

Horn Junior Recital, 23 Nov. 2024

Program Notes

Gao Xiaoxuan

Reinhold Glière (1875 - 1956)

Horn concerto in B-flat Major, op. 91 (1951)

I. Allegro

II. Andante

III. Moderato - Allegro Vivace

Glière is a 20<sup>th</sup>-century Russian composer. Born into a musical family, his talent showed from an early age. After graduating from Moscow Conservatory, he was increasingly respected by the Soviet government and received numerous prizes and honors and important social status. Although he is from the 20<sup>th</sup> century, his music style is still romantic because of his teachers and current political situation.

This concerto is written for Valery Polekh. He is a Soviet horn player and he met Glière when rehearsing his ballet “The Bronze Horseman” at the Bolshoi Theatre in 1950. Polekh strongly suggests Glière to compose a horn concerto. After Polekh met Glière again in order to show him the horn capabilities, the Horn Concerto op.91 met the world a year later.

There are studies that have stated that the concerto was modeled on Tchaikovsky's violin concerto in D major, including similar structure, resemblance harmonic ideas, and long melody techniques.

The piece is a standard three-movement concerto.

After the orchestra's anthemic opening, the incantation of the horn casts a veil of mystery. The first movement moves from the odic part to the lyrical part back and forward until the end, including a thrilling cadenza in the middle.

The second movement is generally a purely lyrical movement, which contains extremely graceful melodies and also some minor variations in the middle.

The third movement begins like a royal command, followed by a vigorous moment of endless dotted notes like a battle of thousands of troops. The battle becomes more and more intense until the final victory.