

# Yuliana Rogacheva

Originally from Vladimir, Yuliana Rogacheva is now completing her studies at the prestigious Gnessin Institute (Russia's equivalent to Juilliard) and performing with Moscow's leading orchestras, jazz bands, and combos.

On July 15, 2010 Yuliana competed in the finals of the very prestigious Montreux Jazz Festival vocal competition. Out of the 75 original entrants from 25 different countries, the audience of jazz aficionados voted Yuliana the most popular vocal contestant. The distinguished panel of judges, headed by Quincy Jones, awarded her second place. Quite an achievement for one of the youngest, if not the youngest participant in the competition!



Performing at Montreux



With Quincy Jones

## YouTube Videos

**Almost like Being in Love** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CETPuDs6JOA>

**Haunted Ballroom** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ejv-dtQqe4g>

**No More Blues** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=upxFwE4OZUM>

**The Night We Called It a Day** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qwepEav68Ig>



Performing at the Moscow Jazz Festival, "What a Wonderful World -2008"



Yuliana was just 8 when she appeared on stage for the first time, singing children's songs with a major Russian orchestra. She gave her first performance at the American Home when she was 13.



**Just 13 (Yuliana does not in fact play the sax)**



**Performing at the AH—2004**

The essays below recount Yuliana's "jazz adventures" through the summer of 2005. Since then she has studied diligently at Gnessin—and performed with some of Moscow's top jazz orchestras and combos. (See the YouTube videos.) In January 2010 the online magazine, *jazz.ru*, published an extended article on her.

Since her last trip to the States in 2005, Yuliana has very much wanted to return to the home of jazz for more instruction and performance experience. For a variety of reasons, that hasn't worked out—yet. But one of her favorite instructors, Dena DeRose, is currently teaching in Graz, Austria. The plan is for Yuliana to spend a week with Dena at some point in the near future.

Yuliana is justifiably proud of the fact that she will be able to pay for her time with Dena from the cash prize she received from Gnessin in recognition of her performance accomplishments. (She also received a cash prize from Montreux.) Other recent special recognitions include receiving the 2008 Russian Young Performer Encouragement Award in Music—Jazz; and winning the "Fascinated by Jazz 2009" competition.

A great many more honors are sure to come—along with, hopefully, more opportunities to study and perform here in the States.



## **A GIRL WHO CAN SING**

**From Russia with Love—for Jazz**

**By Ron Pope**

**A version of this essay was published in the *Jazz Buff* newsletter, Palo Alto, California, August-September 2005**

There is a famous Russian pop singer, Alla Pugachova, about whom a popular movie was made during the Soviet period entitled "A Woman Who Sings."

There is another Russian—not yet famous—who is an even better singer than Ms. Pugachova. Her name is Yuliana Rogacheva. She is from the provincial city of Vladimir, which was once the capital of ancient Rus.

Yuliana could probably become a famous Russian pop star—if she wanted to. She is blessed with a beautiful voice with an uncommon range—and the physical beauty of a pop star, including a dazzling smile. But at age 8—she's just 17 now—she was introduced to Ella Fitzgerald by a Russian singer, Svetlana Rubinin,

Yuliana simply fell in love with jazz. And despite a growing number of financially tempting offers to perform popular Russian music, she has never wavered from her chosen goal—to become a successful professional international jazz singer.

In route to her goal, at age 14—several years younger than the official minimum age—Yuliana managed to enroll in the Variety and Jazz College in Moscow, the only school in Russia that teaches jazz, and she and her mother moved the 120 miles to the Russian capital. Yuliana will finish the College's program next year.

Along the way she has performed on national Russian TV, participated in a number of major concerts and, to date, 14 Russian and international competitions, all of which she has won. In 2003, for example, she took part in the international competition "Italian Magic" in Cesenatico. The morning after the competition, when she and her mother went to breakfast at the hotel where all the participants were staying, Yuliana received a standing ovation from the other performers and their families. The results of the competition had not yet been announced—but the other participants assumed that Yuliana had won. She in fact received the Grand Prix.

Yuliana and her parents understood that, notwithstanding her successes in Russia and Europe, to achieve her ultimate goal she needed to find a way to study in the U.S. In pursuit of this goal, they approached the staff at the American Home in Vladimir with a request for assistance. They brought her to my attention, and I promised to see what might be arranged. Yuliana became a regular performer at various American Home events, including the Home's 10th anniversary celebration on July 4, 2002. Especially after hearing her perform several times, I knew I had to try to arrange something.

To make a long story short, I was able to put Yuliana in touch with Dr. Katharine (Katchie) Cartwright in New York. Katchie, a noted jazz performer and music educator and Chair of the International Association for Jazz Education's Sisters in Jazz mentoring program, was immediately attracted to Yuliana's exceptional talent and potential. She began providing advice long distance. And a search was begun for a summer program Yuliana could participate in here in the States. Michael Zisman of the Stanford Jazz Workshop offered Yuliana a generous scholarship, and I was able to raise the rest of the funds needed from several jazz enthusiasts who were also acquainted with the American Home project. As a result, last summer Yuliana made her first trip to America—and her first trip without her mother. On her way to California Yuliana spent several days with Katchie Cartwright and her family in New York. After working directly with Yuliana, Katchie concluded that the young Russian not only has "an uncommonly beautiful and flexible voice, she is extraordinarily musical and disciplined."



At last summer's Stanford Jazz Workshop Yuliana worked with another well known jazz artist and educator, Dena DeRose. Dena noted that she—and others—“were amazed at how much Yuliana felt for the music....”

In response to her first opportunity to study in the U.S., Yuliana commented, "One of the first jazz songs I performed when I was just nine years old was 'A Letter to Ella.' It's a Russian song about a little girl who

dreams of flying to the US to tell Ella Fitzgerald that Russia loves jazz too. At that time I couldn't imagine that seven years later I would be this girl!"

Both Katchie and Dena are very much looking forward to working with Yuliana again this year. This time Yuliana will fly directly to California from Russia. She'll then stop in New York on her way home—where she will once again stay with Katchie's family and where she will visit Juilliard. (It is hoped that Juilliard will soon initiate a long anticipated vocal jazz program.)

In California, thanks to another scholarship and more generous donations, Yuliana will attend the second and third weeks of the Stanford Jazz Workshop.

Last summer, Jan DeCarli, a board member of the San Jose Jazz Society, heard Yuliana perform at Stanford and invited her to attend a jam session at Pete Escovedo's newly opened Jazz Club. She sang "Cry Me a River" and then, at the musicians' request, "All of Me." She received a standing ovation for both songs. This led to an invitation to perform at this year's Festival where she will be a featured performer on the youth stage. She will be performing Sunday, August 14 at 4 p.m.

Yuliana Rogachova is definitely a girl who can sing!

## **Yuliana Sang up a Storm in California**

**American Home Alumni News, October 2005**

**Ron Pope**

For the second summer in a row, thanks to Michael Zisman, the Stanford Jazz Workshop offered Yuliana a \$1,500 scholarship. Thanks to other generous donors—and some funds from Serendipity's tour income—Yuliana was able to once again take advantage of this opportunity.

In addition to spending another two weeks at the Stanford Jazz Workshop, thanks to the efforts of Jan DeCarli, a member of the San Jose Jazz Society board of directors who first met Yuliana last year, Yuliana was the featured performer on the youth stage at the San Jose Jazz Festival this year. Also, thanks to Jan and her friends, there was a front page article in the August-September issue of the Jazz Buff Newsletter (Palo Alto, California)—see above—and Yuliana was invited to perform in several San Jose area jazz clubs.



In the middle of the workshop Yuliana's host from last year, Terry Haugen, was injured, and we had to find a new host to look after her between the Stanford program and the Jazz Festival. Fortunately, Sudhir Chandratreya, whose daughter, Tara, was studying with Yuliana in the Stanford program, agreed to look after our "orphan." This worked out very well. Tara, who is the same age as Yuliana and who has an excellent opera-trained voice, shared the stage at the jazz clubs, and she and her father clearly made Yuliana feel very much at home. Tara and Yuliana should be life-long friends and colleagues.

As demonstrated by the response of the audience at each of her video taped performances, Yuliana was very well received. In fact, according to Jan DeCarli, she not only received "rave reviews" from the audiences, but also from the musicians with whom she performed

In his August 16 column in the *San Jose Mercury News*, Leigh Weimers wrote that Yuliana's performance at the Jazz Festival made "all feel confident about the worldwide future of jazz." In an e-mail he wrote that he



"...found [Yuliana] to be quite a poised performer for someone her age. She obviously loves the music. She should have a long career."

After the stint in California, Yuliana once again spent some time with Katchie Cartwright and her family in New York—and she paid a visit to Juilliard. (Unfortunately, they still haven't added vocal jazz to their program.) Yuliana and her mother are now working in Moscow—with help from Alexei in Vladimir—to bring Dr. Cartwright over to put on a workshop under the Fulbright Senior Specialist program. [Unfortunately, this did not work out.-RP]

In several phone conversations while she was here in the States Yuliana stressed how much she was learning this time around. Now we just need to find a way to get her back for extended training.



Photos taken for the *jazz.ru* article



Yuliana Rogacheva – January 2010