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Senior Piano Recital - Jessica Kust

St. Norbert College Music Department

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Senior Recital

Jessica Kust, piano

Saturday, April 29, 2017

2:00 p.m.

Birder Hall

~Program~

I

Prelude and Fugue No. 17 in Ab Major, BWV 862.....J.S. Bach
(1685-1750)

II

Sonata Op. 26 No. 12 in Ab Major.....Ludwig van Beethoven
(1770-1827)

- I. Andante con Variazioni
- II. Scherzo, allegro molto
- III. Marcia Funebre sulla morte d'un eroe
- IV. Allegro

III

Ballade No. 4 in f minor.....Frederic Chopin
(1810-1849)

IV

Poems of the Sea.....Ernest Bloch
(1880-1959)

- I. Waves
- II. Chanty
- III. At Sea

This recital is presented in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Piano Performance degree. Jessica is from the studio of Mrs. Elaine Moss, Mr. Justin Krueger, and Ms. Carlotta Forasassi.

~Program Notes~

Bach Prelude and Fugue 17 in Ab Major

Bach's "The Well-Tempered Clavier" contains two books which consist of a prelude and fugue on each semitone from c to b. The two books were written at separate times in Bach's life: the first was written in 1722 and the second in 1742. This particular prelude and fugue is part of the second book. There are distinct differences between the two books written so many years apart, especially the fugues in the first book, which show off an extensive use of chromaticism within the motives, while book two features dance fugues which focus more heavily on distinctive rhythmic motives. Bach's preludes and fugues have gained a wide variety of interpretations based on the fact that the music was composed almost 300 years ago. Some performers strive for historical accuracy while others choose to break away from the limitations set by the instruments of the time, such as the lack of pedal and minimal dynamic variances of the original keyboards used by Bach: the clavichord and harpsichord.

Beethoven Sonata Op. 26 No. 12 in Ab Major

This sonata stands apart from others because every movement is devoid of the famous sonata form, which usually consists of three sections of music that explore two themes according to their key relationships. Instead, the opening movement is a theme with variations, which presents one "paragraph" of music that is repeated in different colors and styles of music throughout the variations. This particular opening movement is unique among other similar pieces because, while this type of piece generally develops in complexity and tempo, Beethoven's sonata does not deviate far from the beginning tempo and instead progresses stylistically between the variations. Also, instead of increasing the virtuosity of each variation, Beethoven chose to diverge in exploring the lyrical quality of the theme. The Funeral March has the subtitle "on the death of a hero", although the "hero" has never been explicitly named. It was arranged for wind band and played during Beethoven's own funeral procession in Vienna. The technical aspects of the fourth movement leave little time for any pause, instead showcasing a continual drive in the rhythm.

Chopin Ballade No. 4 in f minor

Just as the Mona Lisa painting is considered a great artifact from the Renaissance, Chopin's fourth ballade is generally considered a bastion of Romantic music that highlights a great variety of style, rhythm, and key variations. Although the term "Ballade" was first associated with French poetry, Chopin's ballades are thought to be inspired by the Lithuanian Ballades of Polish author Adam Mickiewicz. This particular ballade is said to be about Mickiewicz's story in which three brothers go

to fight an enemy, but instead conclude their lives with three wedding feasts. Although the opening statement gives a sense of hope to the listener, the piece quickly moves into a solemn key (the main theme) that is embellished in different ways as the piece progresses. While the solemnity is evident throughout the piece, touches of hope still rise out of the work. The piece contains so many technical challenges for the performer, yet the real challenge lies in the poetic interpretation.

Bloch's Poems of the Sea

Bloch was a Jewish composer who incorporated Jewish themes into his music, and this piece is no exception. Although Bloch arranged this piece for orchestra, "Poems of the Sea" was originally written for the piano. "Waves" presents the churning power of the waves in a sea or ocean, with a tumultuous ostinato that plays throughout the entire piece. The "Chanty" movement uses the customary rhythm of sea chanties originally sung by sailors as they worked, along with the Scottish Snap: a syncopated rhythm in which a short, usually accented note is followed by a long note. The third movement "At Sea", sounds like cantorial chanting and imitates the rocking motion of a boat on a stormy sea. The overall inspiration of the piece was instilled by verses in Walt Whitman's poem "In Cabin'd Ships at Sea":

*In cabin'd ships, at sea,
The boundless blue on every side expanding,
With whistling winds and music of the waves—the large imperious waves—In
such,
Or some lone bark, buoy'd on the dense marine,
Where, joyous, full of faith, spreading white sails,
She cleaves the ether, mid the sparkle and the foam of day, or under many a
star at night,
By sailors young and old, haply will I, a reminiscence of the land, be read,
In full rapport at last.
Here are our thoughts—voyagers' thoughts,
Here not the land, firm land, alone appears, may then by them be said;
The sky o'er arches here—we feel the undulating deck beneath our feet,
We feel the long pulsation—ebb and flow of endless motion;
The tones of unseen mystery—the vague and vast suggestions of the briny
world—the
liquid-flowing syllables,
The perfume, the faint creaking of the cordage, the melancholy rhythm,
The boundless vista, and the horizon far and dim, are all here,
And this is Ocean's poem.*

***St. Norbert College Music Department Events
Spring 2017***

April

30 Nick Carncoss, Merit Recital, Birder Hall, 1:00 p.m.*

May

2 Honor's Recital, Birder Hall, 7:30 p.m.*

5 Dudley Birder Chorale, America Sings, Walter Theatre 7:30 p.m.***

6 Dudley Birder Chorale, America Sings, Walter Theatre, 7:30 p.m.***

7 Marshall Moss Choral Sing, Birder Hall, 2:00 p.m.*

10-20 Knights on Broadway Spring Showcase, Birder Hall***

June

12-16 Summer Band Camp, Walter Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

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