



Clarfield Studio Annual Spring Recital

Saturday June 19, 2010

Beatrice Liang-Gilman

Nocturne in E Minor, Op. 72, No. 1

Chopin

Like all Chopin Nocturnes, this piece is calm at the beginning and the end. In the middle, there is a little more excitement. Throughout the entire piece, there is a continuous flowing L.H. accompaniment. Because Chopin was influenced by opera, the R.H. melody sings out. The main theme is varied once throughout the piece. You should be able to close your eyes and relax but not fall asleep.

Golliwog's Cakewalk

Debussy

In this piece, a doll named Golliwog is the main character. Golliwog is dancing the Cakewalk, which was really popular among African-Americans in the late 1800s. In the middle of the piece, another story takes place. The middle section tells the story and makes fun of "Tristan and Isolde" which was an opera that became very popular in Paris also in the late 1800s. It was written by Richard Wagner.

The story tells how Tristan kidnaps Isolde. He wants Isolde to marry a king she doesn't want to marry. Isolde wants to poison both her and Tristan but fails when Tristan turns the poison into a love potion. After she drinks the potion, she tells Tristan she loves him. However, Tristan dies in a duel later on, and Isolde kills herself because she can't live without her true love, Tristan. In spite of all this sadness, you will hear laughing when I play the grace notes. This piece should be playful enough so that the player will be able to dance to it, and the audience should feel like dancing too!

Jackie Hua

Sonata in C Major, K.309, Allegro con Spirito

Mozart

Some time between October 1777 and November 1777, a composer by the name of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791) wrote a piece called Sonata K. 309 in C Major. Just by looking at what movement this is, you can tell that this piece is full of spirit. There is also a lot of contrast in the dynamics.

Reverie

Debussy

In 1890, Claude Debussy (1862-1918) wrote a composition called Reverie, which means dream. Reverie sounds just like its title. If you listen closely, you will hear a flowing left hand and beautiful right hand melody. During the course of the piece, the melodies will switch off between the right hand and the left hand.





Charlie Liu

June

Tchaikovsky

June is the sixth piece of Tchaikovsky's "The Seasons" (Op. 37b). "The Seasons" is a set of 12 pieces, one for each month. The reason why he composed "The Seasons" is because in 1875, the editor of a music magazine commissioned Tchaikovsky to compose 12 short piano pieces, one for each month of the year. It is kind of strange that this piece is sad, since most kids would be happy in June because school is over.

Sonata in C# minor, Op.27, No. 2 "Moonlight Sonata"

Presto agitato

Beethoven

The Moonlight Sonata was composed in 1801. The third movement of the Moonlight sonata (Op. 27 No.2) is Presto Agitato and is the fastest movement. It has many fast broken chords. Many people think this is the inspiration for Frederic Chopin's Fantasie Impromptu. Beethoven used lots of sforzando notes, and many sudden dynamic changes. You might want to listen for the drama and excitement created by these sforzandos and sudden dynamic changes.

Lillian Ham

Gnomenreigen (Dance of the Gnomes)

Liszt

The playful, melodious tune of Gnomenreigen (Hungarian for "Dance of the Gnomes") paints a vivid picture in every listener's mind. The repetitive, yet exquisite A theme returns three times throughout the piece, which reminds me of gnomes frolicking through a meadow. How does Liszt paint this song in your mind?



Cancion Y Danza 6 (Song and Dance No. 6)

Monpou

The indecisive mood of this piece first sounds gloomy and depressing but is soon broken by a delightful dance that follows shortly after. The remainder of the dance crescendos and finishes with an unexpected light, piano chord. The variety of emotions throughout each theme is what makes it a favorite.





David Hua

Prelude in G minor, Op. 23 No.5

Rachmaninoff

This piece is one of ten preludes in the “Opus 23” set of Preludes. It’s the model of Rachmaninoff’s Russian nationalism with its many chords and melodies. The piece itself resembles an ABA rondo structure. It starts with a rhythmic A section that has many chords. It then moves to a more lyrical B section that has a beautiful melody in the right hand and arpeggios in the left hand and then the melody gets transferred. Then after a gradual and exciting transition, it returns back into the fast-paced A section.

Waldesrauschen (Forest Murmurings)

Liszt

This piece is the second of the set Zwei Konzertetüden (Two Concert Etudes) for piano. You will hear the imitation of the wind in the forest. The piece itself starts with a soft opening where the left hand has the melody and the right hand has a repeating pattern like rustling leaves. The melody then shifts to the right hand, and this section is slightly louder. It then moves back into a quieter section with both hands having beautiful harmonic melodies. Then it moves on to a much louder middle section where the right hand and left hand switch off melodies. It then moves on to a fast-paced passage where the left hand is jumping around and the right hand is playing octaves. This soon fades out going back to the soft melodies similar to the opening. The piece ends as the music slowly begins to fade away.

Amanda Li

Etude Op. 25, No. 1

Chopin

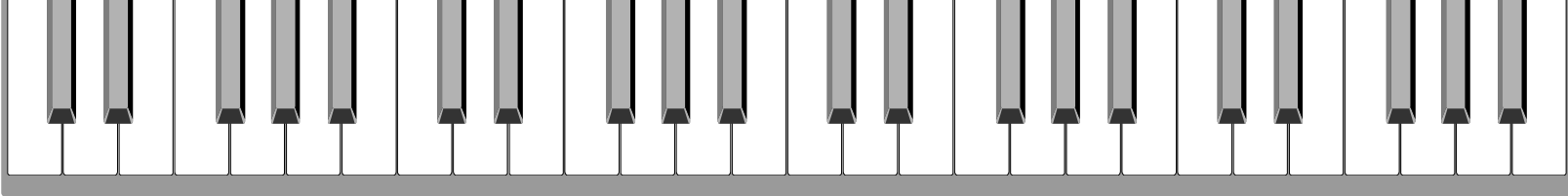
Mesmerized by its fantastic arpeggios and wondrous melody, Robert Schumann nicknamed this étude the “Aeolian Harp,” a musical instrument that is played by the wind. Throughout the piece, you will hopefully hear a simple but beautiful melody played mostly by the little right-hand pinky, accompanied by a swirling “wind” of harmonious notes.

L’Isle Joyeuse

Debussy

The colorful imagery and sparkling personality of this piece was inspired by Watteau’s painting “L’embarquement pour Cythere.” With its flying cupids and intimate lovers, this French painting portrays a very joyful and amorous celebration. Likewise, L’Isle Joyeuse should sound very flirtatious and light-hearted.





Christine Kim

Sonata in E major, L. 23 K. 380

Scarlatti

A calm, yet cute and light sonata is portrayed throughout this piece. Though repetitive, different mood shifts can be sensed; although written in the Baroque Era, this sonata has an expressive character.

Concert Paraphrase of Rigoletto

Liszt

Based on the opera Rigoletto which was composed by Verdi, the story line of this piece involves a quartet from the scene "Bella figlia dell'amore." The characters in this quartet show a range of emotions ranging from innocence and deceit, haughtiness, treachery and disappointment, and all the dramatics involved within. Throughout this piece, the colors are brilliant, and until the end, the music is virtuosic. Though not a really deep composition, Liszt portrays the "melodic richness" of the theme and the expressive range of the piece.

Katie Wang

Rhapsody in Blue

Gershwin

Rhapsody in Blue is considered to be quite the jazzy piece as it displays Gershwin's gifts of both rhythmic invention and melodic inspiration, as well as his ability to write a piece with large-scale harmonic and melodic structure. The piece is characterized by strong motivic interrelatedness. The influences of jazz and other contemporary styles are certainly present in Rhapsody in Blue. Ragtime rhythms are abundant, as is the Cuban "clave" rhythm, which doubles as a dance rhythm in the Charleston jazz dance. The piece, originally written for piano and orchestra is compressed into solo piano. The piece requires much energy from the player as there is never a break in the piece. It flows from one theme to the next.

~*~ Intermission ~*~

Op. 1 No. 1 Trio

Alexia Schulz (Violin), Nathan Siemers (Cello), Charlie Liu (Piano)

Piano Trio in E_b Major, Op. 1, No. 1, Allegro

Beethoven

Beethoven's Trio Op.1 No.1 has 4 movements: Allegro, Adagio cantabile, Scherzo Allegro assai, & Finale Presto. This trio was first performed in 1793. It's for the piano, violin, & cello. You may want to listen closely and see if you can hear melodies passing between the instruments.





David Geng

Rage Over a Lost Penny

Beethoven

Mozart aside, Ludwig van Beethoven is the most famous classical composer of the western world. Beethoven is remembered for his powerful and stormy compositions and for continuing to compose and conduct even after he began to go deaf at age 28. The ominous four-note beginning to his Fifth Symphony -- bom bom bom bommmmm -- is one of the most famous moments in all of music (Beethoven supposedly described the notes as "Fate knocking at the door."). He wrote nine numbered symphonies in all; his Third Symphony ("Eroica") and Sixth Symphony ("Pastoral") are especially famous. Beethoven also wrote the popular "Moonlight Sonata" (1801). Beethoven never married. After his death, his friends found letters to a lover he called "Immortal Beloved" whose identity has never been discovered. The English phrase "Immortal Beloved" is a translation of the German "Unsterbliche Geliebte". Beethoven's precise date of birth is unknown; he was baptized on December 17 1770, and it is presumed he was born on December 16. The piece I will be playing is called *Rage Over a Lost Penny*. It was one of Beethoven's unfinished works. A person named the piece *Rage Over a Lost Penny* after he died. *Rage Over a Lost Penny* is mostly in the key of G major.

Ballade in G Minor

Brahms

German pianist and composer Johannes Brahms is ranked among the masters of the Romantic era. Although he showed talent at the piano at an early age, he spent much of his young life performing rather than composing. Brahms's career was given a boost by composer Robert Schumann (1810-56) and his pianist wife Clara (1819-96); his close relationship with Clara, especially after she was widowed, has been the source of much speculation ever since. The pair exchanged passionate letters and went on holiday together, but Brahms opted to leave her behind to pursue his career and a life of bachelorhood. By the end of the 1860s he'd settled in Vienna, where he lived until his death from cancer in 1897. Musically, he maintained the Romantic tradition of Ludwig van Beethoven, in opposition to the rise of composer Richard Wagner and Brahms's friend, Franz Liszt.

The piece I will be playing is called *Ballade in G minor*. It essentially consists of 3 sections. The first section is a loud, energetic section. The second section is more like a lullaby; it is much softer and not as aggressive. The third section is similar to the first section.

Joy Song

Sonata op. 10, no. 2, Allegro

Beethoven

This sonata was composed between 1796 to 1798 in dedication to the Countess Anne Margarete von Browne. The first theme shows off its comical nature of the piece that contrasts the second theme's lyrical personality. A new idea is introduced in the development that consists of octaves, giving this piece its lively character. You will also find Beethoven's sophisticated humor displayed in this movement through numerous rests, sudden key changes, and dynamics.

Toccata

Poulenc

Francis Poulenc (1899-1963), a French composer, is one of the most popular members of "Les Six", a group of contemporary French composers. Written in 1928, *Toccata* is an exciting, fast-paced piece that requires finger dexterity. Beyond the finger work, I hope to reveal the sweet melody line which expresses the light-heartedness and sentimentality of the piece.





Jamie Cai

Gaspard de la Nuit
Ondine

Ravel

This piece is about a water fairy named Ondine who is known for singing to seduce people so that she can bring them to visit her kingdom at the bottom of a lake. There are many watery passages throughout the piece, ranging from tinkling droplets to cascading falls. It is extremely piece with enough notes to make about half the page black. Despite this, it is predominantly a quiet piece.

Prelude VII: Ce Qu'a Vu le Vent d'Ouest
(What the West Wind Saw)

Debussy

This piece represents the destructive power of the wind, contrasting from another Debussy Prelude that shows quick bursts of wind. The wind grows and fades throughout the piece as it creates a tumult of power. The piece starts out soft and expands in dynamics quickly as the wind sweeps in, dies out, and comes raging back for a grand finale.

★ *Stars and Stripes Forever* ★

Written by John Philip Sousa ★ *arranged by Mack Wilberg*

Performed by Jamie Cai, Katie Wang, Johnathan Yao, and Amanda Li

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