

By NIKKI PATRICK

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PATRICK'S PEOPLE: Musically inclined

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Dr. Selim Giray of the Pittsburg State University music faculty and Dr. Gulimina Mahamuti from Ohio Wesleyan University, have been doing a lot of that, and will perform Jan. 8 in the Weill Recital Hall, Carnegie Hall.

Pittsburg area residents who aren't planning on being in New York on Jan. 8 will have an opportunity to hear the two perform a similar program of Turkish music at 7:30 p.m. Monday in McCray Recital Hall, PSU.

The concert will be open free to the public, but anyone wishing to make a contribution toward the expenses of their Carnegie Hall performance will have an opportunity to do so.

"We have a dedicated PSU account toward our Carnegie appearance," Giray said.

He and Mahamuti will also perform Tuesday at Oklahoma State and Wednesday at the University of Kansas.

"On Sept. 21 we will be performing a similar program of Turkish music at the City University of New York in Queens," Giray said. "They have designated this year as the year of Turkey there. Last year was devoted to China."

The program will be composed of music for violin and piano by Turkish composers, including Adnan Saygun, Ekrem Zeki Un, Muammer Sun and Emre Araci.

Giray is associate professor of violin and viola at PSU, and serves as music director and conductor of the Southeast Kansas Symphony Orchestra and the PSU Chamber Orchestra. He also currently serves as concertmaster and assistant conductor of the Ohio Light Opera, and in 2010 was appointed field editor for the Mellen Press.

As a violinist, he has performed extensively on four continents. A native of Istanbul, Turkey, Giray graduated from Istanbul State Conservatory and Mimar Sinan University State Conservatory, and earned his doctorate from Florida State University.

Mahamuti is a native of Karamay City in western China, and is the first Chinese Uighur to receive a doctorate of musical arts in piano performance in the United States. Before coming to America, she was a member of the piano faculty at Northwest University for Nationalities in China, where she had earned a bachelor of music performance. She also received a master of music in piano performance and piano pedagogy from Harbin Normal University.

She came to the United States after meeting Dr. Reena Berger Natenberg of the PSU music faculty at the Harbin Music Festival in August 2004. Impressed by Natenberg, Mahamuti applied to come to America and study at PSU, where she received her second master's degree in piano performance with graduate dean academic honors in 2007. She earned her doctor of musical arts in piano performance from the University of Missouri-Kansas City conservatory of Music.

In September 2010 Mahamuti, who now resides in Mansfield, Ohio, returned to PSU as a guest pianist with the SEK Symphony Orchestra.

In addition to her duties as assistant music professor at Ohio Wesleyan, Mahamuti is also on the piano faculty at Capital University Conservatory of Music, has an active performance career and has published articles in major music journals in China and the United States.

She is pleased to be back in Pittsburg again to perform. "This is the place where people are so nice," Mahamuti said in a 2010 interview.



PHOTO/ CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Dr. Selim Giray, violinist, left, a member of the Pittsburg State University music faculty, and Dr. Gulimina Mahamuti, pianist and assistant music professor at Ohio Wesleyan University, will present a free public recital at 7:30 p.m. Monday in McCray Recital Hall. The program will be very similar to a program the two will present Jan. 8 at Carnegie Hall.

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