical virtuosity, which he could have very easily done - but to truthfully serve the music. And it was music of the highest caliber we heard.

His fluid and sensitive fingers glided and danced over the keyboard as he drew out the many colors and moods in works of Bach, Beethoven, Scriabin, Chopin and, most impressively of all, Rachmaninoff. We heard a performance of outstanding and secure lyricism and bravura, each piece revealing the style appropriate to its genre.

He never played for splashy effect, but let the music speak.

Before his last selection, the young, dapper-looking senior took microphone in hand and quietly thanked Dan White and Tina Mayk, both of Grosse Pointe South, for making the concert possible in that wonderful venue, his parents for "putting up" with him, and the audience for being there.

Then he went on to play Rachmaninoff's spectacularly demanding "Moments Musicaux, Opus 16" in its original, extremely difficult, 1896 version. The long and enthusiastic standing ovation prompted him to grace us with two additional encores. This was truly a remarkable performance by an outstanding young musician.

Moshchuk has taken top prizes in numerous local and national competitions and has already appeared on stages in Europe and North America. Let's keep an eye on him. I think he is headed for the heights.