

FACT SHEET

TITLE: **THE WORLD'S GREATEST MUSICAL
PRODIGIES**
[TV-G] [Stereo] [CC]

LENGTH: 3x48

NOLA CODE: IPRF

CATEGORY: Documentary

OFFERED: Fall 2009, S11

EXPECTED RELEASE: April 1, 2010

CONTRACT TERMS: Four releases to be completed by March 31, 2012.
A release is defined as unlimited use within seven days.

PROGRAM SUPPLIER: RDF Rights

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION: Sixteen-year-old Alexander Prior is one of the most talented and prolific young British composers of our time. He has completed three years of studies at the St. Petersburg Conservatory, learning composition as well as opera and symphonic conducting from many of today's greatest music teachers. In 2009 Alexander was not only crowned runner-up in the prestigious Leeds Conductors Competition, but was also featured in this prime-time documentary series on Channel 4 in the U.K. **THE WORLD'S GREATEST MUSICAL PRODIGIES** follows Alexander on a unique mission as he travels to China and America to recruit four of the best classical musicians in the world between the ages of 8 and 15. Taking inspiration from their different talents he will then write a concerto featuring them and will premiere it at The Sage, Gateshead, a landmark music center on the North coast of England. The chosen musicians will have only one week to work together before the concert takes place.

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PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS: Use above description for guide listings. A press release will be posted to PBS Connect and APTonline.org. Color photography will be available via email and will also be posted on APTonline.org.

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BROADCAST HISTORY: U.S. Television Premiere

RELATED MERCHANDISE: DVD is not available.

Pledge: No specific arrangements have been made for pledge merchandise. If you're interested in pledging this program, please contact Kerry Taylor at 617-338-4455, ext. 121.

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PRESS RELEASE

Discover the Amazing Minds and Compositions of THE WORLD'S GREATEST MUSICAL PRODIGIES

At the age of 16, Alexander Prior is one of the most talented and prolific young British composers of our time. A student at the prestigious St. Petersburg Conservatory with more than 40 concertos to his name, Prior has already been crowned the runner-up at the renowned Leeds Conductors Competition and has been featured in a prime-time documentary series on England's Channel 4 network.

The new American Public Television-distributed series **THE WORLD'S GREATEST MUSICAL PRODIGIES**, releasing to public television stations nationwide beginning April 1, 2010, follows Alexander on a unique global mission. Alexander ventures to China and America to recruit four of the world's best young musicians, all between the ages of 8 and 15, to play in a concerto at one on England's landmark music centers.

Beginning in Miami, Fla., Alexander auditions five of America's best young talents – two violinists, two cellists, and a harpist – who have flown in from all corners of the country, culminating in a high-pressure public recital. In the second episode, Alexander travels to Shanghai to find four of the country's best piano students, with the help of two piano

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professors at the Shanghai Conservatory.

With the four soloists selected, Alexander travels to the shores of Russia's Lake Ilmin in search of inspiration. He faces a unique task – to write an epic concerto which will do justice to all of their remarkable talents. The composition will require a delicate balance of artistic and management issues, the prodigies demand re-writes and changes to the finished product. With only a week of preparation before the concert, Alexander faces the most difficult challenge of his young career.

An intriguing look into the musical mind and the art of composition, **THE WORLD'S GREATEST MUSICAL PRODIGIES** is an unforgettable and insightful series.

THE WORLD'S GREATEST MUSICAL PRODIGIES was acquired from RDF Rights by American Public Television for syndication to public television stations nationwide.

About American Public Television

American Public Television (APT) has been a leading distributor of high-quality, top-rated programming to America's public television stations since 1961. Among its 300 new program titles per year are prominent documentaries, dramatic series, how-to programs, children's series and classic movies, including *Spain...on the road Again*, *Rick Steves' Europe*, *Worldfocus*, *Globe Trekker*, *Simply Ming*, *America's Test Kitchen From Cook's Illustrated*, *Lidia's Italy*, *P. Allen Smith's Garden Home*, *Murdoch Mysteries*, *Doc Martin*, *Rosemary and Thyme*, *Johnny Cash at Folsom Prison*, *Liza's at the Palace....* and *John Denver: The Wildlife Concert*. APT also licenses programs internationally through its APT Worldwide service. In 2006, APT launched Create™ – the TV channel featuring the best of public television's lifestyle programming. For more information about APT's programs and services, visit APTonline.org.

1/11/2010

THE WORLD'S GREATEST MUSICAL PRODIGIES

Episode #101:

Alexander travels to Miami at the invitation of renowned prodigy-hunter Giselle Brodsky, who runs the Miami International Piano Festival. Giselle has pre-selected five of America's most gifted young musicians to audition for Alexander: two violinists, two cellists and a harpist. These children and their parents have flown in from all corners of America to meet and audition for Alexander. Ida Haendel, the legendary violinist who was once a celebrated child prodigy, will also take part in the selection process which culminates in a public recital in front of an audience of 500 at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts in Fort Lauderdale. Alexander is left to decide which of the musicians to choose, sharing the news, good and bad, with each performer after reaching his decision.

Episode #102:

Alexander is off to Shanghai in search of China's most brilliant piano prodigies. In recent years, the Chinese have fallen in love with Western classical music, and with the piano in particular. The country now has 80 million piano students! With help from two piano professors at the Shanghai Conservatory, William Chen and Huang Kwan Chen, Alexander meets and auditions four astonishing young pianists aged 8 to 12. He then faces the difficult task of deciding which one to choose — and, as in Miami, breaking the news to all of the children individually.

Episode #103:

The final episode finds Alexander by the shores of Lake Ilmin in Russia in search of inspiration. He's chosen four soloists and now faces a huge challenge: to write a concerto which will do justice to all of their remarkable talents. As the concerto begins to take shape we gain a unique insight into the mind of one the world's most brilliant young composers — and into the act of creation itself. But when the prodigies receive their parts, some of which are bigger than others, Alexander faces demands for re-writes, leaving him to reconcile delicate artistic and management issues. When the children come to England in April for a week of intensive rehearsals, the stage is set for the most difficult challenge the 16-year-old has ever faced.