



Brandeis University

Department of Music

presents

Jessie Zeng, *Piano*

26, March, 2022 at 8 p.m.

Slosberg Music Center

Piano Sonata No.9 in E major, Op.14, No.1(1798)

I. Allegro in E major

II. Allegretto in E minor

III. Rondo – Allegro comodo in E major

Ludwig van Beethoven

1770-1827

Rhapsody, Op.79 No.1(1879)

No.1 in B minor

Johannes Brahms

1833-1897

Blue Blazes (2005)

Blue Blazes

Snowflakes

Barcarole

Daniel Pinkham

1923-2006

Années de Pèlerinage – Troisième Année (1877)

4. Les Jeux D'eau À La Villa D'Este

Franz Liszt

1811-1886

Piano Sonata No.9 in E major, Op.14, No.1 (1798)

Ludwig van Beethoven

Piano Sonata No.9 in E major was dedicated to Beethoven's patron Baroness Josefa von Braun. In 1798, this piece was written for the piano and in 1801, Beethoven arranged the same piece for the string quartet. In the first movement, the fast ascending and descending passages indicate the similarity between this specific piano sonata and bowing on string instruments. The second movement starts with a E minor minuet and moves to a C major Maggiore. The third movement is in rondo form. While the main materials stay the same, Beethoven alternates between major and minor, as well as regular meter and syncopated rhythm.

Rhapsody, Op.79 No.1 (1879)

Johannes Brahms

A rhapsody typically embraces a free-flowing structure. In this piece, the main materials are in a sonata form. After the materials get introduced the first time, there's a middle section where Brahms indicated to be "molto dolce, espress". Then the main materials come back, but this time, it goes to a dreamy and "leggiero" coda. This piece demonstrates the orchestral potential of the piano. Brahms uses complete chords that go beyond an octave in both the right and left hand in order to enhance the sonority. There are two rhapsodies in Op. 79 and both of them were dedicated to Brahms' friend Elisabeth von Herzogenberg.

Blue Blazes (2005)

Daniel Pinkham

Daniel Pinkham was an American composer, organist, harpsichordist. He was the great-grandson of Lydia Pinkham, a successful businesswoman in the 19th century. He attended Harvard University, Longy School of Music of Bard College, and Phillips Academy-Andover. In his lifetime, he was an organist at the King's Chapel in downtown Boston for forty-two years. He also taught at both the Boston Conservatory and the New England Conservatory of Music. He had composed music in virtually every genre. Among his work, the most famous was the Christmas cantata.

Blue blazes is a set of three pieces of music and it was published by E. C. Schirmer. The first piece, Blue Blazes, was premiered at the Jordan Hall of the New England Conservatory by Sergey Schepkin in 2005. This piece alternates between fast and slow. Every time when the music seems to be out of control, Pinkham drags it back with the thematic sereno section.

Both the second piece (Snowflakes) and the third piece(Barcarole) were dedicated to Evan Hirsch, Jessie Zeng's piano teacher. In Snowflakes, Pinkham utilizes long pedal markings to create the image of a white snowy winter day. On top of the long pedal, the single notes in the higher register mimic the snowflakes falling.

In the Barcarole, Pinkham utilizes a steady back and forth motion between the left and right hand to create the image of a boat floating on a river. The ending chord utilizes a strong chord from the lower register to vibrate the long-held note in the higher register.

Les Jeux D'eau À La Villa D'Este (1877)

Franz Liszt

In his lifetime, Liszt traveled throughout Switzerland and Italy. *Années de Pèlerinage* is a set of three collections for solo piano. The three collections corresponded to Liszt's three years abroad. The *Première année*, the first year, was spent in Switzerland. *Deuxième année*, the second year was in Italy. *Les Jeux D'eau À La Villa D'Este*, the Water Fountains of the Villa d'Este, describes the flow and motions of water that Liszt observed in Italy. The long arpeggios outline some of the key elements in the music in the Impressionism period.