



COLLEGE OF ARTS
AND SCIENCES

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Mr. Avguste Antonov came to Texas A&M University on September 26 and 27 upon my invitation to perform a solo recital and teach a Master Class.

When I receive a proposed program for a piano recital, I am rarely completely unfamiliar with the composers on the program. Mr. Antonov's program was eclectic, truly unheard, and fascinating. It was especially gratifying to encounter those pieces through a performer who has worked with most of the composers whose works he performed – we got fresh interpretations straight from the horse's mouth, so to speak. Mr. Antonov's playing was wonderful. He not only possesses the technical and mental stamina to perform these extremely complex works, but he is an imaginative pianist, with a great sense of structure and color. Gregory Hutter's "Melancholy Rags" are whimsical, nostalgic, and capricious pieces. Mr. Antonov's characterization was excellent. Matthew Saunder's immensely difficult Piano Sonata was a tour de force, brilliant, and strong.

After that recital I was curious how Mr. Antonov would handle traditional repertoire. He taught two of my students performing a Haydn Sonata and Beethoven's C minor Variations. His comments and demonstrations were to the point, helpful, and intelligent. I could refer back to them weeks later in piano lessons, which is always the sign of an excellent master class.

It was a pleasure to have Mr. Antonov in Kingsville, and I am looking forward to another visit. For the students it was great to hear some truly contemporary repertoire performed by an artist who obviously not only has a strong affinity to it, but also the pianistic and intellectual wearwithall to perform convincing and engaging interpretations.

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