For IMMEDIATE Release

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Pianist Tanya Gabrielian in Benefit Concert on January 11 at ABAC

TIFFON – Renowned pianist Tanya Gabrielian will be spotlighted in a benefit concert at 3 p.m. on Jan. 11 in Howard Auditorium to conclude a weekend residency at Abraham Baldwin
Agricultural College. Admission for the benefit concert, which is a part of the Virtuoso Chamber Music Series, is $15. Tickets may be obtained at www.purplepass.com/abac, by calling (229) 391.4895, or may be purchased at the door.

Dr. Doug Jurs, an ABAC Assistant Professor of Piano and Music Theory, said proceeds from the concert will assist ABAC’s increasingly popular piano program and its students within the college’s music program.

Gabrielian’s concert selections will include Johann Sebastian Bach’s “Partita No. 4 in D major” as well as Bach’s “Chaconne in D minor,” transcribed for piano by Alexander Siloti. Other selections will include Robert Schumann’s “Kinderszenen (Scenes from Childhood),” and Manuel de Falla’s “Fantasia Baetica.”

Gabrielian rose to international acclaim with back-to-back first prize wins at the Scottish International Piano Competition in Glasgow, Scotland and the Aram Khachaturyan International Piano Competition in Yerevan, Armenia. Her visit will include judging a piano competition, meeting with ABAC students in the music program and taking part in community outreach activities.

Jurs said Gabrielian will serve as head juror of The First Biennial Abraham Baldwin Piano Competition for High School Pianists sponsored by Kawai Corporation of America on Jan. 10. Thirty students from 19 different counties in Georgia will compete for $1,900 in cash prizes and a scholarship to attend ABAC. The final round will feature up to eight pianists in a recital open to the public at 4 p.m. on Jan. 10 in Howard Auditorium. This performance is free of charge, and no ticket is required.

The Virtuoso Chamber Music Series is designed to promote an appreciation for the tremendous expressive capacity of fine piano and piano chamber music. Jurs coordinates the
series which features skilled performers drawn from outstanding regional and national professional artists.

Gabrielian was the recipient of the Pro Musicis International Award, as well as being selected as a laureate of the Sydney International Piano Competition and the Bosendorfer International Piano Competition. She was awarded the coveted Wigmore Prize for her Wigmore Hall debut from the Royal Academy of Music in London.

Gabrielian has performed in North America, Europe, Australia, and Asia in venues including Carnegie Hall in New York, Queen Elizabeth Hall and Wigmore Hall in London, the Sydney Opera House, Salle Cortot in Paris, Usher Hall in Edinburgh, the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall, and the Dame Myra Hess Concert Series in Chicago.

Her debut CD, “Kaleidoscope,” was released in November, 2010. As founder of the MELERcollective, she is dedicated to promoting the artist as activist through art. Projects have included an installation with the artist Fran Bull for the exhibit “In Flanders Field: A Meditation on War.” She has also participated in recitals featuring composers with mental illnesses, highlighting the stigma around mental health issues as well as a multidisciplinary collaboration combining Haydn’s “Seven Last Words of Our Savior on the Cross” with final statements from executed death row inmates.

Gabrielian founded a bi-weekly interactive performance series for patients at the New York State Psychiatric Institute. She was awarded the McGraw-Hill Robert Sherman Award for Music Education and Community Outreach for her work.

Studying under Hamish Milne and Alexander Satz, Gabrielian received bachelor and master’s degrees from the Royal Academy of Music. While there, she was awarded with a DipRAM, the highest performing award of the Academy, and she received the prize for the best
final recital for six consecutive years. She then graduated from The Juilliard School as the only candidate accepted for the prestigious Artist Diploma program, an extraordinarily selective postgraduate residency program, where she studied with Robert McDonald and Matti Raekallio. She currently resides in New York City.

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