

Achievement in Music Aim XII Exam

June 2021

Program notes by Qiqi Zhang

Bach, Prelude and Fugue No.11 in F Major

The Well Tempered clavier is a collection of 2 sets of preludes and fugues in all 24 Major and Minor keys composed by Johann Sebastian Bach. The first book was compiled during Bach's appointment in Köthen, Germany. This highly influential work is monumental in the history of Western music. The Prelude and Fugue No.11 in F Major is in Book 1; the prelude features alternating passages of 16th notes and eight notes, forming a rise and fall pattern. The fugue consists of 3 voices built on a subject and countersubject relationship, separated by episodes.

Beethoven, Sonata in C minor, Op. 13, rondo

The Sonata in C minor, op. 13 is one of the most famous works of all time. It is dedicated to Beethoven's friend, Prince Carl Von Lichnowsky. This work is also known as the "pathétique" sonata. Note: The word "Pathétique" does not mean pathetic, the word is French and means passion and sorrow. The rondo section is full of fast triplet sections followed by slow, legato sections. In between these sections, there often is a fast descending passage. Sudden dynamic changes such as sforzandos and pianissimos stresses emotion and impact, emphasizing the "pathétique" component of this sonata.

Schubert, Impromptu in Gb Major, Op. 90, No. 3

Franz Schubert is considered one of the first romantic composers, and he was an unrivaled master of lyrical beauty. Schubert's Impromptus is a series of 8 pieces for solo piano, composed in 1827. The impromptu in Gb Major is the third piece, and was published in 1857. This impromptu is often referred to as a song without lyrics, due to the incredible lyricism. Long, melodic lines sing over an arpeggiated accompaniment, creating an intriguing rhythmic juxtaposition.

Gershwin, Prelude III eb minor

George Gershwin was one of the most imaginative American composers in the roaring 20's. He compiled elements of jazz with European classical music. His pieces display a rich and diversified style that is very American. The third prelude, also known as the Spanish prelude, possibly due to the minor 6th and Major 6th chords that reminds the audience of Spanish dancing. Some of the composer's most brilliant piano composing occurs in this piece. The fast jazzy sections end with an exhilarating arpeggio-like ending.



Qiqi Zhang is a rising freshman at Adlai E. Stevenson High School. She has been playing piano for the past 8 years, and enjoys competing in various piano competitions and events such as the Sonatina-Sonata festival and the Libertyville festival.

Besides piano, Qiqi plays the violin and participates in the Stevenson symphonic orchestra (next fall). She also enjoys playing the ukulele.

In addition to her passion for music, Qiqi enjoys staying active in her swim team, playing badminton with her family, karate, figure skating, and rollerblading. In her free time, Qiqi enjoys art, especially acrylic painting.

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