

3-29-2014

Rebecca Quillen, clarinet

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Recommended Citation

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DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

Presents in Concert

Rebecca Quillen
clarinet

Saturday, March 29, 2014

3:00 pm

Perkinson Recital Hall



PROGRAM

Fantasiestücke for Clarinet and Piano

Niels Gade
(1817-1890)

- I. Larghetto con moto*
- II. Allegro vivace*
- III. Ballade*
- IV. Allegro molto*

Dr. Joanne Kong, *piano*

Diversions for Solo Clarinet

Allan Blank
(1925-2013)

- Playful*
- Reminiscences*
- A Dialogue with Interruptions*

Serenade for Two Clarinets

Vincent Persichetti
(1915-1987)

- I. Allegretto*
- II. Larghetto*
- III. Andantino*
- IV. Andante*
- V. Vivo*
- VI. Adagietto*
- VII. Allegro*

David Niethamer, *clarinet*

Sonata for Clarinet and Piano

Leonard Bernstein
(1918-1990)

- I. Grazioso*
- II. Andantino*

Dr. Joanne Kong, *piano*



Please silence cell phones, digital watches, and paging devices before the concert.

PROGRAM NOTES

Niels Gade, Fantasiestücke for Clarinet and Piano

Niels Gade was a conductor, performer, and composer whose artistic output included eight symphonies, countless cantatas, and many varied pieces of chamber music. A good friend of composers Felix Mendelssohn and Robert Schumann, and teacher of Carl Nielsen, Gade was one of the most influential figures in nineteenth-century Danish musical life. In addition to composing and performing, he served as the director of the Copenhagen Academy of Music. Gade's *Fantasiestücke* epitomizes wind music of the Romantic era with its characteristic long, lyrical phrases and swelling changes in dynamics. The set begins with a blossoming, melodic slow movement, moves to a brisk *allegro* movement and a tuneful ballade and finally concludes with a brash and exuberant whirlwind.

Allan Blank, Diversions for Solo Clarinet

Allan Blank was born in New York City in 1925. He trained at the Juilliard School of Music and was a violinist in the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra from 1950 to 1952. He eventually settled in the Richmond area, where he taught composition at Virginia Commonwealth University. Blank also studied clarinet and frequently wrote for the instrument, most notably the Concerto for Clarinet and String Orchestra, for which he received a grant from the Virginia Commission for the Arts. *Diversions* is a three-movement work for unaccompanied clarinet that explores the instrument's full spectrum of dynamics and range. The first movement, marked "Playful," teases its audience as sudden, sporadic changes in style and dynamics jokingly thwart the listener's anticipations. The second movement, "Reminiscences," is introspective and, at times, sorrowful, employing a recurring quintuplet pattern and shimmery tremolos to create an atmosphere of poignant reflection. The final movement, "A Dialogue with Interruptions," unfolds briskly as the clarinetist takes on a variety of characters and roles to construct a swirling dramatic scene that comes to an unexpectedly muted conclusion.

Vincent Persichetti, Serenade for Two Clarinets

Philadelphia native Vincent Persichetti was a prolific composer of over 120 published works. He began his career as a pianist and church organist, but his interests quickly turned to composing. Much of his compositional output was devoted to wind band and wind instruments, including multiple pieces for clarinet. The Serenade is a brief seven-movement

continued ...

work for two clarinets that explores the instrument's unique tone color and plays with interesting harmonies and dissonances throughout a range of characters and tempi. The two clarinet parts are often in conversation with each other, echoing melodic lines and phrases.

Leonard Bernstein, Sonata for Clarinet and Piano

Leonard Bernstein was one of the twentieth century's best-known American composers. He also enjoyed a prolific career as a conductor, making a sensational debut with the New York Philharmonic at the age of twenty-five. He attended Harvard University as well as the Curtis Institute of Music. Bernstein's compositional *oeuvre* includes three symphonies and several operas, film scores, and musicals in addition to smaller chamber pieces. The Clarinet Sonata was composed between 1941 and 1942 and is dedicated to clarinetist David Oppenheim. The sonata's opening movement is soaring and graceful, characterized by its long, swelling phrases and triplet figures. The second movement is splashy and rhythmic. With its jazz-like feel, it looks forward to Bernstein's future compositions such as the beloved musical *West Side Story*.



Acknowledgements

Thank you to my parents and family for your deep and lifelong support of my musical dreams. I am also extremely grateful to the entire music department here at the University of Richmond for fostering my passion and enthusiasm for music. I also want to specially thank the people who provided me with the instruction that made this recital possible: my teacher David Niethamer, Dr. Joanne Kong, and eighth blackbird's Michael Maccaferri. Thank you all for your patience and support!