



YST

Yong Siew Toh
Conservatory
of Music



Nov 26 2020 15pm

HUANG WANXINYI

VIOLA JUNIOR RECITAL

PIANIST LIU JIA

26 November | Thursday

Huang Wanxinyi

Viola Recital

Liu Jia, *piano*

PROGRAMME

ARNOLD BAX

Viola Sonata

I. Molto moderato – Allegro

II. Allegro energico, ma non troppo presto

III. Molto lento

About The Performer

Huang Wanxinyi is currently a third year viola major student. At first, she was completely attracted by the beautiful sound of viola so she started to learn viola when she was in senior high school. Xinyi has participated in many competitions and music festivals and she has learned a lot, such as the National Youth Orchestra. She travelled with them to Berlin, England and Italy to express music to the world. Also she has participated in YMCG held by Youyou Ma. She had experienced the beauty of Bach and get to communicate with many musicians. Xinyi hopes that she can express the beauty of viola to everyone that listen to her music.

Programme Notes

ARNOLD BAX

Viola Sonata

I. Molto moderato – Allegro

II. Allegro energico, ma non troppo presto

III. Molto lento

Arnold Bax was an English composer, poet, and author. He composed this piece in 1921. Bax spent his teenage years in a Victorian mansion in Hampstead. He remarked it was 'the next best thing to living in the country'. His father was well-off and Bax always had a private income which meant that he never had to take a paid position to earn his living. Especially In his twenties, this gave him an enviable freedom to travel and to devote himself to music and to composition.

But during the time he composed this piece, he had already experienced the First World War. His friend was killed or executed during this time. He also suffered from the Irish Civil War. This work is like a memorial of his youth and the sad fate he had at that time. This piece has three movements. The motive repeats at the very beginning and the ending to achieve a quiet but intense beauty by comparatively simple means. In Ireland Bax had witnessed local folk-dancing in the countryside and the spirit of the ceilidh at its most uninhibited is present in many of his scores. Therefore this fierce scherzo has much of the character of a wild Irish dance.

The last movement has a deep emotion and furious struggle. But it ends serenely with the motive which had appeared at the very beginning. Maybe this motive can represent life itself, from born to death. The critic Robin Hull called the last movement 'a truly diabolic coda founded upon the first subject ... gradually working up to a terrific climax whose dramatic tension is probably unsurpassed anywhere in Bax's music'. This piece starts in a mood of gloomy menace but after working through a variety of moods, ending serenely. Simply

like his life, it starts with calm, although there were happiness, struggles, grieves but finally we sigh and still end in serene.

Programme notes by Huang Wanxinyi.