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Erica Yamamoto, piano

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DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

Erica Yamamoto
piano

Saturday, April 18, 2015

3:00 p.m.

Perkinson Recital Hall



Program

Sonata in C major, K. 330
I. *Allegro moderato*
II. *Andante cantabile*
III. *Allegretto*

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
(1756-1791)

Ballade, Op. 38, No. 2

Frédéric Chopin
(1810-1849)

Jeux d'eau

Maurice Ravel
(1875-1937)

On a Clear Day (You Can See Forever)

Bill Evans
(1929-1980)

INTERMISSION

Piano Trio in G minor, Op. 17
I. *Allegro moderato*

Clara Schumann
(1819-1896)

Kikki Tso, violin
Dane Harrison, cello

Piano Trio no. 1 in B major, Op. 8
I. *Allegro con brio*

Johannes Brahms
(1833-1897)

Kikki Tso, violin
Dane Harrison, cello

Suite for Flute and Jazz Piano Trio

7. *Veloce*

Claude Bolling

(b. 1930)

Katherine Cook, flute

Mattias Treu, bass

Ben Panko, drums

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. Sonata in C major, K. 330

Mozart composed this sonata when he visited Salzburg in the summer of 1783. According to the Mozart scholar Alfred Einstein, this sonata is "one of the most lovable works Mozart ever wrote." The first movement is interesting because the development section does not relate to the original theme and does not immediately return to the original key during the recapitulation. In the second movement, groups of repeating notes are used throughout to unify the different sections of the movement. The final movement's theme uses a slight offset between the right and left hands and, like the first movement, presents new material in the development section.

Frédéric Chopin. Ballade, Op. 38, No. 2

Chopin is credited with the invention of the ballade as a musical form, and according to pianist Vladimir Feltsman, Chopin's ballades capture the essence of the Romantic aesthetic. Rather than giving titles to the ballades, Chopin thought that the music itself should tell the story. The Ballade No. 2 was written in Nohant and Majorca in 1839. Though the second ballade is considered to be the weakest of the four that Chopin wrote, all of them are standard in the concert repertoire.

Continued

Maurice Ravel. Jeux d'eau

The title of this piece translates to "Water Games," and it is based on Franz Liszt's "Les Jeux d'eau a la Villa d'Este." The text that is usually included with Ravel's piece is "River god laughing as the water tickles him..." which is from Henri de Régnier's volume of poetry titled *Cité des eaux*. According to Ravel, "*Jeux d'eau*, appearing in 1901, is at the origin of the pianistic novelties which one would notice in my work. This piece, inspired by the noise of water and by the musical sounds which make one hear the sprays water, the cascades, and the brooks, is based on two motives in the manner of the movement of a sonata – without, however, subjecting itself to the classical tonal plan."

Bill Evans. On a Clear Day (You Can See Forever)

This transcription captures Bill Evans' improvisation on Burton Lane and Alan Jay Lerner's song "On a Clear Day," from Evans' Verve Records album *Alone*, recorded on September 10, 1968. Even when contemporaries had moved on to recording original compositions, Evans would often improvise on popular tunes of the day such as this one. Bill Evans recorded over fifty albums and won five Grammy awards and is one of the most influential musicians in jazz piano, though he struggled with heroin addiction and died at age 52.

Clara Schumann. Piano Trio in G minor, Op. 17

Clara Schumann composed this trio during the summer of 1846 and it is her only published piece that consists of four movements, typically the sign of a "serious" work. During its composition, her husband, Robert Schumann, relapsed into depression and she had a miscarriage. Fortunately, the trio was well received in its initial private performances and may have inspired Robert to begin writing the first of his three trios.

Johannes Brahms. Piano Trio No. 1 in B major, Op. 8

This piano trio was the first chamber piece that Brahms composed, at the age of 21, and he revised it 35 years later as he was about to retire in 1889. Around the time of its composition, he met Robert and Clara Schumann, with whom he became close friends. Soon after their meeting, however, Brahms's new friend and mentor, Robert Schumann, attempted suicide; through those dark circumstances, Brahms completed this piece.

Claude Bolling. Suite for Flute and Jazz Piano

Claude Bolling is a French jazz pianist and composer who began as a child prodigy. His *Suite for Flute and Jazz Piano*, written in 1974, consists of seven movements. Bolling's recording of this piece, with flutist Jean-Pierre Rampal, bassist Max Hediguer, and drummer Marcel Sabiani, was on the *Billboard* list of classical best-sellers for over 530 weeks in the 1970s and 1980s.

Please silence cell phones, pagers, and digital watches during the recital.

Continued

Erica Yamamoto is a senior majoring in biochemistry and molecular biology and minoring in music. She is currently studying piano with Mr. Richard Becker and Dr. David Esleck. She plays in the University chamber ensembles and the jazz combo group and was a winner of the 2013 Concerto Competition, performing Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 3 with the University Orchestra. Because she is an Artist Scholar, in 2013 she was able to go to Germany for the InterHarmony Music Festival, where she performed various solo and chamber works and studied with Etsuko Terada and Dmitri Shteinberg.

In addition to music, Erica also serves as a volunteer for the University of Richmond Emergency Medical Services organization, at St. Mary's Hospital and at the Fan Free Clinic. She is also a student researcher for Dr. Linda Boland.

Acknowledgements

Thank you to my family, teachers, and friends for continuing to support me in everything that I pursue. I would like to give special thanks to my piano professors, Richard Becker and David Esleck, for expanding my musical world and making it possible for me to learn piano while studying science. I would also like to thank Joanne Kong and Jason McComb for coaching us through our chamber music for this past year, and the musicians in the chamber groups who have put extra time to perform these pieces.

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