

Programme notes

The **Sonata for Solo Flute in A minor, Wq. 132, H 562** was composed by Carl Philipp Emanuel (CPE) Bach. He wrote this 3-movement sonata in Berlin around 1747 when he was the chamber harpsichordist for Frederick the Great, who was also a flautist. During that time, Bach was surrounded by many well-established musicians, like Johann Joachim Quantz and his musical style was greatly influenced by his father, J.S Bach. It does not follow the standard form of fast-slow-fast but slow-fast-fast. This solo flute sonata was considered unconventionally composed due to the wide interval leaps and dynamic contrasts written for the baroque flute, which had its limitations, compared to the modern flute.

Liebermann Flute Concerto, Op. 39

This dramatic and Romantic flute concerto is one of the most important twentieth-century additions to the repertory of the instrument. In 1994 the National Flute Society of the United States named it as the best new work for the instrument. Lowell Liebermann dedicated this concerto for international flute virtuoso James Galway, who is well known for his expressivity in vibrato and richness in tone. The opening and closing themes in the first movement, Moderato, is lyrical and highly charming. The second movement, Molto Adagio, creates a beautiful lyrical and hypnotic effect with pulsing off-beat accompaniment that continues throughout. The final movement, Presto, which ends the concerto with intense accents, articulations, rapid arpeggios and running notes.

Biography

Rui Yang started learning the flute at the age of 13 in a symphonic wind band in St. Gabriel's Secondary School under conductor Mr. Lin Ah Leck, then Nanyang Junior College under conductor Mr. Brando Tan. He also played with Philharmonic Youth Winds, Orchestra Collective and Orchestra of the Music Makers. His passion in flute playing motivated him pursue music studies at the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music (YST) under a full scholarship.

Through these years, he was mentored by professionals and experienced teachers such as Ms. Wang Tong and Mr. Evgueni Brokmiller – both of whom took on pivotal roles in his early phase of flute-playing. Presently, he is pursuing his music degree and flute studies in Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music under the tutelage of Mr. Evgueni Brokmiller and Dr. Cheryl Lim. Mr. Jin Ta, the Principal Flutist of the Singapore Symphony Orchestra, also taught him during his first year of study at YST. During his study here, he took lessons from guest artists like Lee So Young, Petri Alanko, Ma Yong and etc.

He attended Kirishima International Music Festival in Japan and had flute master classes and individual lessons with Shigenori Kudo who resides in France and teaches at l'Ecole Normale de Musique de Paris.

Programme notes by See Rui Yang.