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UNT piano professor earns Grammy nomination

DENTON (UNT), Texas — Renowned pianist Joseph Banowetz, a University of North Texas professor of music, has earned a Grammy nomination for Best Instrumental Soloist Performance with Orchestra for his recording of Kletzki's Piano Concerto in D Minor, Op. 22.

The nomination — announced Dec. 1 (Wednesday) — came for his recording with the Russian Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Thomas Sanderling. In addition, the album's producers Marina A. Ledin and Victor Ledin earned nominations for Classical Producer of the Year. Winners of the 53rd annual Grammy awards will be named Feb. 13 (Sunday) in Los Angeles.

"I am very honored and happy to bring the music of Kletzki to the American public," Banowetz said.

In December 2007, Banowetz and UNT alumnus Alton Chung Ming Chan received a Grammy nomination for Best Chamber Music Performance on the album *Balakirev and Russian Folksong*. That same year, producers Marina A. and Victor Ledin also earned a nomination for Classical Producer of the Year for the album.

Other UNT ties

Other UNT ties on the nomination list include UNT alumnus Michael Daugherty, who received a nomination for "Best Classical Contemporary Composition" for his piece "Deus ex Machina." The album that includes his work also received several other Grammy nominations, including Best Classical Album. Former UNT student Norah Jones was nominated for Best Female Pop Vocal Performance.

About Joseph Banowetz

Banowetz has been heard as recitalist and orchestral soloist on five continents and has performed with such orchestras as the St. Petersburg (formerly Leningrad) Philharmonic, Moscow State Symphony, Prague and Bratislava radio orchestras, Budapest Symphony, New Zealand Symphony (on a 12-concert national tour), Beijing Central Philharmonic, Barcelona Concert Society Orchestra, Shanghai Symphony and Hong Kong Philharmonic. In 1992, Banowetz was awarded the Liszt Medal by the Hungarian Liszt Society in Budapest in recognition of his outstanding performances of Liszt

and the Romantic literature. He is a graduate with a First Prize from the Vienna Academy for Music and Dramatic Arts.

He has served on the juries of major piano competitions, including the Gina Bachauer International Piano Competition (United States), Arthur Rubinstein Master Piano Competition (Israel) and the Scottish International Piano Competition (Glasgow) and has been invited to teach and lecture at many schools, including the St. Petersburg Conservatory, Juilliard School of Music in New York City and London's Royal College. Banowetz has recorded more than 30 records for the Naxos, Marco Polo, Toccata Classics, Warner Brothers and Altarus labels.

For more information, visit www.josephbanowetz.com.

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