

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Roy Barnett Recital Hall

Friday, March 29, 2024

7:30 p.m.

**DOCTORAL RECITAL\***

**Yidie Hua, Piano**

Miroirs (1904-05)

Maurice Ravel  
(1875-1937)

- I. Noctuelles
- II. Oiseaux tristes
- III. Une barque sur l'océan
- IV. Alborada del gracioso
- V. La vallée des cloches

Vingt Regards sur l'enfant-Jésus (1944)

Olivier Messiaen  
(1908-1992)

XIV. Regard des Anges ("Contemplation of the Angels")

- INTERMISSION -

Deux légendes (1863)

Franz Liszt  
(1811-1886)

- I. St. François d'Assise: La prédication aux oiseaux
- II. St. François de Paule marchant sur les flots

Après une lecture du Dante: Fantasia quasi Sonata (1849)

Franz Liszt  
(1811-1886)

from *Années de pèlerinage* Book II - Italie S.161

\* In partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Doctorate of Musical Arts  
with a major in Piano

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

## Program notes

### Miroirs(1904-05)

"Miroirs" (French for "Mirrors") is a suite of five movements composed by Maurice Ravel between 1904 and 1905, each dedicated to a fellow member of the French avant-garde artist group Les Apaches. The suite offers an exploration of diverse moods and imagery.

"Noctuelles" (Night Moths): Dedicated to the poet Léon-Paul Fargue, "Noctuelles" captures the fluttering movements of moths in the night. Ravel uses highly chromatic harmonies to create the mysterious atmosphere.

"Oiseaux tristes" (Sad Birds): "Oiseaux tristes" is dedicated to the pianist Ricardo Viñes. It paints a melancholic scene of desolate birdsong. Ravel describes the birds as "lost in the torpor of a very dark forest during the hottest hours of summer."

"Une barque sur l'océan" (A Boat on the Ocean): Dedicated to the painter Paul Sordes, this movement depicts the vastness and unpredictability of the ocean. Shimmering arpeggios and sweeping melodic lines mimic the flow of the ocean, transporting listeners on a journey across the boundless seascape.

"Alborada del gracioso" (Morning Song of the Jester): Dedicated to the musicologist and music critic Michel Dimitri Calvocoressi, this movement portrays the lively antics of a jester, or court entertainer, as he performs his morning ballad of the knight. It is full of lively rhythms, syncopated accents, and colorful orchestral effects. It shows Ravel's remarkable skill in blending technical virtuosity with expressive storytelling.

"La vallée des cloches" (The Valley of the Bells): Closing the suite, "La vallée des cloches" is dedicated to the composer Maurice Delage, who had been Ravel's pupil since 1903. The movement evokes the scene of a mystical valley filled with echoing bells. Rich harmonies resonate with the beauty of bell sounds.

### Vingt Regards sur l'Enfant-Jésus(1944)

"Vingt Regards sur l'Enfant-Jésus" ("Twenty Contemplations on the Infant Jesus") is a monumental piano work composed by Olivier Messiaen. This composition consists of twenty movements, each exploring various aspects of the Christian faith through

contemplation on the figure of the infant Jesus. Four main themes were used throughout the set — the Theme of God, the Theme of the Star and the Cross, the Theme of Chords (a sequence of four four-part chords) and the Theme of Love. It stands as one of the most significant contributions to the piano repertoire of the 20th century.

"Regard des Anges" is characterized by a striking repetition, where a rhythmic canon in three parts is expanded upon four times. The music evokes the fluttering of angels' wings and the sound of brass instruments. Messiaen holds angels in the same reverence as birds, which also feature in this movement, viewing them as higher and purer beings.

## Deux légendes(1863)

"Légendes" is a collection of two pieces composed by Franz Liszt in 1863. In his later piano works, Liszt delves into profound spiritual themes with a depth and intensity that reflect his own spiritual journey.

"St. François d'Assise: La prédication aux oiseaux" ("St. Francis of Assisi: The Sermon to the Birds") depicts a legendary event from the life of St. Francis of Assisi, where the saint is said to have preached to a gathering of birds. The music evokes a sense of peace and tranquility, with delicate melodies and flowing passages that mimic the gentle fluttering of wings. Liszt's harmonies convey a sense of reverence and awe, reflecting the spiritual significance of the moment.

"St. François de Paule marchant sur les flots" ("St. Francis of Paola Walking on the Waves") is the second piece in "Légendes." It tells the story of the miraculous event where St. Francis of Paola is said to have walked on the waves of the sea. The left hand of the piano often takes on the role of depicting the undulating motion of the waves, while the right hand of the piano carries the melodic and thematic material, representing the figure of St. Francis of Paola as he walks upon the waves with faith and determination.

## Après une lecture du Dante: Fantasia quasi Sonata(1849)

– from *Années de pèlerinage* Book II - Italie S.161

"Années de pèlerinage" ("Years of Pilgrimage") is a collection of piano pieces composed by Franz Liszt. Divided into three separate volumes, this work reflects Liszt's travels across Europe and his experiences with art, nature, and culture.

Liszt composed "Après une lecture du Dante: Fantasia quasi Sonata" ("After Reading Dante: Fantasia quasi Sonata") between 1839 and 1849, drawing inspiration from Dante Alighieri's epic poem "The Divine Comedy." The piece begins with a dark introduction, evoking the descent into the depths of Hell. Liszt uses dramatic chords and thundering passages to create a sense of despair. The middle section depicts the love scene of Dante's encounter with Beatrice, portrays the intimacy and longing shared between them. As the sonata progresses, the love scene transitions seamlessly into the final section where soaring melodies and chords create a sense of triumph and resolution.