

# Renowned pianist to perform tonight

By Josh Bollinger  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

In 1958, a 15-year-old Jeffrey Siegel won a state-wide contest in Illinois and received a great award: playing as the piano soloist with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra.

At that point, he knew his future was set.

Piano virtuoso Siegel will perform "Chopin for Lovers!" at 7:30 tonight in the Schwab Auditorium.

"Chopin for Lovers!" is celebrating the 200th birthday of Frederic Chopin. The concert is part of the Keyboard Conversations program, in which Siegel will talk to the audience about the music and why Chopin wrote it.

"I do this to make the listening more focused and more accessible, whether it be an avid concertgoer or a novice," he said.

Siegel also holds a question-and-answer session after the performance so the audience has a chance to participate.

During the question-and-answer portion, Siegel said the audience can ask him anything from, "How many hours a day do you practice?" to "Did your mother make you study piano?"

In regards to practice, Siegel said he doesn't count the hours.

He said it's not how long you practice for, but it's what you do with your instrument while you're practicing that makes the difference.

"When your mind is pondering, it doesn't matter how long you sat there," Siegel said.

Center for the Performing Arts (CPA) Editorial Manager John Mark Rafacz said there's just something inviting about Siegel as a piano soloist.

"It's one of the more intimate concerts you can attend," said Rafacz.

Rafacz said Siegel played a Keyboard Conversations program about Beethoven last year — the CPA loved it so much they decided to invite him back.

In addition to being a fabulous pianist and the music being "gorgeous," Siegel is also an impeccable speaker who doesn't lecture the audience, Rafacz said.

"I really liked the addition of the commentary," Rafacz said. "I think he adds another level to the music."



Courtesy of azphm.com

**Virtuoso pianist Jeffrey Siegel** will be performing "Chopin for Lovers!" tonight at 7:30.

Siegel said the reason for the romantic name of the program is because each of the Chopin works he'll be performing was inspired by a different woman in the composer's love life.

Siegel said the moods of the pieces range so widely that a year wouldn't be long enough to tell someone about them — "from the pits of despair to absolute jubilation," Siegel said.

Penn State students said they think Siegel's performance is important. Angela Gianamore (senior-communications arts and sciences) said classical music is a dying art form, but it doesn't need to be.

"I think right now everyone's into mainstream music," Gianamore said. "It's music not many people listen to, but should."

But for Siegel, classical music is the only genre that he listens to.

"I think the music that's been written for the piano was so attractive and so compelling that it's a whole world in itself," Siegel said.

Tickets are \$38 for adults, \$28 for ages 18 and under and \$15 for Penn State students.

To e-mail reporter: [tjb5267@psu.edu](mailto:tjb5267@psu.edu)

## If you go

**What:** Pianist Jeffrey Siegel

**When:** 7:30 tonight

**Where:** Schwab Auditorium

**Details:** Tickets are \$38 for adults, \$28 for ages 18 and under and \$15 for Penn State students

## LEARNING FROM THE BEST



Sarah Finnegan/Collegian

A student views the works of the Penn State art faculty at the Faculty Exhibition opening. The Edwin W. Zoller Gallery, open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., will be showcasing the work of faculty members all this week.

# Film series showcases diversity

By Mike Hricik  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Che Guevara polarized democratic and communist states during the Cold War as the socialist leader of the Cuban Revolution. In the years since his assassination in 1967, his image has become a widely recognized symbol of counterculture and Cuban pride.

The film "Che Guevara" will be shown tonight in the HUB Auditorium as a part of the Penn State Cultural Lounge Film Series to promote diversity and open-mindedness for Penn State students, the group said.

"The point is to expose people to diversity and differences in life," Assistant Director of Residence Life Moses Davis said.

Davis organized the yearly series and carefully chose films dealing with relevant diversity issues.

Four films will show throughout both the fall and spring semesters. Each presentation will feature a discussion on ques-

tions raised in films afterwards, Davis said.

Paul Robeson Cultural Center Assistant Director Stephanie Preston said students benefit from the programming offered by the series.

"It educates them. It gives them an opportunity to experience things they may not be familiar with," Preston said.

The 2005 musical "Rent" will be shown on Oct. 20 with a post-film discussion led by the LGTA Student Resource Center.

Davis said the film deals with AIDS, sexuality and class in ways he hopes students will appreciate.

On Feb. 9, Chris Rock's "Good Hair" will delve into the relationship between African-American women and their hair in a comedy documentary.

The Center for Women Students will supervise post-film discussions on March 23 following "Fried Green Tomatoes," a comedy/drama about female friendships in the South.

Davis said cultural lounges in

commons buildings are important to student life.

"We teach students how to make Hanukkah dreidels and salsa dance. We host dialogues about situations on campus," Davis said. "It's a great thing."

Some students are looking forward to the annual series because of its reputation of quality.

Melissa Balsiger said the program has been successful in the past.

"I think the variety of films they get on campus is pretty awesome," Balsiger (senior-hotel, restaurant and institutional management) said.

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## If you go

**What:** Penn State Cultural Lounge Film Series presents "Che Guevara"

**When:** 8 tonight

**Where:** HUB Auditorium

**Details:** Admission is free with a valid student ID.



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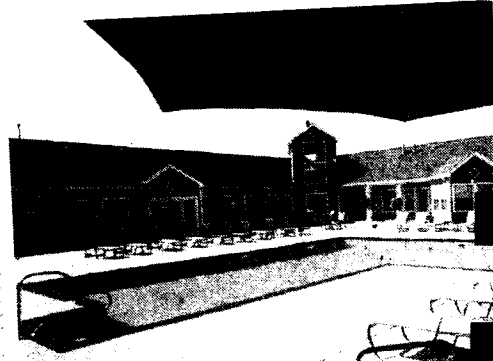
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