

Program Notes

Franz Anton Hoffmeister – Concerto No. 3

Franz Anton Hoffmeister (1754–1812) was a prolific composer and music publisher of the Classical era, known for his contributions to chamber and orchestral music. His Concerto No. 3 for double bass reflects the elegant and lyrical style of the late 18th century, balancing virtuosic passages with expressive melodies. The concerto showcases the double bass as a singing instrument, with fluid lines and graceful ornamentation reminiscent of Mozart and Haydn. Its three-movement structure follows the Classical concerto form, with a lively opening, a lyrical slow movement, and a spirited finale that highlights both technical brilliance and musical charm.

Niccolò Paganini – Variations on “Dal tuo stellato soglio” (Moses Variations)

Niccolò Paganini (1782–1840), the legendary violin virtuoso, composed this dazzling set of variations based on the prayer “Dal tuo stellato soglio” from Rossini’s opera *Mosè in Egitto*. Originally written for violin and later adapted for double bass, the piece is a showcase of extreme technical mastery, featuring intricate harmonics, rapid passages, and dramatic contrasts. By employing a single string throughout the piece, Paganini challenges the performer to achieve remarkable agility and expressiveness, pushing the limits of the instrument’s capabilities.

Frank Proto – A Carmen Fantasy

Frank Proto (b. 1941) is a contemporary American composer known for his innovative and jazz-influenced works for double bass. *A Carmen Fantasy* is a virtuosic reimagining of themes from Georges Bizet’s opera *Carmen*, blending classical lyricism with modern rhythmic energy. Proto’s composition fuses elements of jazz, blues, and classical virtuosity, creating a dynamic and engaging work that allows the double bass to take center stage with fiery runs, syncopated grooves, and expressive melodies. The piece is both a technical tour de force and a celebration of *Carmen*’s timeless melodies, reinterpreted with a fresh and modern voice.