Fourth-year Graduation Student Recital at Barnett Hall
April 22, 2024
7:30 p.m.

Daniel Ketter, Clarinet

Clarinet Sonata No.2   Johannes Brahms
(1833-97)

    i.   *Allegro Amabile*

    ii.   *Appassionato*

    iii.   *Andante con moto - Allegro non troppo*

Craig Ketter, Piano

"Shepherd on the Rock" (Der Hirt auf dem Felsen)   Franz Schubert
(1797-1828)

Craig Ketter, Piano
Valerie Gonzalez, Soprano

~ Intermission ~

"II Concerto" for Clarinet   Oscar Navarro
(b. 1981)

    i.   *Allegro Vivace*

    ii.   *Adagio Cantabile*

    iii.   *Allegro Con Fuoco*

Craig Ketter, Piano

This recital is in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the
Bachelor of Music degree with a major in Clarinet.

*We gratefully acknowledge that we are gathered together for this performance on the traditional,
ancestral, and unceded territory of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) people.*

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Johannes Brahms, Clarinet Sonata No.2, Op. 120 No.2

This monolith of the clarinet solo repertoire, composed in 1894, stands as a testament to the composer's mastery of form, melody, and emotional depth. The Sonata is the second of two clarinet sonatas, Op. 120, written near the end of Brahm's life. The opus was dedicated to the clarinetist Richard Mühlfeld, whose artistry inspired within Brahms a new affinity for the instrument, bringing him out of his self proclaimed retirement. Brahms' Second Clarinet Sonata stands as a towering masterpiece of Romantic chamber music, showcasing the composer's unparalleled skill and imagination. Through its seamless blend of lyricism, drama, and emotional depth, the Sonata captivates audiences with its timeless beauty and expression where every note resonates with meaning.

Allegro amabile:

The Sonata opens with an Allegro amabile, characterized by its warm lyricism and graceful melodies. Brahms showcases his gift for crafting memorable themes, as the clarinet and piano engage in a delightful interplay of motifs. The movement unfolds with a sense of intimacy and tenderness, evoking a serene pastoral landscape. Yet beneath the surface serenity, hints of darker hues emerge, foreshadowing the emotional depth to come.

Appassionato:

The second movement, marked Appassionato, contrasts starkly with the tranquility of the preceding movement. Here, Brahms unleashes the full emotional intensity of the Sonata, imbuing it with a sense of urgency and drama. The clarinet's soaring lines intertwine with the piano's turbulent accompaniment, creating a dialogue that ebbs and flows with fervent energy.

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Andante con moto - Allegro non troppo:

The Sonata concludes with an Andante con moto followed by an Allegro non troppo. In the Andante con moto, the clarinet's intimate lamentation is echoed by the piano, as the music unfolds with a sense of bittersweet nostalgia. Yet amidst the melancholy, glimpses of hope and resilience emerge, leading seamlessly into the spirited Allegro non troppo. Here, Brahms draws upon elements of Hungarian folk music, infusing the movement with a lively, dance-like character. The Sonata reaches its triumphant conclusion with a display of virtuosity and exuberance.

Franz Schubert, "Shepherd on the Rock" (Der Hirt auf dem Felsen)

Franz Schubert's "Shepherd on the Rock" (Der Hirt auf dem Felsen) is a masterful example of the composer's ability to blend lyrical beauty with vivid imagery. Composed in 1828 during the final year of his life, this work exemplifies Schubert's unique fusion of vocal and instrumental writing, transporting listeners to a pastoral landscape alive with emotion and longing.

The scene is set atop a rocky hillside, where a shepherd contemplates the beauty of the surrounding countryside. Against this backdrop, the shepherd pours out his heart in song, expressing feelings of love, longing, and nostalgia.

The work begins with a clarinet solo, representing the shepherd's plaintive call echoing across the mountainside. As the voice enters, Schubert weaves a tapestry of vocal and instrumental textures, each complementing and enhancing the other. The soprano's soaring lines blend seamlessly with the clarinet's expressive melodies, creating a sense of intimacy and connection that draws listeners into the shepherd's world.

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Oscar Navarro, "II Concerto" for Clarinet

Oscar Navarro's Second Clarinet Concerto is a contemporary gem that showcases the versatility and expressive range of the clarinet. Composed in 2012, this concerto represents Navarro's innovative approach to orchestration and his deep understanding of the clarinet's capabilities.With its evocative melodies and electrifying energy, this concerto solidifies Navarro's reputation as a leading voice in modern classical music.

Allegro Vivace:

The concerto opens with an Allegro Vivace movement, brimming with energy and rhythmic vitality. Navarro's use of syncopated rhythms and driving melodies creates a sense of urgency and excitement, drawing listeners into the vibrant sonic landscape.

Adagio Cantabile:

The second movement, marked Adagio Cantabile, unfolds with a sense of poignant lyricism and emotional depth. Navarro explores the clarinet's capacity for expressive nuance, evoking a range of emotions from introspection to longing.

Allegro con Fuoco:

The concerto reaches its exhilarating conclusion with an Allegro con Fuoco finale. Navarro showcases his compositional virtuosity with dazzling displays of technical prowess and rhythmic complexity. The clarinet engages in a spirited dialogue with the orchestra, culminating in a breathtaking finale.

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