

Of Two Worlds – A Junior Recital by Aw Ping Hui

Of Two Worlds features two pieces for the trumpet written in two very different musical worlds with two very different influences. Not without similarities, the two pieces composed only two years apart, not only challenge the trumpeter with highly technical and virtuosic writing but also feature beautiful lyrical melodies.

Quatre Variations sur un thème de Domenico Scarlatti (1950)

Marcel Bitsch

Born in Toulouse in 1921, Marcel Bitsch studied at the Paris Conservatoire and later on served as the professor of fugue and counterpoint there. Like many other twentieth-century French composers, Bitsch had a preference for writing for wind instruments, with many of these works being a standard part of the repertoire for many of the instruments.

Apart from composition, Bitsch was also well recognised for his analyses of works by renowned composers such as Chopin, Debussy and Verdi. However, the work that stands out the most amongst all is his research focusing on the fugal writing of J. S. Bach.

His interest and studies of the baroque style of music also extends further than Bach. In Bitsch's *Four Variations*, the main theme is taken from Domenico Scarlatti's *Sonata in D Major K.21/L.363*. Composed in 1950, Bitsch takes the opening theme from K.21 and creates four uniquely original and modern variations on the baroque melody, introducing many newer harmonies and rhythms to the piece.

Trumpet Concerto No. 1 in C Minor (1948)

Vladimir Peskin

Vladimir Peskin (1906 - 1988) was a Russian composer born in Irkutsk. At the young age of 8, he had gone into exile in Geneva, Switzerland, with his father. During his time in Geneva, Peskin received music lessons at the Académie de Musique de Genève. After three years in Geneva, Peskin returned to Irkutsk and was accepted in the music academy there. Following that, from 1922 he studied at the Moscow Conservatory as a pianist. Due to overuse, he injured his hands and had to eventually give up piano studies. After which he began to turn towards composition

As his father was persecuted by Stalin's regime and his mother was deported to Kazakhstan, he had to support his family and worked as the pianist in the balalaika orchestra of the headquarters of the Red Army in the 1930s. There, he met the young Timofei Dokshitzer, who would go on to attain legendary status as a trumpeter. This inspired Peskin to write various pieces for Dokshitzer.

Composed in 1948, Trumpet Concerto No. 1 consists of three movements: Allegro con Fuoco, Andante sostenuto - dolce amoroso, and Allegro scherzando. Despite this concerto being written well into the twentieth century, it was composed in a late Romantic style. This delay in writing styles was due to the soviet regime where all art, literature and music was strictly controlled and had to abide by certain guidelines.

The Musician:

Aw Ping Hui is a Singaporean Trumpeter who first began his musical journey learning the cornet in his Primary school brass band. Ever since, he has performed with various local ensembles such as the Philharmonic Wind Orchestra, Singapore National Youth Orchestra and the Musician's Initiative. Furthermore, he also performs regularly with various chamber groups for local events around Singapore as well as recitals in school.

Currently a student at the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music, Ping Hui hones his skills under the tutelage of Jon Dante, Principal Trumpet of the Singapore Symphony Orchestra, and Lau Wen Rong, Section Trumpet of the Singapore Symphony Orchestra. He also had the opportunity to study with the Stockholm Chamber Brass in both chamber and solo settings during their chamber academy held in 2024.

Apart from classical music, Ping Hui also has an array of interest in other genres of music ranging from jazz to video game music and performs music of these genres from time to time. He also dabbles in composing and arranging music of these genres.