

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Roy Barnett Recital Hall
Saturday, March 18, 2022
8:00 p.m.

MASTER'S GRADUATION STUDENT RECITAL

JEREMY HO
with
Bogdan Dulu, piano

Poème élégiaque, Op.12
Eugène Ysaÿe
(1858-1931)

Violin Sonata
Allegro vivo
Intermède: fantasque et léger
Finale: très animé
Claude Debussy
(1862-1918)

Tzigane
Maurice Ravel
(1875-1937)

– INTERMISSION –

Violin Sonata
Allegretto ben moderato
Allegro molto
Recitativo-Fantasia: Ben moderato
Allegretto poco mosso
César Franck
(1822-1890)

* In partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Master of Music degree with a major in Violin.

We acknowledge that the University of British Columbia is situated on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the Musqueam people

Program Notes

Poème élégiaque, Op.12

Composed in 1892-1896 and dedicated to Gabriel Fauré, Poème élégiaque is the first poem Ysaÿe composed for string instruments and orchestra. Throughout the 1890s, Ysaÿe grew an interest in composing poems for string instruments due to the flexibility of the poem's structure and was inspired by Ernest Chausson's Poème, Op. 25. In this work, Ysaÿe uses the scordatura technique of tuning down the violin's lowest G string to F. This practice enables a darker and warmer timbre, similar to a viola, to create a deeper emotional effect.

Violin Sonata (Debussy)

In his final years, Debussy was diagnosed with colon cancer. Since he knew he was near the end of his life, he had an urge to compose six sonatas for various instruments. Out of the six sonatas, Debussy was only able to complete three. The first was for cello and piano, the second for flute, viola, and harp, and the third and final composition was for violin and piano. Along with his violin sonata, Debussy added, "I only wrote this sonata to be rid of the thing, spurred on by my dear publisher. This sonata will be interesting from a documentary point of view and as an example of what may be produced by a sick man in time of war." At that time, Debussy, who was in France, suffered from food and coal shortages due to the devastating First World War.

Tzigane

After being intrigued by a private recital performance by Jelly d'Arányi, grand-niece of the 18th century virtuoso violinist Joseph Joachim, Ravel asked d'Arányi to play some Gypsy pieces for him. Ravel was deeply moved by d'Arányi's playing and was inspired to compose Tzigane, meaning "Gypsy". The piece was originally composed for violin and piano or luthéal, which is a device attached into a piano that changes the piano's voice to sound similar to a cimbalom. Ravel later rearranged the piece for violin and orchestra, and orchestrated the famous "cimbalom" passage for the harp.

Violin Sonata (Franck)

When Franck heard about the marriage of the esteemed violinist Eugène Ysaÿe and Louise Bourdeau, Franck wrote his violin sonata as a wedding gift and dedicated it to Ysaÿe. On the day of the wedding, Ysaÿe performed Franck's sonata with pianist Léontine Bordes-Pène as the last piece on their program. During the performance, the museum's light became dimmer and eventually became pitch black by the second movement. Since the museum forbade any artificial light, the audience was asked to leave. At that point, Ysaÿe struck his music stand with his bow and demanded, "to plan on. The performers continued with the last three movements through memory with fire and passion.

References:

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