

Yong Siew Toh
Conservatory
of Music



JUNIOR RECITAL

LEE YUN YEE AMANDA

CABARET

SHOSTAKOVICH 24 PRELUDES, OP. 34



YST CONCERT HALL
TUESDAY 23 NOV 2021 4.10PM

23 November 2021 | TUESDAY

Lee Yun Yee Amanda

Piano Recital

Programme

SHOSTAKOVICH

Twenty Four Preludes, Op. 34

I. Moderato

II. Allegretto

III. Andante

IV. Moderato

V. Allegro vivace

VI. Allegretto

VII. Andante

VIII. Allegretto

IX. Presto

X. Moderato non troppo

XI. Allegretto

XII. Allegro non troppo

XIII. Moderato

XIV. Adagio

XV. Allegretto

XVI. Andantino

XVII. Largo

XVIII. Allegretto

XIX. Andantino

XX. Allegretto furioso

XXI. Allegretto poco moderato

XXII. Adagio

XXIII. Moderato

XXIV. Allegretto

About The Performer

Lee Yun Yee Amanda was born in Singapore in 2001 and started learning the piano at the age of 4. She is currently doing her Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance in the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music under the tutelage of renowned American pianist and pedagogue, Dr. Thomas Hecht, with a full scholarship. She actively performs locally and internationally. Prior to that, Amanda has won numerous competitions such as the 2014 International Competition of Young Musicians “Ohrid Pearls” Macedonia, the Thailand 5th Mozart International Piano Competition and the ‘Liszt Memorial Prizes’ Hong Kong International Piano Open Competition. Moreover, she has attained the Fellowship of Trinity College of London FTCL Piano Recital in 2019. During her free time, Amanda enjoys playing the violin and searching for hidden food gems.

Programme Notes

SHOSTAKOVICH

Twenty Four Preludes, Op. 34

Born on 25 September 1906, Soviet-era Russian composer and pianist, Dimitri Shostakovich, was one of the major composers of the 20th century. A few years after his mother discovered his talent in music, he entered the Petrograd Conservatoire at a young age of 13. He achieved fame in the Soviet Union under the patronage of Soviet chief of staff Mikhail Tukhachevsky. Although he received accolades and state awards and served in the Supreme Soviet of the RSFSR (1947–1962) and the Supreme Soviet of the Soviet Union (from 1962 until his death), it was known that he had an extremely complicated relationship with the government in the later years. After a lifelong struggle with his chronic ill health, he passed away due to lung cancer on 9 August 1975.

Twenty Four Preludes, Op. 34 is a set of short piano pieces written in 1932-33. Danilevich considered this set of preludes to be one of his three most notable instrumental works after Shostakovich’s notoriously fateful opera *Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk District*, as these “appeared at a time of stylistic transition in Shostakovich’s oeuvre”. After only receiving an honourable mention at the 1927 Inaugural International Chopin Piano Competition in Warsaw, he had stopped performing in 1930. Hence, these preludes were composed in an effort to return to public performances again.

Similar to Frédéric Chopin’s Twenty Four Preludes, op. 28, Shostakovich arranged these preludes in the circle of fifths, beginning with C major and concluding in D minor. Just like a Cabaret, this set of preludes is filled with lots of different characters, parodies, mockery, and some light lyricism. Described to have a chameleon-like creative personality, this allows him to stew the traditions of the classical style of the past together with a kaleidoscopic modernity in one huge stylistic melting pot. These preludes are a reflection of what happens in our society, our lifestyle, and our world. However, it is being portrayed in a slightly unconventional manner - which I hope that my performance will allow us to listen and appreciate this set of preludes in a fresh, non-judgemental perspective.

Programme notes by Lee Yun Yee Amanda.