

Program Notes by Rebecca Lin

Saturday, November 21, 2015

3:00 pm

Program

Maple Leaf Rag

Joplin

Scott Joplin, Maple Leaf Rag

The *Maple Leaf Rag* is an early ragtime for the piano by Scott Joplin, a famous African-American musician and composer. Because of this piece's popularity, Joplin was nicknamed the "King of Ragtime". Joplin played as a solo musician at a major club called the "Maple Leaf Club", which is a possible reason as to why Joplin named this piece so. The *Maple Leaf Rag* is a ragtime march with athletic bass lines and offbeat melodies. Each of the 4 parts features a recurring theme with copious seventh chords which influenced many other pieces, such as *Sensation* by Joseph Lamb. In 1903, Sydney Brown wrote a set of accompanying lyrics with the *Maple Leaf Rag*. Sydney Brown's lyrics tell the story of a poor man from Accomack County, Virginia, who stumbles into a ballroom where, in spite of his anxiety over the state of his appearance he manages to wow the crowd with the Maple Leaf Rag. While the men are jealous of his dancing abilities and draw their razors, the women love him, and the "finest belle" sends for a carriage and the two of them ride away.

Prelude and Fugue in Ab Major, WTC I

Bach

Johann Sebastian Bach, Prelude and Fugue in A flat, WTC I

The Prelude and Fugue is a part of the *The Well-Tempered Clavier*. This collection of solo keyboard music is a book of preludes and fugues in all 48 major and minor keys. This collection is generally regarded as being among the most influential works in the history of Western classical music. Johann Sebastian Bach was a German composer and musician of the Baroque period. He enriched established German styles through his skill in counterpoint, harmonic and motivic organization, and the adaptation of rhythms, forms, and textures from abroad, particularly from Italy and France. Bach's abilities as an organist were highly respected during his lifetime, more so than his skills as a composer until the first half of the 19th century.

Sonata in G, Op. 14, No. 1

Allegro

Beethoven

Ludwig van Beethoven, Sonata in G, Op. 14, No. 2

This early work sonata plays with listener expectations through rhythmic ambiguity, unexpected harmonic shifts, and above all, the use of strategically placed silences. All of these characteristic examples of musical wit show the continuing influence of Joseph Haydn on Beethoven at this early stage in his composing career. Ludwig van Beethoven was a German composer and pianist. A crucial figure in the transition between the Classical and Romantic eras in Western art music, he remains one of the most famous and influential of all composers. By his 30s his hearing began to deteriorate, and by the last decade of his life he was almost totally deaf. In 1811 he gave up conducting and performing in public but continued to compose; many of his most admired works come from this period.

Fantasiestücke, Op. 12

Soaring

Schumann

Robert Schumann, Soaring from Fantasiestücke, Op. 12

Soaring is a part of Robert Schumann's *Fantasiestücke*, op. 12. The set of 8 pieces was inspired by the 1819 collection of novellas, *Fantasiestücke in Callots Manier*. Schumann was a German composer and an influential music critic, who was considered to be one of the greatest composers of the Romantic Era. During his lifetime, Schumann suffered from a lifelong mental disorder with episodes of delusional ideas and melancholic moods which was diagnosed as "psychotic melancholia" and similar to what we call today bipolar disorder. In this piece, Schumann created 2 characters, Florestan and Eusebius, who represented the duality of his personality. For Schumann, Eusebius represented the dreamer while Florestan represented the passionate side. The two characters interweave with one another throughout the duration of the piece.

In fulfillment of AIM Level 12 Performance Requirement



Rebecca Lin is a sophomore at Adlai E. Stevenson High School. Starting from the age of 5, Rebecca has grown to become an adept pianist; she has participated in competitions/events such as the Sonata-Sonatina Festival and the Festival of Pianos. Rebecca participates in a wide range of athletic and academic competitions including Model United Nations, Science Fair, and badminton. In addition, she is involved in various service-based and community outreach activities such as teaching Toastmaster classes, Key Club, and Pass on The Beat.

Rebecca would like to thank Gang Li, Layla Li, and Jennifer Cohen for their mentoring and a wonderful 10 years filled with learning, understanding, and performing of piano. Rebecca would also like to thank her parents for transportation, as well as supporting her to play piano. Finally, Rebecca would like to thank you, the reader, for supporting her in her first piano recital.

AIM Level 12 Recital

Rebecca Lin, *pianist*



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Vernon Area Library
300 Olde Half Day Road
Vernon Hills