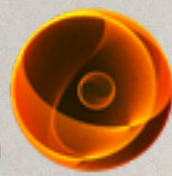


Yong Siew Toh
Conservatory
of Music

YST



LI RO-WEI

Cello Senior Recital

Bach | Schubert | Sollima



Programme



Pianist Liu Jia

30 APRIL 2021

FRI • 2:00 PM

YST CONCERT HALL



UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE

LI RO-WEI

CELLO SENIOR RECITAL

PROGRAM NOTE

BACH | SCHUBERT | SOLLIMA |
OVER THE RAINBOW



APRIL 30, 2021 | 2 PM |
YST CONSERVATORY CONCERT HALL
LIVESTREAMING ON YST YOUTUBE CHANNEL



JS. Bach Cello Suite No.4 In E \flat major, BWV 1010

1. Prelude
2. Allemande
3. Courante
4. Sarabande
5. Bourrée I/II
6. Gigue

The Baroque suite, a collection of dances all in the same key, was an evening of toe-tapping entertainment among the European middle to upper classes with a taste for international musical culture. In its standard form, it presented the major musical styles of Europe: the moderately-paced German allemande, the more animated French courante, the slow and stately Spanish sarabande, and the leap-loving English gigue. Additional dances are inserted to ease the transition between the sarabande and gigue, which is the heartbeat-quickenning bourrée in the Fourth suite.

Suite No. 4 is one of the most technically demanding of the suites, as E \flat is an uncomfortable key on the cello and requires many extended left hand positions. The key is also difficult on cello because of the lack of resonant open strings.

The fascination of Bach cello suite lies in a perfect balance of exploration and security. They move through harmonic progressions with scientific curiosity and patience, and set alongside with an intensity of feeling that keeps pulling and releasing. Simultaneously expansive and reassuring, they are, for many, the very definition of consolation.

The Prelude of the Fourth Suite builds up a sense of perseverance and courage; the Allemande is more gentle; Courante let out sudden floods of color; the Sarabande shines with its rich, gorgeous resonance and; the Bourrée was symmetrical, zippy and spunky; the Gigue is incredibly uplifting and raucous.

Franz Schubert Sonata in A minor for Arpeggione and Piano, D. 821

1. Allegro moderato
2. Adagio in E major
3. Allegretto in A major

The piece was written for arpeggione, the six-stringed bowed guitar, in Vienna in November 1824. Today, it is heard almost exclusively in transcriptions for cello or viola.

Like so much of Schubert's music—especially the lieder—the Arpeggione sonata's mood shifts rapidly. It goes between A minor and A major. It is hopeful, sad, nostalgic, sweet and also very quiet throughout.

The first movement contains the poignant melody and sparkling virtuosic passages. To capture the character of the sonata, it is necessary to notice that the sonata was written when Schubert was already ill with syphilis, which would kill him four years later.

The second movement requires peaceful, calm and the long legato line be maintained. The Adagio is followed immediately by the Allegretto third movement. The Allegretto's rondo form provides plenty of opportunity for contrast, from a Hungarian style to a Viennese dance in the latter. "you need a little delay and lift,". The arpeggios in the third movement would have a rolling barcarole effect on the arpeggione.

Giovanni Sollima: Lamentatio for Solo Cello

Giovanni Sollima, born in 1962, is an Italian composer and cellist.

As a composer, Sollima's influences are wide ranging, especially in jazz and rock. Sollima's music is influenced by minimalism, which often features modal melodies and repetitive structures.

Lamentatio was written in 1998. The piece is full of contrasting episodes, passionate and almost creating electronic effects. Moreover; the performer vocalizes wordlessly over the cello's solemn drone several times, adding to the tension.

Over The Rainbow

"Over the Rainbow" is a ballad composed by Harold Arlen and lyrics by Yip Harburg. It was written for the 1939 film "The Wizard of Oz".

Cello Version from Yo-Yo Ma and Kathryn Stott "Songs of Comfort and Hope" 2020 SONY music.

Lyrics:

Somewhere over the rainbow way up high
There's a land that I heard of once in a lullaby
Somewhere over the rainbow skies are blue
And the dreams that you dare to dream really do come true
Someday I'll wish upon a star
And wake up where the clouds are far behind me
Where troubles melt like lemon drops
Away above the chimney tops
That's where you'll find me
Somewhere over the rainbow bluebirds fly
Birds fly over the rainbow.
Why then, oh, why can't I?
If happy little bluebirds fly
Beyond the rainbow.
Why, oh, why can't I?