



Brandeis University

Department of Music

presents

Ice Wang, *piano*

Saturday, April 9th, 2022 at 2:00 p.m.

Slosberg Music Center

Keyboard Suite in F minor, HWV 433

Prelude
Allegro
Allemande
Courante
Gigue

George Handel
(1685-1759)

Symphonic Etudes, Op.13

Theme – *Andante*
Variation 1 – *Un poco più vivo*
Variation 2 – *Andante*
Variation 3 – *Allegro marcato*
Variation 4 – *Scherzando*
Variation 5 – *Agitato*
Variation 6 – *Allegro motto*
Variation 7 – *Sempre marcatissimo*
Variation 8 – *Allegro con energia*
Variation 9 – *Andante espressivo*
Finale – *Allegro brillante*

Robert Schumann
(1810-1856)

~ INTERMISSION ~

Three Elegiac Pieces

I
II
III

George Rochberg
(1918-2005)

Tango

Igor Stravinsky
(1882-1971)

About the program

Keyboard suite in F minor, HWV 433

The suite is originally written for harpsichord, a keyboard in which the strings are plucked rather than hit with a hammer, like a modern piano. The Adagio Prelude begins simply and becomes rhythmically intricate and musically intense as the music proceeds by adding voices and embellishments. The Allegro Fugue contains three voices and starts with a single subject, quickly followed by imitations in the other two voices; the subject and its fragments are interweaved throughout this movement. The following Allemande and Courante are dance songs that are usually played as a pair. Allemande is in duple meter with a moderate tempo and Courante in triple meter with a faster and leaping feeling. The last movement Gigue is a fast dance song and has varying characters.

Symphonic Etudes, Op.13

Symphonic Etudes is considered Schumann's first large-scale mature work. The piece is a set of variations, and the inspiration of the theme was composed by an amateur musician Baron von Fricken, whose daughter was engaged to Schumann at the time. Schumann started this piece in 1834 and first published it in 1837 as a set of etudes. Fifteen years later, in 1852, the second edition was published in variations after some revisions in the piano writing and taking out two movements that did not fit in the variations. The ten variations develop around the theme with some fragments incorporated in each, and the last variation, also the finale, concludes the music in a powerful tutti.

Three Elegiac Pieces

Rochberg started this set of elegies in 1947 and finished it by 1998 in the span of 50 years. Among the elegies, the first one is believed to be written for his wife, the second one for his son, and the last one for himself; each carries the emotions to a deeper level. The three elegies all have a quotation, written preceding the score, that assists to understand the emotional context of the piece.

I.
C'era una volta,
Un re e una regina;
La regina morì
E la storia finì.

*(Once upon a time,
There was a king and a queen;
The queen died
And the story ended.)*

II.
The clock turns
And casts up the minutes of life

I breathe and deny
For now
The fate that is no end
But circular. – *Paul Rochberg*

III.
... but I am bound
Upon a wheel of fire, that mine own tears
Do scald like molten lead.
– *Lear, Shakespeare*

Tango

After the outbreak of World War II, Stravinsky moved to the US where he was influenced by jazz music and composed the piece the second year after the moving. Stravinsky strictly followed the structure of a three-part tango while sprinkling his own unique musical language and notations on top of it.