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## **Pianist Elisso Virsaladze Selected As Classical Archives Artist of the Month for November**

**Russian Pianist Heralded Among 'Russia's Greatest Modern Pianist';**

**Disciple of Legendary Pianist Heinrich Neuhaus A Master Interpreter of Schumann**

Palo Alto, CA October 25, 2005 – Russian pianist Elisso Virsaladze, a laureate of the famed Tchaikovsky Competition, has been selected as Artist of the Month for November 2005 by the Classical Archives (<http://www.classicalarchives.com/artists/aotm.html>), in recognition of her interpretive talents and rising status in the classical music world.

Elisso Virsaladze (also spelled Wissaladze) hails from the Georgian city of Tbilisi and owes her early music education to her grandmother Anastasia Virsaladze, herself a famous pianist. Following a series of victories at international piano competitions, including 1<sup>st</sup> Prize at the Schumann Competition in Zwickau, Germany (1966), Elisso began an active career as a professor (at the Moscow Conservatory) and performer. She has recorded numerous CDs, including music of Chopin, Schumann, and Shostakovich. Such is her mastery of technique and interpretation that Mark Zilberquit named her among Russia's Greatest Modern Pianists in his 1983 book of the same name.

According to Dr. Nolan Gasser, Artistic Director of the Classical Archives, "Elisso Virsaladze has become somewhat of a legend in her own time, by virtue of her brilliant, even mystical performances – especially of Schumann. Her interpretations seem to penetrate to the intellectual and emotional core of the music, granting new meaning into even well-trodden works, such as Schumann's *Fantasie in C, Op.17*. It is pleasure to welcome this bold musician as our latest Artist of the Month." Dr. Gasser is himself a critically acclaimed composer, pianist, conductor and arranger, as well as a published musicologist. He received his Ph.D. in Musicology in 2001 from Stanford University, where he is an Adjunct Professor in Medieval and Renaissance Music History.

The Classical Music Archives is a subscription-based online music service offering the largest collection of classical music files on the Internet. Close to 3,000,000 unique users visit the site each month and enjoy intelligent access to classical music works that are otherwise hidden or absent on other Internet music sites. (See [www.classicalarchives.com](http://www.classicalarchives.com)). Now in its 11<sup>th</sup> year, the website features a user interface that is designed with the classical music enthusiast in mind. Subscribers pay a small annual fee of \$25 and can stream/download up to 1,000 files per month. The site also welcomes free users although they are limited to accessing only five files per day.

The Classical Music Archives also features a superior browsing environment with in-depth corollary content such as biographies, timelines, and a Learning Center for musicians and conductors. Live recordings are delivered in Hi-Fi MP3 or streamed in the WMA format. A very large collection of MIDI files enables listeners to download large works quickly and, with the appropriate software, to actually see and follow the scores.

**About The Classical Archives:** The Classical Music Archives mission is to focus on, and serve, the niche classical music audience which is largely ignored by online music services. Whereas a search for “Beethoven” on other sites may return three files – one of which is a movie about a dog and the other two are pop/rock titles, the Classical Archives empowers users to make in-depth searches returning meaningful and accurate results. The Classical Music Archives now offers over 35,000 tracks (increasing daily) which are carefully cataloged and presented for a superior user experience.

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The Classical Archives was created in 1994 by CEO Pierre R. Schwob to offer classical music in well organized and clearly cataloged MIDI files. The Internet was at the beginning of its exponential growth and the site quickly gathered a faithful and enthusiastic following. By the end of the last century, the site had developed into the largest classical music site on the web. Live recordings, biographies and historical context were then added in 2000 and the site has continued to expand. The Company is headquartered in Palo Alto, CA (with several offices around the world) and over 35,000 music files from over 1,900 composers are available at [www.classicalarchives.com](http://www.classicalarchives.com)

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