



HUANG YI

VIOLA SENIOR RECITAL

PROGRAM NOTES



Biography



Huang Yi (Naomi) began her musical journey with the violin at the age of five, under the guidance of Mulie Miao-Wen Liu. At fifteen, she shifted her focus to the viola. Throughout her musical education, she has benefited from the mentorship of Manchin Zhang, Mulie Miao-Wen Liu, Anna Chi-An Tsai, and Stephanie Dai-Fen Tsai. Naomi has gained extensive live performance experience in diverse venues, including the Kagoshima Prefectural Culture Center, Suntory Hall, Matsushima Culture and Tourism Exchange Hall, National Concert Hall, Taipei Eslite Performance Hall, Kaohsiung Music Hall, Puli Arts and Culture Center, Miaobei Art Center, Esplanade Concert Hall, and the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory Concert Hall. As the student viola principal of the Puli Butterfly Symphony Orchestra, a well-known regional orchestra, she represented the ensemble at international events such as the 9th Kagoshima Asian Youth Arts Festival and the Japan Earthquake Tsunami 311 Commemoration Concert 2017. Driven by her pursuit of excellence, she has attended masterclasses with esteemed musicians including Nobuko Imai, Lech Antonio Uszynski, Honggang Li, Tim Frederiksen, Jennifer Stumm, Mikhail Zemtsov, and Julia Dinerstein. Currently, Naomi is a fourth-year viola major student in Professor Manchin Zhang's studio at the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory, where she continues to refine her artistry and musical proficiency. She aspires to contribute meaningfully to the world of classical music through performance and collaboration.

Bax Sonata for Viola and Piano

Arnold Bax (1883-1953), a composer deeply immersed in the landscapes and legends of Ireland, infused his music with a distinctive romantic and often mystical spirit. His Viola Sonata, completed in 1922, stands as a testament to his lyrical gifts and his profound understanding of the viola's capabilities. This sonata, dedicated to the renowned violist Lionel Tertis, reflects the composer's characteristic harmonic language, rich textures, and evocative melodies. While not explicitly programmatic, the work conjures a sense of atmosphere, drawing on the emotional and sonic possibilities of the viola and piano partnership.

The sonata unfolds in three movements:

I. Molto moderato - Allegro:

The opening movement begins with a contemplative and atmospheric "Molto moderato" section, where the piano establishes a shimmering backdrop for the viola's warm, expressive lines. The music gradually builds in intensity, leading to a more animated "Allegro" section, characterized by flowing melodies and moments of passionate fervor.

II. Allegro energico, ma non troppo presto:

The second movement is a dynamic and energetic "Allegro," imbued with a sense of restless energy. This movement has been described as containing elements that could be likened to wild Irish dances. Bax uses rhythmic drive, and complex interplay between the viola and piano, to create a sense of dramatic tension.

III. Molto lento:

The final movement, "Molto lento," is a deeply introspective and poignant exploration of the viola's lyrical qualities. The music is characterized by its expressive melodies, rich harmonies, and a sense of quiet reflection. There is a return to themes from the first movement, which provides a sense of cyclical unity to the work.

Bax's Viola Sonata is a work of profound beauty and emotional depth, showcasing the viola's ability to convey a wide range of emotions, from tender lyricism to passionate intensity. It remains a significant contribution to the viola repertoire, a testament to Bax's unique voice and his mastery of the instrument.