

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA  
SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Roy Barnett Recital Hall  
Sunday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
11:00 a.m.

**MASTER'S STUDENT RECITAL**  
**YEN-HAN CHEN**  
**with**  
**Edward Park, piano**

Premiere Rhapsodie Claude Debussy  
(1862-1918)

Capriccio for unaccompanied Clarinet in A Heinrich Sutermeister  
(1910-1995)

Sonatina for Clarinet and Piano Bohuslav Martinů  
(1890-1959)

I. Moderato-Allegro  
II. Andante  
III. Poco allegro

- INTERMISSION -

Clarinet Concerto No.3, WoO 19 Louis Spohr  
(1784-1859)

I. Allegro moderato  
II. Adagio  
III. Vivace non troppo

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

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

## **Program note**

### **Claude Debussy: Premiere Rhapsodie**

Claude Debussy's *Premiere Rhapsody* was completed in 1909 and published in 1910. It was dedicated to Prosper Mimart (1859-1928), a professor at the Paris Conservatory at that time. This piece was written as a competition piece for the graduation exam of the Conservatory.<sup>1</sup> In 1911, Debussy himself arranged the piano accompaniment of this piece for symphony orchestra.

This is a piece of music with a loose form structure. Each section has indications for changes in tempo. The slow section of this piece can showcase the performer's musical expression, while the fast section can demonstrate their technical abilities.

### **Heinrich Sutermeister: Capriccio for unaccompanied Clarinet in A**

Heinrich Sutermeister was a Swiss composer who studied with Carl Orff. The *Capriccio* for solo clarinet was composed for the Geneva International Music Competition.<sup>2</sup>

This is a single-movement work for solo clarinet. It features technical and expressive challenges for the clarinetist, such as wide leaps, rapid scale passages, and various articulations. The piece is written with the traditional tonal system, with some chromaticism and dissonance used for expressive effect.

Overall, "*Capriccio*" is a brilliant and lively work that showcases the capabilities of the clarinet.

### **Bohuslav Martinů: Sonatina for Clarinet and Piano**

Bohuslav Martinů was a Czech composer influenced by a wide range of composers including Stravinsky, Ravel, and Prokofiev, and also the traditional Czech music. He is considered a neo-classical style composer. He combines elements from Baroque and Classical music with modernist techniques. His music is characterized by unexpected harmonic progression, irregular rhythms,

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<sup>1</sup> Ford Joseph Forquarean: "Claude Debussy: Harmonic Innovations in Historical and Musical Context" (Columbus State University, 2014) p. 13

<sup>2</sup> D. Larese: "Heinrich Sutermeister" (Amriswil: Amriswiler Bücherei, 1972)

and asymmetrical phrasing.<sup>3</sup>

The sonatina is a 3-movement piece. The first movement, marked *Moderato*, features playful and rhythmically lively melodies, the middle part is a contrasted fast passage with magical harmonic progression. After the recapitulation, the movement ends with a splendid *Allegro* coda. The second movement, marked *Andante*, which brings out the mysterious and melancholic atmosphere. The final movement, marked *Poco Allegro*, is a vibrant and energetic movement with many time changes and phrases with hemiola.

### **Louis Spohr: Clarinet Concerto No. 3, WoO 19**

Louis Spohr was a German composer, violinist, and conductor of the early Romantic era. His clarinet concertos explored the full range and expressive capabilities of the instrument. Spohr was deeply influenced by his collaboration with the virtuoso clarinetist Simon Hermstedt (1778-1864), for whom he composed the clarinet concertos.<sup>4</sup>

Spohr's Clarinet Concerto No. 3, WoO 19, is a three-movement work characterized by its dramatic and expressive qualities. The first movement, in 4/4 time and marked *Allegro*, presents a dramatic theme in F minor. With the development through the movement, it ends in F major, presenting the theme more joyful and brilliant. The second movement, in 3/4 time and marked *Adagio*, is a lyrical and expressive three-part form with splendid middle part. The third movement, in a faster 3/4 time and marked *Vivace non troppo*, is a lively rondo movement with coda that concludes the concerto with a memorable theme and a joyful spirit.

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<sup>3</sup> M. Šafránek: "Bohuslav Martinů: his Life and Works" (London, 1962)

<sup>4</sup> Pamela Weston: "Hermstedt, (Johann) Simon" (Oxford Music Online. Oxford University Press, 2001)