

'An Evening of Piano Music with Deepani'

An "Evening of Piano Music with Deepani" will be performed at the Auditorium of the British School at 7.00 p.m. on August 15. The Canadian pianist Deepani de Alwis will be the star attraction, this being the first time she is giving a recital in Sri Lanka. Her usual excuse was that her visits to Sri Lanka were her holidays during which she wanted to relax, not work. This time, however, she has been talked into giving a recital in Sri

Colombo International School, and St. George's English School in Rome, Italy, where her father, Dr. Kingsley de Alwis, served with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization for many years.

Deepani commenced her musical studies at the tender age of four under the tutelage of her mother, Mrs. Ranjani de Alwis, who is a piano teacher. She subsequently studied piano under the late Erin Abeyundera while she was in Sri

Belgrade in former Yugoslavia. She entered the University of Glasgow and the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama (RSAMD), Scotland, where she obtained her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Musical Studies, specializing in Performance, with piano as her major

Postgraduate Diploma in Pianoforte from the RSAMD the following year. She returned to Rome for a while but went back to Canada and currently lives in Toronto, Canada.

Deepani has also obtained a number of professional qualifications, including: Fellow of the Trinity College of Music

in Chamber groups. She made her professional debut as Soloist with the Glasgow Chamber Orchestra, playing Schumann's popular Piano Concerto. Since then she has given numerous public concerts in Rome and other Italian cities, including a live concert and interview on RAI Radio Televisione Italiana. Deepani's concerts included performances of the classical and romantic composers (Bach, Vivaldi, Handel, Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert, Chopin, Schumann, Tchaikovsky, Brahms, Liszt, et al.) and modern composers (Debussy, Rachmaninoff, Messiaen, Ravel, Gershwin, et al.). She has live Video recordings of two concerts in Rome, Italy. She gave frequent recitals at the Rome Baptist Church in Italy to raise money for various church projects.

Deepani has attended Public Master Classes with many eminent pianists including: John Lill, Pascal Roge, Fou T'song, Steven Smith, Ekatarina Miruna, Roger Vignoles, Dominique Merlet, David Lively, Geoffrey Parsons, Pierce Lane, and Madame Shishkow.

In the course of her career, Deepani has received several awards and prizes, including the TG More Scholarship for post-graduate studies, the Bach Prize for Harpsichord, Piano and Organ (Class A)(Glasgow), John D. Miles Lieder Prize Piano-Voice Duo, the Bach Prize for Harpsichord, Piano and Organ (Class B)(Glasgow), Second Prize in the Sixth Tchaikovsky Piano Competition of Sri Lanka. She has also participated and received favourable mention in competitions for the Laurence Glover Memorial Prize, Ramsey Calder Debussy Prize, and the Wayne Marshall Jazz Workshop. In addition to playing classical pieces Deepani also enjoys playing modern jazz and does oil painting as a hobby.

From here, Deepani goes to London where she gives a solo performance at the Regent Hall in Oxford Street in aid of the charity, "Medical Aid to Sri Lanka".



Lanka in support of the charity "Educate a Child". For the benefit of those who are more inclined to vocal rather than keyboard music, two of our most talented singers, Baritone Rohan de Lanerolle and Tenor Srimanthaka Senanayake will make an appearance as guest artistes at this concert.

Deepani was born of Sri Lankan parents in Edmonton, Alberta and accompanied them when they returned to Sri Lanka. She received her primary and secondary education at Ladies College, Colombo, the

Lanka and the Russian Pianist, Leon Harshenin, during her stay in Rome.

While at school Deepani took up examinations conducted by the Royal and Trinity Colleges of Music, London, doing extremely well in all exams she took. At St. George's English School in Rome, she studied voice under Annette Meriwether, the opera singer from Michigan and Robert Hix. She qualified in voice and was a member of the Chamber Choir and Orchestra, being the Soprano Soloist, giving performances in Rome and Milan in Italy, Sarajevo and

instrument and voice as her second. She studied under the guidance of Professor Graeme McNaught among others. On completing her degree, she was awarded the prestigious T. G. More Scholarship for postgraduate studies and went on to obtain the

(FTCL), London; Licentiate of the Royal Schools of Music (LRSM), London; and Licentiate of the Trinity College of Music (LTCL), London.

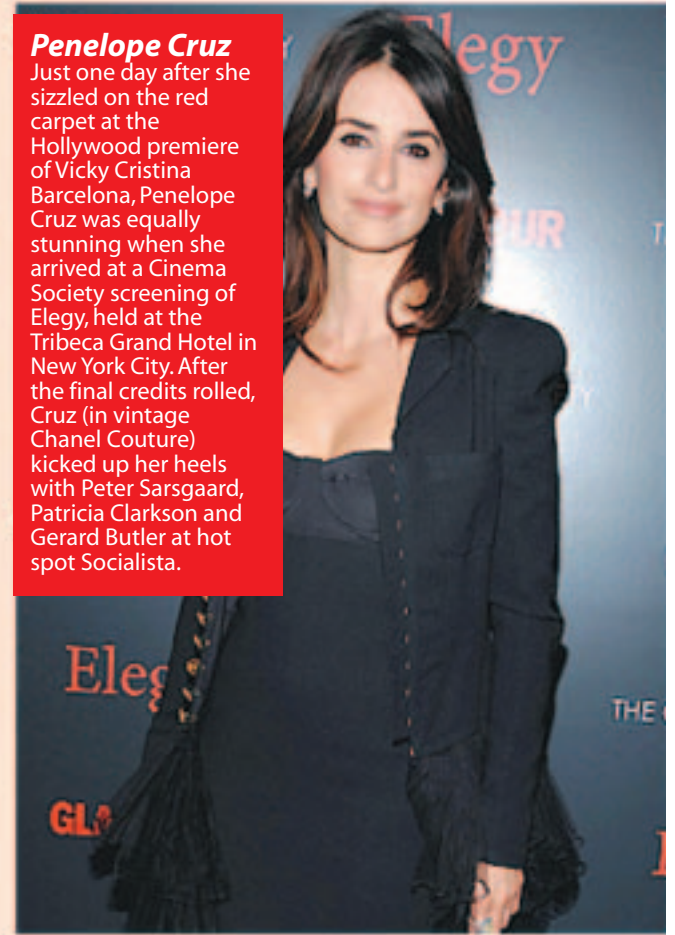
Deepani has had wide experience in performing, including professional concerts as soloist, accompanist and



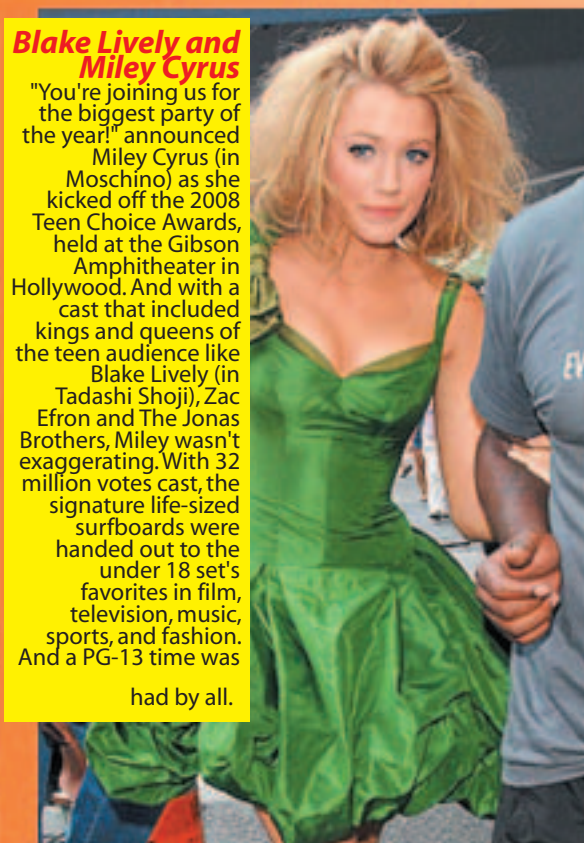
Mariah Carey
The young-at-heart—not to mention toned and taut!—Mariah Carey gave a candy-colored performance of her hit, "I'll Be Lovin' You Long Time" with a little help from a team of backup dancers. Miley Cyrus and The Jonas Brothers also took the stage to entertain the A-list crowd.



ONE FOR THE BOYS
Britney Spears spells out her love for sons Jayden, who turns 2 on Sept. 12, and Preston, who turns 3 on Sept. 14, during a brief shopping trip to L.A. boutique Lisa Kline on Saturday. The day before, the singer had some fun in the sun with her little guys in Bel Air, Calif.



Penelope Cruz
Just one day after she sizzled on the red carpet at the Hollywood premiere of Vicky Cristina Barcelona, Penelope Cruz was equally stunning when she arrived at a Cinema Society screening of Elegy, held at the Tribeca Grand Hotel in New York City. After the final credits rolled, Cruz (in vintage Chanel Couture) kicked up her heels with Peter Sarsgaard, Patricia Clarkson and Gerard Butler at hot spot Socialista.



Blake Lively and Miley Cyrus
"You're joining us for the biggest party of the year!" announced Miley Cyrus (in Moschino) as she kicked off the 2008 Teen Choice Awards, held at the Gibson Amphitheater in Hollywood. And with a cast that included kings and queens of the teen audience like Blake Lively (in Tadashi Shoji), Zac Efron and The Jonas Brothers, Miley wasn't exaggerating. With 32 million votes cast, the signature life-sized surfboards were handed out to the under 18 set's favorites in film, television, music, sports, and fashion. And a PG-13 time was had by all.



SOLE SINGERS
It's all about the shoes! Rihanna and Welsh singer Duffy share a passion for footwear as the singers meet up Friday while shopping at Barneys in New York City.



Katie Holmes
Katie Holmes had plenty of paparazzi to keep her company as she hit the streets of Manhattan. Holmes is in New York City to rehearse for her role in the upcoming Broadway revival, All My Sons.