

**PIANIST ANTONIO ITURRIOZ PREMIERES
THE BUDDHA OF THE PIANO: LEOPOLD GODOWSKY**

By Donna Kline

Pianists and music lovers familiar with the famous pianists of the late 19th and early 20th Centuries will take a great pleasure in the just released documentary, **The Buddha of the Piano**, the life and remarkable achievements of the supremely talented pianist, Leopold Godowsky (1870-1938.) This is the second documentary produced by the talented Bay Area pianist, Antonio Iturrioz; the first being **The Art of the Left Hand**. Created, conceived, and performed by the talented Iturrioz, this documentary is a must, not only for pianists, but music lovers everywhere.

This is a film long overdue. Iturrioz's well-researched one-hour documentary rightfully places Godowsky in the pantheon of the great pianists of The Golden Age of Romantic piano playing. Narrated by Dr. Charles Sepos, Sonoma County's FM broadcasting announcer and musician, Iturrioz has chronicled the life story of a pianist of phenomenal talent and powerful technique, who was also a prolific composer, arranger, and a giant among his peers, which included Josef Hoffman, Sergei Rachmaninoff, and Josef Lhevinne. Archival images, some obtained from Godowsky's heirs, helps to bring this legendary genius's life to the forefront. Throughout the film, Iturrioz discusses Godowsky's birthplace in Eastern Europe, his musical training, his extensive performing career in Europe, and his life in America as a performing artist and teacher.

Perhaps the most rewarding component of this film is Iturrioz's excellent performances of many of Godowsky's difficult arrangements and compositions—all performed on a rebuilt 1923 Duo-Art Steinway Concert Grand. The background music is also performed by Iturrioz. It brought Godowsky's story and his many achievements even more alive with the genius of his phenomenal talents.

The Buddha of the Piano is a wonderful film, highly recommended for all to see. The film had its successful world premiere this past Thursday, March 25th at the Rialto Cinemas Lakeside in Santa Rosa to a capacity audience. To purchase **The Buddha of the Piano**, go to www.theartofthelefthand.com.