



Dolce e Tempestoso

A Clarinet Senior Recital

Paul Méfano

Involutive for E-flat Clarinet Solo
(Singapore Premiere)

Johannes Brahms

Clarinet Trio in A Minor, Op. 114

I. Allegro

III. Andantino Grazioso

IV. Allegro

Intermission

Carl Nielsen

Clarinet Concerto, Op. 57



Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music,
Concert Hall

2.10PM, 7TH, MAY, 2025



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Performers

Zheng Shanxi, clarinet

Edenia Maureen, piano

Chen Pei-Yi, cello

Chen Yi-Chung, percussion



Programme Notes

Dolce e tempestoso—“Sweet and Stormy”—encapsulates the essence of this recital, reflecting the profound contrasts inherent in both the selected repertoire and my personal musical journey. Each piece embodies a unique interplay between serenity and turbulence, guiding the listener through a spectrum of emotions and narratives.

Paul Méfano: *Involutive* for E-flat Clarinet Solo

Paul Méfano (1937-2020), a French composer renowned for his avant-garde explorations, composed *Involutive* in 1978. This piece delves into the vast expressive capabilities of the E-flat clarinet—a sopranino member of the clarinet family, pitched a perfect fourth higher than the standard B-flat clarinet.

Involutive showcases the instrument's agility and wide range, featuring rapid, intricate passages that span its registers. The work demands mastery of extended techniques, including flutter tonguing, which adds a distinctive timbral effect. Dramatic dynamic shifts further contribute to the piece's intensity, making it a compelling exploration of the E-flat clarinet's expressive potential.



Johannes Brahms: Clarinet Trio in A Minor, Op. 114



Composed in 1891 during a period of renewed creative vigor inspired by clarinetist Richard Mühlfeld, Brahms' Clarinet Trio stands as a testament to the collaborative spirit of chamber music. The interplay between clarinet, cello, and piano weaves a rich tapestry of textures and dialogues, each instrument contributing distinct voices to the ensemble.

- I. Allegro: This movement introduces a somber yet lyrical theme, with the clarinet and cello engaging in a poignant conversation, supported by the piano's harmonic depth.
- III. Andantino Grazioso: A gentle, dance-like movement that exudes warmth and elegance, highlighting the clarinet's dolce character and the seamless synergy among the trio.
- IV. Allegro: The finale brings a spirited energy, with playful exchanges and a synthesis of the work's thematic elements, culminating in a satisfying resolution.

This trio exemplifies Brahms' mastery in balancing individual instrumental voices to create a unified, expressive narrative.

Carl Nielsen: Clarinet Concerto, Op. 57

Danish composer Carl Nielsen (1865-1931) composed his Clarinet Concerto in 1928 for clarinetist Aage Oxenvad, whose complex personality is mirrored in the concerto's contrasting themes.

Structured as a continuous movement with distinct sections, the concerto traverses a landscape of emotional extremes:

- Allegretto un poco: Opens with a firm, assertive theme, introducing the clarinet as both protagonist and antagonist in a dynamic interplay with the ensemble.
- Poco adagio: A reflective, lyrical section, offering moments of introspection and melodic beauty reminiscent of Danish folk tunes.
- Allegro non troppo & Allegro vivace: These sections reintroduce turbulence, with virtuosic cadenzas and a prominent role for the snare drum, symbolizing conflict and resolution.

The inclusion of the snare drum adds a distinctive color and rhythmic drive, enhancing the concerto's dramatic contrasts and highlighting the clarinet's versatility. This work stands as a profound exploration of duality, both within the music and the human psyche.



Acknowledgments

I extend my deepest gratitude to my esteemed collaborators: Edenia Maureen, Chen Pei-Yi, and Chen Yi-Chung, whose artistry and dedication have been significant in bringing this programme to life.

I would also like to sincerely thank my teachers, family, and friends for their unwavering support, guidance, and encouragement throughout my musical journey at the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music. Their belief in me has been invaluable in shaping who I am today.

Finally, my heartfelt thanks to you, the audience, for being here to share this special moment with me. Your presence means a great deal, and I truly appreciate your time and support in witnessing this milestone in my musical path.

