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Karen Knecht

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spring 2013



COLLEGE OF PERFORMING ARTS

Faculty Recital

Karen Knecht, piano

February 9, 2013



COLLEGE OF PERFORMING ARTS
HALL-MUSCO
CONSERVATORY OF

music

SPRING 2013 calendar highlights

february

February 1

University Singers Post-Tour Concert

Stephen Coker, Conductor

February 7

President's Piano Series

Grace Fong & Louise Thomas, duo piano concert

February 14-16, 21-23

Twelfth Night by William Shakespeare

Directed by Thomas Bradac

march

March 7

President's Piano Series

Sergei Babayan

March 8

Chapman Chamber Orchestra & University Singers

Daniel Alfred Wachs, Music Director and Conductor
Stephen Coker, Conductor

March 14-16

Concert Intime

Directed by Alicia Guy

april

April 4

President's Piano Series

John Perry

April 4-6, 11-13

Stage Door

by George S. Kaufman & Edna Ferber

Directed by Nina LeNoir

April 19-21

Opera Chapman presents

The Merry Widow by Franz Lehar

Peter Atherton, Artistic Director

Carol Neblett, Associate Director

April 24-27

Student Produced One Acts

may

May 8-11

Spring Dance Concert

Directed by Jennifer Backhaus

May 11

Sholund Scholarship Concert

Daniel Alfred Wachs, Conductor

CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY

Hall-Musco

Conservatory of Music

presents a

Faculty Recital

Karen Knecht, piano



COLLEGE OF PERFORMING ARTS

For more information about our events, please visit our website at

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or email CoPA@chapman.edu

February 9, 2013 ■ 5:00 P.M.

Salmon Recital Hall

Program

Take backup + merge with it
Sonata in D Major
1 Longo 14 0-133 Domenico Scarlatti
(1685-1757)

Fantasy in f # minor, Op. 28
2 Con moto agitato: Andante 161-346 Felix Mendelssohn
3 Allegro con moto 349-433 (1809-1847)
4 Presto 435-589

5 Scherzo in E Major, op. 54 632-1116 Frederic Chopin
(1810-1849)

~Intermission~

6 Fantasy, 1993 1185-1658 Emma Lou Diemer
(b. 1927)

From Miroirs
7 Une barque sur l'océan 1702-2000 Maurice Ravel
8 La Vallée des cloches 2003-2184 (1875-1937)
9 Alborada del gracioso 2190-2415

Artists

Karen Knecht received her early music training at the Julliard School of Music. She went on to earn a Bachelor's Degree in Music and English Literature at Indiana University where she studied with Sydney Foster and the legendary pianist Abbey Simon. She also holds a Master of Fine Arts degree from State University of N.Y. at Buffalo where she worked with Frina Arshanka Boldt.

In addition to her many solo and duo piano concerts at Chapman University where she has been a faculty member for over 25 years. Ms. Knecht has performed at the Lincoln Center Library and Museum and Merkin Concert Hall in N.Y.C. where she premiered the Fantasy for Piano by Kennedy Center Friedham award-winning composer Emma Lou Diemer.

Her former students include an L.A. Drama Critics Circle best composer nominee and current college and university piano faculty members.

Emma Lou Diemer is a composition graduate of Yale and Eastman (PhD) and also studied at Tanglewood and in Brussels on Fullbright Scholarship. She was composer-in-residence in the Arlington, Virginia schools under a Ford Foundation Young Composers Grant in 1959-1961 and professor of theory and composition at the University of Maryland before holding the same position at the University of California, Santa Barbara where she was on the faculty from 1971-1991. Her awards include an NEA fellowship in electronic music, an Annual ASCAP Award (since 1962) for performances and publications, a Kennedy Center Friedham Award for her Concerto in One Movement for Piano, the American Guild of Organists 1995 Composer of the Year award, and the Mu Phi Epsilon 1995 Award of Merit. She was composer-in-residence with the Santa Barbara Symphony 1990-92, and the Symphony performed five of her works, most recently "Santa Barbara Overture." A number of her recordings are listed on amazon.

Program Notes

Fantasy for Piano was written in February, 1993 for Karen Knecht to premiere on her recital at Merkin Hall in New York City on September 27, 1993.

Karen asked me to compose a work 13 to 15 minutes in length which would be romantic in character to close the first half of her recital. Other composers on her program were to be Soler, Mendelssohn, Chopin, and Ravel.

Fantasy is in one movement and has several sections that contrast in mood and tempo. The broad, expressive opening section features a melodic line that is sometimes in the upper part of the piano, sometimes in the resonant lower and middle registers. It is succeeded by a brief dance-like passage in which one hand plays the white keys, the other the black keys--with intervals of the 4th and 5th predominating.

A dramatic cadenza leads to the very slow and quiet middle section, to be played with much rubato. During this meditative mood some of the ideas from the opening measures of the piece return. There is a rhythmic transition to a playful section during which the "black and white key" idea is suggested.

The mood changes to the cadenza figurations serving as a transition back to the opening themes. The last section is a florid and rapid-key recalling of syncopations and figurations that have come before.

In addition to more traditional scalar and chordal materials developed in the work there are two constructions that are important: a tone row appears in the left hand at the end of the slow section and reappears in the following "playful" section. It is used for the purposes of disruption and contrast. There is a rhythmic series that occurs often in the piece:

3 - 3 - 2
3 - 2 - 3
2 - 2 - 3
2 - 3 - 3
2 - 3 - 2
3 - 2 - 2

This series appears first in the "black and white key" passage as successive durations (page 4, 5th system, 3rd measure continuing to the cadenza beginning on the page 6). It recurs at the bottom of page 11, governing the length of each of the groups of 8th notes: 5 notes = 3, 4 notes = 2, and briefly elsewhere. This particular device is used for rhythmic flexibility rather than to confuse the performer!

The work should be played with much freedom and dramatic contrast. The metronome markings are approximations, and the pianist need not follow them literally. ~ELD



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The President's Piano Series was founded in 2011 with the mission of providing access to acclaimed pianists for both the Southern California community and the students of Chapman University. Each year the President's Piano

Series presents internationally acclaimed pianists and ensembles from throughout the world that perform both solo and chamber music recitals. In addition to evening performances, the series is committed to providing educational master class opportunities open to the public.

Under the artistic direction of Grace Fong, internationally renowned pianists will present THREE CONCERTS on select THURSDAY EVENINGS. All concerts will take place in SALMON RECITAL HALL located on the Chapman University campus.

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Grace Fong

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Louise Thomas

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MARCH 7 • 7:30 p.m.

Sergei Babayan

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APRIL 4 • 7:30 p.m.

John Perry

Enjoys an international reputation as a teacher, presenting master classes around the world.



The College of Performing Arts would like to thank the Rhea Black Family for its generous financial support of the President's Piano Series.



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