

A FLUTE RECITAL BY

Natasha Lee

& Matthew Mak

SALVADOR ESPASA

ARGOS FOR SOLO FLUTE

CARL REINECKE

UNDINE SONATA, OP.167

25 NOVEMBER 2024

2:45PM

YST CONCERT HALL



INTRODUCTION

The 2 pieces I chose to perform in my junior recital were both inspired by mythological characters. Both pieces have strong narratives behind them, allowing for lots of room for imagination while I was learning these pieces. I hope that through this performance, you as a listener will be able to paint a story in your minds, allowing the music to take your imagination to undiscovered places and scenes.

SALVADOR ESPASA ARGOS FOR SOLO FLUTE (1998)

trypophobia warning!!!



Image credit: Cedric Ferris from Mystery in History

In Greek mythology, Argos was an “all-seeing giant” with enormous strength, possessing a hundred eyes of which, when he slept, he closed only half (gotta keep an eye out for Selener). Hera entrusted him with spying on Io (a nymph, Zeus’ love). Zeus then ordered Hermes to kill the giant, and with the sounds of Hermes’ flute, he put the giant to sleep and killed him. The heartbroken Hera then took each of his eyes and put them on the tail of her favourite bird, the peacock.

When I first listened to this piece, I was immediately drawn by the captivating melody that opens the piece. This melody embodies the character of Argos —his imposing presence and strength. The piece develops around the central notes of C and D, expanded though rhythmic motifs in irregular time signatures and extended techniques of the flute, such as harmonics and singing and playing. Listen out for his strong and powerful footsteps, contrasted by his low and deep snore when he is in slumber.

CARL REINECKE SONATA ‘UNDINE’ IN E MINOR, OP.167 (1882)

Undine is a water nymph in European folklore who longs for an immortal soul, which is only obtained through true love with a mortal man.



Image credit for all: Storynory

I. ALLEGRO

The first movement evokes the quality of water—fluid and mysterious. It portrays Undine in her underwater world. The melody is largely written in legato (where notes are slurred together) through different intervals and scalar passages, reflecting the gracefulness and fluidity of water. The swells and the rise and fall in dynamic levels also depict the movement of waves, along with an element of unpredictability in the deep sea. Undine leaves her water kingdom in search of love with a mortal man and is discovered by a fisherman and his wife, who raised Undine as their own.

II. INTERMEZZO: ALLEGRETTO VIVACE

The second movement signifies the storm and flood in the story. The character of this movement is energetic and agitated, shown through the strong detached notes that the flute and piano play in conversation. The folk-like solo section played by the piano represents the arrival of the knight, Huldbrand, who seeks shelter at the fisherman’s home due to the raging storm. And of course, the real story begins when Huldbrand falls in love with Undine, represented by the sweet and tender melodic section in the middle of the movement.





III. ANDANTE TRANQUILLO

This third movement portrays the years of loving marriage between the two, with calmer and gentler melodic lines in the music. However, their peacefulness is interrupted when the water spirits rush out and plead with Undine to return to her home, warning her that if Huldbrand's love ever strayed from her, he must die.

IV. FINALE: ALLEGRO MOLTO AGITATO ED APPASSIONATO, QUASI PRESTO.

The final movement is full of drama, passion, and agitation, embodied by strong accented lines in the flute and the rich textures and harmonies in the piano accompaniment. When Huldbrand returned home, he was drawn back to his first love, angering Undine. The composer contrasted the two scenes—Huldbrand's newfound love and Undine's anger—by writing sudden mood and dynamic changes in the flute melody. Finally, Undine returns back as a spirit, and according to his fate, drowned Huldbrand with her tears. The piece closes with a return of the love theme, representing her heartbreak but also the unforgettable love that she first felt for him.



REFERENCES

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[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Undine_\(novella\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Undine_(novella))

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THANK YOU FOR WATCHING!

