

HORN JUNIOR RECITAL

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Nicholas Loh, Piano

November 23, 2024 . 10:40 AM
YST Concert Hall

FRANZ STRAUSS - NOCTURNO, OP. 7

Franz Strauss (1822-1905) was a German musician; he was not only a composer but also a famous horn player.

Strauss was a musical conservative who considered himself closer to the era of Haydn and Beethoven, rather than to Wagner's dramatic style or Mahler's heightened emotional style of composition.

He was also the Principal Horn of the Bayreuth Festival Orchestra and premiered many of Wagner's operas. The conductor of the first two of these premieres, Hans von Bülow, commented on Franz Strauss, saying, "The fellow is intolerable, but when he blows his horn, you can't be angry with him."

The piece in D-flat Major begins with a warm, intimate melody, evoking the feeling of a quiet, reflective moment in the stillness of the night. As it progresses, the music takes on a more melancholic tone, expressing a sense of solitude. Gradually, the emotions shift, moving through moments of tenderness and passion, before settling into a serene, sweet resolution. The final notes gently fade into a peaceful conclusion with a soft, steady low note.

WEBER - CONCERTINO FOR HORN AND ORCHESTRA IN E-FLAT MAJOR, OP. 45, J. 188

I. ADAGIO - ANDANTE

II. ANDANTE CON MOTO - ADAGIO

III. POLACCA

Carl Maria Friedrich Ernst von Weber (1786–1827) was a German Composer, and one of the significant composers of the early Romantic era.

His music brims with drama, deep emotions, and a dreamlike sense of fantasy. His contemporaries describe his music to be reflective of brilliance and melancholy, whilst exhibiting charm.

The Concertino for Horn in E-flat major, Op. 45, was originally composed for natural horn by Weber in 1806 for Dautrevaux, a horn player in the court orchestra at Karlsruhe, Germany. Weber later revised the piece in 1815 for Rauch, a horn virtuoso from Munich.

This is a brilliant piece that showcases the horn's expressive range and technical prowess. The Adagio - Andante can be seen as the overture of the piece. It starts with two dramatic chords, followed by the soloist entrance. The aria-like melody across the horn's wide register showcases the gripping drama and the lyricism of the melody.

The Andante con moto - Adagio is a beautiful movement, featuring elegant melodic variations and a masterful, brilliant display of technique. In the cadenza, after the horn's "recitative," Weber uses an extended technique called multiphonics, in which several notes are produced at once by singing into the horn while playing, to end the movement.

Polacca is the last movement of the piece written in the character of a Polonaise, which is a Polish traditional dance. The recurring melody exudes infectious lyricism and lightness, resembling a party or celebration, filled with charm, color, excitement, and playfulness, building the piece to a thrilling climactic ending.