

Personalities

OBOE SENIOR RECITAL

Soniya Rakhmatullina

WORKS by

Telemann

Martinu

Ravel

Morris

ACCOMPANIED by

Matthew Mak

6 May 2024
11.40 am
YST Concert Hall



Programme

- Georg Philipp Telemann
12 Fantasies for flute solo: Fantasie N1 in A Major
- Bohuslav Martinů
Concerto for Oboe and Small Orchestra
I. Moderato
II. Poco andante
III. Poco allegro
- Maurice Ravel
Sonatine for Oboe & Piano (transcription by David Walter)
I - Modéré
II - Mouvement de Menuet
III – Animé
- Alyssa Morris
Four Personalities
for oboe and piano
I. Yellow
II. White
III. Blue
IV. Red

Soniya Rakhmatullina, Oboe

Matthew Mak, piano

Georg Philipp Telemann

12 Fantasies for flute solo: Fantasie N1 in A Major

Telemann's compositions for various instruments, especially wind instruments like flute and oboe, demonstrate his deep understanding of their capabilities and nuances. His choice of keys considers how different keys affect the character and color of the music on these instruments.

In playing Telemann's Fantasias, performers are encouraged to explore dynamics, colors, and imaginative interpretations. The pieces feature passages that require dynamic contrasts, ornamentation, and a sense of musical dialogue.

Telemann's inclusion of a passepied dance in the Fantasias reflects his ability to blend diverse musical elements, drawing from pastoral themes and operatic traditions. The Fantasias end with a return to the starting note, showcasing structured composition and inviting performers to explore a range of musical expressions and techniques.

Bohuslav Martinů

Concerto for Oboe and Small Orchestra

I. Moderato

II. Poco andante

III. Poco allegro

Martinů's Oboe Concerto, created in 1955 for Jiří Tancibudek, a Czech oboist who relocated to Australia due to political reasons, stands out as Martinů's sole woodwind concerto. Despite initial reluctance, Martinů composed this three-movement work, prominently featuring the piano within the orchestra.

Premiering in Sydney in 1956 during the Melbourne Olympics, the Concerto gained popularity across Europe, including a notable British premiere in 1959 by renowned oboist Evelyn Rothwell. Martinů, often likened to Béla Bartók for his incorporation of Czech folk music elements, infuses the Concerto with melodies and harmonies reflective of his homeland.

Throughout the piece, listeners encounter folk-inspired moments, evoking a simplicity reminiscent of Czech folk music traditions, highlighting Martinů's profound connection to his cultural heritage.

Maurice Ravel

Sonatine for Oboe & Piano (transcription by David Walter)

I - Modéré

II - Mouvement de Menuet

III – Animé

The Sonatine project began unexpectedly when the Weekly Critical Review launched a composition competition in 1903, offering a 100 Franc prize for the first movement of a piano sonatine. Ravel entered, but the magazine went bankrupt shortly after, leaving Ravel's piece independent. He spent two years refining it, completing all three movements by 1905.

The initial movement meticulously follows sonata form with clear primary, secondary, and concluding themes, showcasing melodic and textural clarity. The development section explores contrasting keys, leading to an emotive climax before smoothly transitioning to the recapitulation, which ends with an elegant coda.

The second movement, a graceful minuet, starts like a traditional French harpsichord piece with a repeated couplet, followed by a new theme and a variation of the couplet before a general recap of motifs.

The conclusion features a toccata-like movement with virtuosic passages, rapid broken chords, and a fanfare motif. Ravel adds modern touches with alternating meters, notably 5/4, and introduces the first substantial melody for classical balance. The coda combines elements from the flashy opening and the melodious section, ending the Sonatine frenziedly.

Alyssa Morris

Four Personalities

for oboe and piano

"Four Personalities" by Alyssa Morris is a captivating musical journey that breathes life into the colors of personality types from the Hartman Personality Test. In this four-movement composition for oboe and piano, Morris artfully translates abstract traits into vibrant musical expressions:

1. Yellow: Bursting with effervescent joy and infectious energy, this movement embodies the thrill-seekers and fun-lovers who infuse every moment with positivity and excitement.
2. White: A serene and contemplative melody weaves through this movement, echoing the peaceful nature of individuals who strive for harmony, adaptability, and deep empathy, yet grapple with the challenge of indecisiveness.
3. Blue: Rich harmonies and heartfelt melodies characterize this movement, resonating with those who cherish sincerity, loyalty, and meaningful connections, driven by a desire for intimacy and purpose.
4. Red: The music ignites with fiery passion and unwavering determination in this movement, mirroring the assertive, visionary spirits who fearlessly carve their paths, motivated by power and a relentless pursuit of their dreams.

Morris' creative genius shines through in "Four Personalities," offering a captivating blend of tunefulness, expressive depth, and dynamic contrasts. With its jazzy flair and intricate musical narratives, this composition is a standout addition to contemporary oboe repertoire, promising a thrilling and memorable experience for performers and audiences alike.