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Joanne Kong, Harpsichord

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**UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND
DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC CONCERT SERIES**

Joanne Kong, *harpsichord*

***April 10, 1994, 3:00 PM
North Court Recital Hall***

PROGRAM NOTES

Ricercar in 3 Voices (J.S. Bach)

The 3-voice Ricercar is the first of a series of pieces that comprise *The Musical Offering* (1747), a crowning achievement of the contrapuntal art. It is based upon the theme that unifies the entire *Musical Offering*, an expressive chromatic line supposedly written by King Frederick the Great of Prussia and given to Bach as a vehicle for improvisation.

French Suite No. 2 in C Minor (J.S. Bach)

The English and French Suites, composed during Bach's residency in Cöthen (1717-23), make use of traditional dances from several different countries, including Germany (*allemande*), France (*courante*), Spain (*sarabande*), and England (*jig*, or *gigue*). Bach's personal style, however, pervades these works; it is especially manifest in the rich counterpoint present throughout the second French Suite in C Minor.

Prussian Sonata No. 1 in F Major (C.P.E. Bach)

Composed between 1740 and 1742, the six Prussian Sonatas are dedicated to Frederick the Great and are among the earliest examples of the genre to exhibit a three-movement, fast-slow-fast structure. The *Andante* of Sonata No. 1 is notable for passages that suggest operatic recitative, and for expressive melodies characteristic of the Rococo *empfindsam* (sentimental) style.

Ordre XI (Couperin)

The pieces of Couperin's Ordre XI (1717) form a diverse group: *La Castelane* refers to a young lady, perhaps a castle-keeper's daughter; the next two pieces are musical portraits of Charlotte de Vasseur Bontems, a member of the entourage of King Louis XVI; *La Zénobie* is a lively dance in the character of a gigue. The concluding piece depicts the downfall of the *Ménéstrandise*, an "ancient and noble" French musicians' guild. Couperin, who publicly protested the union's authority, portrays its members as common jugglers and hurdy-gurdy players who are soon overrun by their own bears and monkeys.

Adagio in D Minor (J.S. Bach)

While at Weimar (1708-17), Bach studied the music of a number of Italian composers. The *Adagio* is his arrangement of the slow movement of the Oboe Concerto in C Minor, by Benedetto Marcello (1686-1739), an accomplished composer, theorist, and poet.

Three Sonatas (Scarlatti)

Scarlatti's single-movement sonatas, which number about 555, reflect the flavor and language of Spanish music. He spent many years in Madrid as a court musician and harpsichord instructor to the Princess Maria Barbara, for whom these works were written. Scarlatti is said to have "imitated the melodies sung by the carriers, muleteers, and common people." Many of the sonatas exhibit virtuosic writing, including wide leaps, hand-crossing, and rapid repeated notes.

PROGRAM

Ricercar in 3 Voices
from *The Musical Offering*

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)

French Suite No. 2 in C Minor
Allemande
Courante
Sarabande
Air
Menuet
Gigue

Johann Sebastian Bach

Prussian Sonata No. 1 in F Major
Poco Allegro
Andante
Vivace

Carl Phillip Emanuel Bach
(1714-1788)

INTERMISSION

Ordre XI

François Couperin
(1688-1733)

La Castelane
L'Étincelante ou La Bontems
Les Graces-Natuéles (Suite de la Bontems)
La Zénobie
Les Fastes de la grande et ancienne Ménestrandise
Premier Acte: Les Notables et Jures
Second Acte: Les Viéleux et les Gueuz
Troisième Acte: Les Jongleurs, Sauteurs et
Saltinbanques, avec les Ours et les Singes
Quatrième Acte: Les Invalides, ou gens Estropiés
au Service de la grande Ménestrandise
Cinquième Acte: Désordre et dérouté de toute la troupe
causés par les Yvrognes, les Singes et les Ours

Adagio in D Minor
(transcribed from an Oboe Concerto by Benedetto Marcello)

Johann Sebastian Bach

Three Sonatas
Sonata in E Major, K. 380
Sonata in G Major, K. 260
Sonata in A Major, K. 113

Domenico Scarlatti
(1685-1757)

Joanne Kong is known for her versatility as a harpsichordist, pianist, and chamber musician. She has received critical acclaim for her performances of the music of Johann Sebastian Bach, and has been guest performer for the Los Angeles Bach Festival, Oregon Bach Festival, Houston Harpsichord Society, New York Bach Aria Festival, Richmond Chamber Players' "Interlude" concerts, University of Richmond's "Currents" new music concerts, and the Richmond International Festival of Music. Her numerous honors include fourth place in the 1983 Johann Sebastian Bach International Piano Competition, the Grand Prize in the 1985 International Piano Recording Competition, two Performance Awards in the Young Musicians Foundation auditions, and a fellowship to the 1974 American Academy of the Arts in Europe. Dr. Kong is currently on the faculty of the Music Department at Virginia Commonwealth University, and also teaches special music seminars in the Honors College.

Next:

Faculty Recital

Richard Becker, piano

April 12, 1994, 8:15 PM

North Court Recital Hall



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