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Piano Faculty Scholarship Concert

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Piano Faculty Scholarship Concert

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BFA Junior Graphic Design & Studio Exhibition.....Nov 17 – Nov 20
Departmental Exhibition.....Dec 1 – 5

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Chapman University Wind Symphony.....Nov 21
University Choirs in Concert.....Nov 21
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DANCE:

Fall Dance Concert.....Nov 19 – 22

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CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY

Conservatory of Music

presents the

Piano Faculty Scholarship Concert

Christopher Brennan
Grace Fong
Ruby Cheng Goya
Hye Young Kim
Karen Knecht
Janice Park
Louise Thomas

October 18, 2008 • 5:00 P.M.
Salmon Recital Hall

PROGRAM

Piano Concerto in E-flat Major, K. 271 *Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart*
 Allegro (1756-1791)
 Allegro
 Andantino
 Rondo (Presto)

Grace Fong, piano
 Daniel Alfred Wachs, conductor

Violin: Paul Manaster, Kathleen Mangusing, Bridget Dolkas, Philipp Claucig
 Viola: Robert Becker; Cello: Roger Lebow; Bass: David Black
 Oboe: David Kossoff, Tamer Edelbi; French Horn: Jon Acosta, Jake Vogel

--INTERMISSION--

Paganini Variations for Two Pianos *Witold Lutoslawski*
 (1913-1994)

Christopher Brennan, Karen Knecht

La Valse for Two Pianos *Maurice Ravel*
 (1875-1937)

Beverly Min, Louise Thomas

because the stars move... *Christopher Brennan*
 (b. 1962)

Christopher Brennan, Janice Park, Ruby Cheng Goya

Fantasy on Themes from Bizet's *Carmen* *Mack Wilberg*
 (b. 1955)

Piano I: Janice Park, Hye-Young Kim
 Piano II: Ruby Cheng Goya, Karen Knecht

*Please join us for a reception immediately following
 the performance on the Berte Hall Patio*

*Special thanks to Cory W. Callies of Kawai American Corporation
 for providing an additional concert grand piano*

PROGRAM NOTES

Piano Concerto No. 9 in E-flat Major, K. 271 (*Jeunehomme*)

Mozart completed this piano concerto the month he turned twenty-one in 1777. The concerto is full of the energy, inspiration, and innovation that often characterize the first mature efforts of great composers. The work has long been known as the "Jeunehomme" Concerto. It was said that Mozart wrote the piece for a French pianist "Jeunehomme" when she visited Salzburg.

Mozart develops the more lighthearted or cheerful aspect of the concerto's thematic nature primarily in the first movement, a lively *allegro*. The dramatic character of this movement is dominated by the dynamic of interaction between soloist and orchestra. With this concerto, Mozart gives us the first of his great slow movements. The piano part is elaborate and highly expressive and the tone is dark and contemplative, at times genuinely tragic. The emotional make-up of the movement is complicated, almost as if a funeral march. It is said that Mozart was writing this movement in the room next to his dying mother. The brilliant finale is a racing, virtuoso rondo that stops once for a gracious, full-scale minuet—perhaps included to make Mlle Jeunehomme feel at home—shortly before the final getaway.

With the exception of the piano duet (two pianists at one instrument), the remainder of the program is a showcase for the versatility and capabilities of the piano as an ensemble instrument with itself. Very few instruments can provide the vast landscape of range and harmonic possibility as a solo instrument like the piano, so naturally there is a long history of composers using the piano both in solo and in an ensemble as a precursor to an orchestral arrangements.

Paganini Variations for Two Pianos

Witold Lutoslawski

Lutoslawski's Variations on a Theme by Paganini for Two Pianos is the only work he composed during World War II in Nazi-occupied Poland where he supported himself by playing piano in bars around Warsaw. The work, composed in 1941, is a set of variations based on the famous violin caprice of Nicolo Paganini that has been the inspiration for numerous solo and chamber works including the Rhapsody for Piano and Orchestra by Rachmaninoff and the Studies by Liszt and Brahms. Lutoslawski later revised the work for piano and orchestra.

La Valse for Two Pianos

Maurice Ravel

Originally intended to be a ballet for Diaghilev and the Ballet Russes, Ravel had for years been thinking of writing a work reminiscent and in honor of the late Johann Strauss II, and presented the work to him in the form of a work for two pianos. The work never met with Diaghilev's approval but has since become one of Ravel's most successful and popular works for orchestra. The reduction for two pianos is very faithful to the orchestral version encompassing all of the technical challenges and colorful palette with his use of the full range of the instruments. Ravel prefaced the work with the following: "Through whirling clouds, waltzing couples may be faintly distinguished. The clouds gradually scatter: one sees at letter A an immense hall peopled with a whirling crowd. The scene is gradually illuminated. The light of the chandeliers bursts forth at the fortissimo letter B. Set in an imperial court, about 1855."

because the stars move...

Christopher Brennan

Composed in the Spring of 2001 for three teenage students and performed by them in a Fall recital of that year. The work, "because the stars move..." is based on the opening three notes of the middle piano part: the intervals of an ascending third and falling fourth and subsequently the inversions of these. The structure is a simple ternary form, ABA, the middle section a kind of momentary lapse into an agitated waltz. The work follows a story line taken from a poem of the same name, also written by the composer. This performance is dedicated to the memory of one of the students, Sina Massoumi, who was taken the following year in a fatal car accident.

Upcoming Events

Opera Chapman Salmon Recital Hall, Conservatory of Music	October 24-25 8:00 P.M. October 26 3:00 P.M. General Admission \$15, Seniors and Students \$10
Chamber Orchestra Concert Memorial Auditorium	October 25 5:00 P.M. General Admission \$10, Seniors and Students \$5
Annual Wassail Concert Reception – Dinner - Concert Beckman Hall & Wallace All Faiths Chapel	December 5 & 6 6:00 P.M. \$65 per person

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