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SENIOR RECITAL, PIANO
KATZIN CONCERT HALL
MARCH 30, 2015 • 5:30 PM

ASU Herberger Institute
FOR DESIGN AND THE ARTS
ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

School of Music

Intermezzo in A Major, Op. 118 No. 2

The piano intermezzi by Brahms (some of his last compositions) are sets of independent character pieces not intended to connect anything else together. The intermezzi of the 19th century are usually lyrical and melodic, especially compared to the movements on either side, when they occur in larger works. The Brahms piano intermezzi in particular have an extremely wide emotional range, and are often considered some of the finest character pieces written in the 19th century. This piece was completed in 1893 and dedicated to Clara Shumann.

French Suite in G Major, BWV 816 - Allemande

Thought to be written between the years 1722 – 1725, a French Suite is a set of songs with each movement representing a dance during the Baroque period. An allemande (from the French word for a German dance) is one of the most popular instrumental dance forms in Baroque music, and a standard element of a suite. Originally, the allemande formed the first movement of the suite, before the courante, but, later, it was often preceded by an introductory movement, such as a prelude.

Sonata in E minor, Hob. XVI: 34 – Presto (quickly or rapidly)

Written in the late 1770s by Joseph Haydn and published in London around 1783. The first movement (Presto in this piece) follows the sonata form of an exposition introducing a first and second theme, followed by a development section that varies the exposition with new material and key modulations, and finally a recapitulation of the 1st and 2nd theme back in the original key. Haydn inserts “surprises” in his music by inserting a stop whenever the music begins to grow and take form. The listener is never certain what will come next with each halt in the music’s progress.

The Seasons, Op. 37a No. 10

Composed in 1876, The Seasons are a set of 12 character pieces each representing a month in the northern hemisphere. No. 10, “October” represents the month of falling leaves and a dying season. Tchaikovsky was born in Russia and composed music that incorporated Russian folk music with Western European music styles.

Bagatelle, Op. 6 No. 2 - Allegro Giocoso (merry or playful)

Béla Bartók was born in a small Hungarian town that is now part of modern Romania. He was a virtuosic pianist and devoted ethnomusicologist who traveled throughout Hungary and Romania collecting and recording onto wax cylinders authentic folk music performances. This piece is from of set of 14 Bagatelle pieces (in 1908) where each movement portrays a type of setting or character. When listening to the piece, the rural countryside and sounds of farm animals can be heard.

Études-Tableaux, Op. 33 No. 9 in C# minor – Grave (slow and solemn)

This piece is the final movement of a piano Etude written by Serge Rachmaninoff in 1911. An “etude” is a piece that is written for a type of study and typically difficult as it is written to strengthen and improve technical skills and performance technique. Rachmaninoff primarily made his living as a pianist and his works reflect Russian elements with influences from Western Romantic composers. Listeners can almost hear and visualize elements of a storm through this exciting composition.

Program

Intermezzo in A Major, Op. 118 No. 2	Johannes Brahms (1833 - 1897)
French Suite in G Major, BWV 816 <i>I. Allemande</i>	Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 - 1750)
Sonata in E minor, Hob. XVI: 34 <i>I. Presto</i>	Joseph Haydn (1732 – 1809)
The Seasons, Op. 37a No. 10 October “ <i>Autumn Song</i> ”	Piotr Tchaikovsky (1840 – 1893)
Bagatelle, Op. 6 No. 2 <i>Allegro Giocoso</i>	Béla Bartók (1881 – 1945)
Études-Tableaux, Op. 33 No. 9 in C# minor <i>Grave</i>	S. Rachmaninoff (1873 – 1943)

Out of respect for the performer and those audience members around you, please turn all devices, cell phones and watches to their silent mode. Thank you.