

2021. 11. 23

Tuesday 3:20 PM

YST Concert Hall



C. Debussy A. Scriabin F. Liszt

Enarmonised A PIANO RECITAL

Pun Punyasavatsut

Pun Punyasavatsut Piano Recital

Programme

DEBUSSY

Images, Book 1 L. 110 I. Reflets dans l'eau II. Hommage à Rameau III. Mouvement

SCRIABIN

Nocturne For The Left-Hand, Op. 9 No. 2

LISZT

Hungarian Rhapsody No. 6 in D-flat Major

About The Performer

Pun Punyasavatsut (Thailand) was born in 2001 and started piano lessons at the age of 4. In 2019, he was awarded the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music full-coverage scholarship programme where he currently studies Bachelor of Music under the tutelage of renowned pianist and pedagogue Dr Thomas Hecht. Prior to 2019, he has been a student of Dr Nopanand Chanorathaikul since 2012. Pun has also studied with other piano teachers including Dr Eri Nakagawa and Prof. Rolf-Dieter Arens. In 2021, he was awarded the only Platinum Prize of his category in the Steinway Malaysia Young Concert Artists International Piano Competition. Pun was named the second-place winner in the 2013 International Beethoven Piano Competition and has been invited to give a solo recital at the prestigious BeethovenFest in Bonn, Germany. He continues to perform in recitals regularly where he has made most of his appearances in Singapore. Pun has had masterclasses with many renowned pianists including notable names such as Paul Lewis, Vanessa Latarche, Ruben Dalibaltayan, Grigory Gruzman.

Programme Notes

DEBUSSY

Images, Book 1 L. 110 I. Reflets dans l'eau II. Hommage à Rameau III. Mouvement

Claude Debussy was a French 'Impressionist' composer who paved way for many composers, inspiring them with his original harmonic and formal systems.

Images, Book 1 is a milestone in solo piano writing. In 1905, Debussy wrote to Durand "Have you played the Images ...? Without undue vanity, I believe that these three pieces can hold their own and will assume a place in the piano literature ... to the left of Schumann or to the right of Chopin ... as you like it." Images, was originally intended to be a 12-piece set for solo and two pianos – this prophecy was true as now we have Images (Book I and II), Images (Oubliées), and Images pour orchestre.

Reflets dans l'eau translates into Reflections in the water. It is an impressionistic piece which has many which explores unique harmonic qualities which are extended and tinged in nature, allowing a unique sense of colour to be seen in the 'musical water painting'. The 'reflection' aspect of the piece is shown in his textural play and complete mastery and control of it – giving the listeners the illusion of clear droplets falling into the still water where the reflections are clearly seen and heard.

Hommage à Rameau is a tribute to the French Baroque composer Jean-Philippe Rameau (1683 – 1764). Debussy was particularly inspired by a performance of Rameau's Castor et Pollux he saw in 1903. This piece features an indication at the beginning 'dans le style d'une Sarabande mais sans riguer' roughly translating into 'in the style of a Sarabande but without rigour'. As the indication suggests, it features many Sarabande characters such as the unmistakable 'slide' on the second beat, but with a looser and less strict approach. Debussy also uses modal harmonies perhaps as a respect to Rameau and his approach to functional harmony at the time.

A prominent example of this is in the middle section where he implements the use of a synthetic mode between D-lydian and mixolydian before moving on to a whole tone scale, almost as if he was sending us from the Baroque period to the 20th century!

Mouvement is perhaps the most abstract work in Images, Book 1. The whole first minute features no melody, but rather a running motif (which is why the piece is named 'movement') accompanied by hints and echoes of the Dies Irae. In the middle section, this material is developed into a rising 3-note motif which is expanded into a climatic experience featuring dynamics such as fff, something which is seldomly used in Debussy's music.

SCRIABIN

Nocturne For The Left-Hand, Op. 9 No. 2

Alexander Scriabin was a Russian composer and pianist. His earlier works were heavily influenced by that of Chopin's while his later works are influenced by his personal thoughts and belief systems such as philosophy, synesthesia, and metaphysics.

The Nocturne For The Left Hand Op. 9 was written in the year 1894 as a result of an earlier right hand injury resulting from over-practicing Balakirev's Islamey during his Moscow Conservatory years. The Nocturne became very popular and successful; in a letter from Scriabin to Schloezer he wrote "It has emerged that the publisher here has reprinted my nocturne for the left hand and thousands of copies have been sold. [...] I am immensely popular!". The Nocturne features lush and blooming harmonies with glittering cadenzas, all within an tightly knitted A-B-A structure, heavily influenced by that of Chopin's lyricism and characters.

LISZT

Hungarian Rhapsody No. 6 in D-flat Major

Franz Liszt was a Hungarian composer, conductor, and virtuoso pianist. He was one of the leaders of the New German School and composed a large variety of repertoire including symphonic poems. He is especially well-known for his usage of thematic transformation.

Hungarian Rhapsody No. 6 features key characteristics of the Hungarian (Gypsy) folk dances such as the syncopated rhythms of the stamping dance or the Gypsy double harmonic minor scale. The rhapsody opens with a bold and confident verbunkos (recruiting dance) in D-flat major, followed by the light-hearted and joyous stamping dance in the enharmonic major (C# major), the tragic and weeping lassan (lunga) in B-flat minor, and finishes with the triumphant and energetic friska (fast).

Programme notes by Pun Punyasavatsut.