

VIOLA JUNIOR RECITAL

PERFORMING :

ARNOLD BAX: VIOLA SONATA, GP251

LIU JIA, PIANO



PAO YULIN

27 NOVEMBER 2024 | 10:40 SGT

YST CONCERT HALL

Arnold Bax : Sonata for Viola and Piano gp. 251

First Movement: Molto moderato

The first theme is introduced in the viola's lower range, with the piano providing a sparkling accompaniment. The theme is built on a simple pattern—a rising fourth followed by a step—and is repeated and varied throughout. The music grows from a hesitant, introspective start to moments of deep emotion. There are shifts in meter, and triplets circle around the tonic note, G. The movement has an Irish flavor, with melodies that shift between sharps and naturals, giving a hint of Celtic music.

Second Movement: Scherzo

The scherzo is fast and full of energy, resembling a lively Irish dance. In the middle, there is a calmer section that offers a brief contrast before the scherzo material returns, leading to a dramatic ending based on the first theme.

Third Movement: Finale

The final movement is slow and lyrical, with sweeping chromatic lines. It is often seen as a slow movement, with broad, expressive melodies. The opening theme of the first movement returns at the end, giving the sonata a sense of closure, though the piece doesn't use a lot of repeating themes or cyclic development. Some commentators suggest this movement marks the beginning of Bax's more mature use of chromatic harmony, though his style still draws on Celtic and Elizabethan melodies, wrapped in a highly emotional, romantic sound.

In all, the sonata is a blend of lyrical beauty, folk influences, and sophisticated harmonies, making it one of Bax's standout chamber works.