

CHEN YAN-RUNG

Senior Recital

Rêverie

PIANO: LIU JIA

VIOLIN: ZOU MENG

LEONID DATSIUK

VIOLA: ZUO ZHANG

CELLO: ZHAO LEYAN

YON SIEW TOH CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC
7TH MAY, 2024 5:50PM

CHEN YAN-RUNG

Senior Recital

“CHANSON DU COEUR” TRANSLATES TO “SONG OF THE HEART” IN ENGLISH. THIS TITLE ENCAPSULATES THE EMOTIONAL DEPTH AND PERSONAL CONNECTION THAT MUSIC OFTEN EVOKES. BY CHOOSING THIS TITLE, YOU’RE EMPHASIZING THE HEARTFELT EXPRESSION AND SINCERITY OF YOUR PERFORMANCE, INVITING YOUR AUDIENCE TO CONNECT WITH THE MUSIC ON AN EMOTIONAL LEVEL. IT SUGGESTS A JOURNEY OF THE SOUL THROUGH MUSIC, WHERE EACH PIECE RESONATES WITH THE INNERMOST FEELINGS AND EXPERIENCES OF BOTH PERFORMER AND LISTENER.

HAILING FROM TAIWAN, CHEN YANRUNG DISCOVERED HER LOVE FOR THE CLARINET AT 11. NOW, SHE’S PURSUING HER PASSION AT YONG SIEW TOH CONSERVATORY UNDER PROFESSOR MA YUE, PRINCIPAL CLARINETIST OF THE SINGAPORE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA. CHEN YANRUNG HAS ALSO ATTENDED MASTERCLASSES WITH RENOWNED CLARINETISTS LIKE FLORENT HÉAU AND ROMAIN GUYOT. SHE’S PERFORMED WITH THE YST ORCHESTRA AND THE ASIAN YOUTH ORCHESTRA, SHARING HER PASSION FOR THE CLARINET WITH AUDIENCES WORLDWIDE. IN HER FREE TIME, CHEN YANRUNG ENJOYS PARTICIPATING IN SPORTS SUCH AS TABLE TENNIS AND SWIMMING.

JOIN US FOR AN ENCHANTING MUSICAL VOYAGE AS CHEN YANRUNG, RENOWNED PIANIST LIU JIA, AND THE DYNAMIC STRING QUARTET, ZOU MENG, LEONID DATSIUK, ZOU ZHANG, ZHAO LEYAN. UNITE TO DELIVER AN UNFORGETTABLE PERFORMANCE. FROM CAPTIVATING MELODIES TO INTRICATE HARMONIES, IMMERSE YOURSELF IN A DIVERSE REPERTOIRE THAT TRANSCENDS BOUNDARIES AND IGNITES THE SENSES.

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★ Camille Saint-Saëns: Clarinet Sonata, Op. 167

SAINT-SAËNS RECEIVED A COMPREHENSIVE EDUCATION IN MUSIC, STUDYING ORGAN, COMPOSITION, AND PIANO AT THE PARIS CONSERVATOIRE. HE BECAME KNOWN FOR HIS EXCEPTIONAL VIRTUOSITY AS A PIANIST AND ORGANIST, AS WELL AS HIS PROFICIENCY IN COMPOSITION. HIS MUSIC IS CHARACTERIZED BY ITS CLARITY OF FORM, ELEGANCE OF MELODY, AND MASTERY OF ORCHESTRATION.

AS A COMPOSER, SAINT-SAËNS WROTE IN A VARIETY OF GENRES, INCLUDING SYMPHONIES, CONCERTOS, OPERA, CHAMBER MUSIC, AND SOLO PIANO WORKS. HE WAS A VERSATILE COMPOSER WHO DREW INSPIRATION FROM DIVERSE SOURCES, INCLUDING CLASSICAL FORMS, FOLK MUSIC, AND EXOTIC MUSICAL TRADITIONS. SOME OF HIS MOST FAMOUS WORKS INCLUDE "THE CARNIVAL OF THE ANIMALS," "DANSE MACABRE," AND HIS SYMPHONY NO. 3, ALSO KNOWN AS THE "ORGAN SYMPHONY."

CAMILLE SAINT-SAËNS, ONE OF THE MOST VERSATILE COMPOSERS OF THE ROMANTIC ERA, COMPOSED HIS CLARINET SONATA, OP. 167, IN 1921. THIS SONATA STANDS AS A TESTAMENT TO SAINT-SAËNS'S ENDURING CREATIVITY AND CRAFTSMANSHIP, SHOWCASING HIS ABILITY TO INFUSE CHAMBER MUSIC WITH BOTH LYRICAL BEAUTY AND TECHNICAL BRILLIANCE.

THE SONATA CONSISTS OF FOUR MOVEMENTS, EACH OFFERING A UNIQUE GLIMPSE INTO SAINT-SAËNS'S MUSICAL WORLD. THE OPENING MOVEMENT, MARKED "ALLEGRETTO," INTRODUCES US TO A GRACEFUL AND LYRICAL THEME, WEAVING EFFORTLESSLY BETWEEN THE CLARINET AND PIANO, SETTING THE STAGE FOR THE JOURNEY AHEAD.

IN THE SECOND MOVEMENT, "ALLEGRO ANIMATO," SAINT-SAËNS UNLEASHES THE FULL VIRTUOSIC POTENTIAL OF THE CLARINET, WITH CASCADING ARPEGGIOS AND DAZZLING RUNS THAT SHOWCASE THE INSTRUMENT'S AGILITY AND RANGE. THE INTERPLAY BETWEEN THE CLARINET AND PIANO CREATES A SENSE OF URGENCY AND EXCITEMENT, PROPELLING THE MUSIC FORWARD WITH RELENTLESS ENERGY.

THE THIRD MOVEMENT, "LENTO," PROVIDES A MOMENT OF RESPITE, WITH ITS SOULFUL MELODIES AND EXPRESSIVE HARMONIES. IN THIS MOVEMENT, HE TRY TO USE SOME HORMONE STATURE FROM ORGAN, TRY TO IMITATE THE SOLE AND DARK SOUND IN THE THIRST MGT. HERE, SAINT-SAËNS DEMONSTRATES HIS MASTERY OF LYRICAL EXPRESSION, EVOKING A SENSE OF INTROSPECTION AND CONTEMPLATION.

FINALLY, THE SONATA CONCLUDES WITH THE FOURTH MOVEMENT, MARKED "MOLTO ALLEGRO - ALLEGRETTO - MOLTO ALLEGRO." THIS MOVEMENT IS A TOUR DE FORCE OF VIRTUOSITY AND WIT, WITH RAPID-FIRE EXCHANGES BETWEEN THE CLARINET AND PIANO, CULMINATING IN A JUBILANT AND EXHILARATING FINALE.

THROUGHOUT THE SONATA, SAINT-SAËNS'S MELODIC INVENTIVENESS, RICH HARMONIES, AND MASTERFUL COUNTERPOINT SHINE BRIGHTLY, CREATING A WORK THAT IS BOTH INTELLECTUALLY ENGAGING AND EMOTIONALLY RESONANT. HIS CLARINET SONATA REMAINS A BELOVED GEM OF THE CHAMBER MUSIC REPERTOIRE, CAPTIVATING AUDIENCES WITH ITS CHARM AND ELEGANCE.

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Edison Denissov. Sonate for Clarinet Solo

EDISON DENISOV'S "SONATE FOR CLARINET SOLO" IS A CAPTIVATING COMPOSITION CHARACTERIZED BY ITS EXPLORATION OF AVANT-GARDE TECHNIQUES AND EXPRESSIVE POSSIBILITIES FOR THE CLARINET. COMPOSED IN 1972, THIS SONATA COMPRISES TWO MOVEMENTS, EACH OFFERING A UNIQUE JOURNEY THROUGH DENISOV'S DISTINCTIVE MUSICAL LANGUAGE.

THE FIRST MOVEMENT OF THE SONATA IMMERSSES LISTENERS IN A WORLD OF RHYTHMIC COMPLEXITY AND ANGULAR MELODIES. DENISSOW'S USE OF EXTENDED TECHNIQUES, INCLUDING MULTIPHONICS AND MICROTONAL INFLECTIONS, CHALLENGES THE CLARINETIST TO PUSH THE BOUNDARIES OF TRADITIONAL PLAYING TECHNIQUES, CREATING A SENSE OF EXPERIMENTATION AND INNOVATION.

IN THE SECOND MOVEMENT, DENISSOW INTRODUCES A RHYTHMIC AND RAPID CHARACTER, CONTRASTING THE INTENSITY OF THE FIRST MOVEMENT. THE CLARINETIST NAVIGATES THROUGH INTRICATE RHYTHMIC PATTERNS WITH AGILITY AND PRECISION, SHOWCASING VIRTUOSIC FLAIR AND TECHNICAL PROWESS. DESPITE ITS BRISK PACE, THE MOVEMENT MAINTAINS A SENSE OF RHYTHMIC DRIVE AND ENERGY, CAPTIVATING LISTENERS WITH ITS DYNAMIC MOMENTUM AND LIVELY SPIRIT. DENISOV'S SKILLFUL USE OF RHYTHMIC MOTIFS AND RAPID FIGURATIONS CREATES A THRILLING SENSE OF URGENCY, MAKING THIS MOVEMENT AN EXHILARATING JOURNEY THROUGH PULSATING RHYTHMS AND VIBRANT TEXTURES.

OVERALL, "SONATE FOR CLARINET SOLO" SHOWCASES EDISON DENISSOW'S MASTERY OF AVANT-GARDE COMPOSITION AND HIS ABILITY TO PUSH THE CLARINET TO ITS LIMITS BOTH TECHNICALLY AND EXPRESSIVELY. IT REMAINS A SIGNIFICANT WORK IN THE CLARINET REPERTOIRE, ADMIRER FOR ITS DARING INNOVATION AND CAPTIVATING MUSICAL IDEAS.

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Edison Denissov

Sonate for Clarinet Solo

JOHANNES BRAHMS (1833-1897) STANDS AS ONE OF THE MOST REVERED FIGURES OF THE ROMANTIC ERA. RENOWNED FOR HIS MASTERY OF SYMPHONIC, CHAMBER, AND VOCAL MUSIC, BRAHMS' COMPOSITIONS EMBODY A BALANCE OF CLASSICAL FORMALITY AND PASSIONATE EXPRESSION. HIS PROFOUND UNDERSTANDING OF HARMONY AND COUNTERPOINT, COUPLED WITH HIS RICH MELODIC INVENTION, HAS SOLIDIFIED HIS LEGACY AS ONE OF THE GREATEST COMPOSERS IN THE WESTERN CLASSICAL TRADITION.

JOHANNES BRAHMS' CLARINET QUINTET IN B MINOR, OP. 115, REPRESENTS A CROWNING ACHIEVEMENT IN THE CHAMBER MUSIC RÉPERTOIRE OF THE LATE 19TH CENTURY. COMPOSED IN 1891, TOWARDS THE END OF BRAHMS' PROLIFIC CAREER, THIS QUINTET STANDS AS A TESTAMENT TO HIS MASTERY OF FORM, DEPTH OF EXPRESSION, AND PROFOUND UNDERSTANDING OF INSTRUMENTAL TIMBRES.

STRUCTURED IN FOUR MOVEMENTS, THE QUINTET FOLLOWS A TRAJECTORY OF EMOTIONAL AND THEMATIC DEVELOPMENT THAT IS BOTH COMPELLING AND DEEPLY SATISFYING. THE OPENING ALLEGRO, WITH ITS BROODING INTENSITY AND INTRICATE COUNTERPOINT, ESTABLISHES A MOOD OF INTROSPECTION AND FOREBODING. BRAHMS' THEMATIC MATERIAL UNDERGOES A SERIES OF TRANSFORMATIONS, LEADING TO MOMENTS OF PASSIONATE INTENSITY AND POIGNANT REFLECTION.

THE SECOND MOVEMENT, ADAGIO, IS PERHAPS THE QUINTET'S MOST CELEBRATED MOVEMENT, RENOWNED FOR ITS ACHINGLY BEAUTIFUL MELODIES AND TENDER LYRICISM. HERE, BRAHMS EXPLORES THE FULL EXPRESSIVE POTENTIAL OF THE CLARINET, ALLOWING IT TO SOAR ABOVE THE LUSH HARMONIES OF THE ACCOMPANYING STRINGS IN MUSIC OF SUBLIME BEAUTY AND EMOTIONAL DEPTH.

THE THIRD MOVEMENT, ANDANTINO - PRESTO NON ASSAI, OFFERS A PLAYFUL CONTRAST TO THE INTROSPECTION OF THE PRECEDING MOVEMENTS. BRAHMS JUXTAPOSES MOMENTS OF LILTING GRACE WITH EPISODES OF RESTLESS ENERGY, CREATING A SENSE OF WHIMSY AND CAPRICE THAT ADDS VARIETY AND COLOR TO THE QUINTET'S EMOTIONAL PALETTE.

THE FINAL MOVEMENT, CON MOTO, BRINGS THE QUINTET TO A TRIUMPHANT CONCLUSION. BRAHMS DRAWS ON THE RICH CONTRAPUNTAL TEXTURES OF THE OPENING MOVEMENT, WEAVING TOGETHER THEMATIC STRANDS WITH CONSUMMATE SKILL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP. THE MOVEMENT BUILDS TO A POWERFUL CLIMAX, SHOWCASING BRAHMS' ABILITY TO IMBUE HIS MUSIC WITH BOTH INTELLECTUAL RIGOR AND EMOTIONAL DEPTH.

THROUGHOUT THE QUINTET, BRAHMS DISPLAYS AN UNPARALLELED COMMAND OF INSTRUMENTAL WRITING AND A KEEN SENSITIVITY TO THE EXPRESSIVE CAPABILITIES OF EACH INSTRUMENT. THE CLARINET, IN PARTICULAR, TAKES ON A CENTRAL ROLE, ITS WARM AND FLEXIBLE TIMBRE SERVING AS THE FOCAL POINT OF BRAHMS' MUSICAL IMAGINATION.

BRAHMS' CLARINET QUINTET REMAINS A CORNERSTONE OF THE CHAMBER MUSIC RÉPERTOIRE, ADMIRER FOR ITS STRUCTURAL INTEGRITY, EMOTIONAL DEPTH, AND TIMELESS BEAUTY. ITS ENDURING POPULARITY SPEAKS TO BRAHMS' STATUS AS ONE OF THE GREATEST COMPOSERS OF THE ROMANTIC ERA, AND IT CONTINUES TO CAPTIVATE AUDIENCES WITH ITS PROFOUND HUMANITY AND EXPRESSIVE POWER.

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