

# LIU YUNBEI

## *Cello Recital*

F. Chopin  
Cello Sonata in G minor

I. Stravinsky  
Suite Italienne

PIANIST  
LIU JIA

April 30, 2021 | 4:30PM  
Conservatory Concert Hall  
Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music

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## Programme Notes

### **Frédéric Chopin: Sonata in G minor for Cello and Piano, Op. 65**

The Cello Sonata in G minor, Op. 65, was written by Frédéric Chopin in 1846. It is one of only nine works of Chopin published during his lifetime that were written for instruments other than piano (although the piano still appears in every work he wrote). Chopin composed four sonatas, the others being piano sonatas. The cello sonata was the last of Chopin's works to be published in his lifetime.

#### *I. Allegro moderato*

The first movement starts with a melancholy piano solo, introducing the main theme of the piece with rich and intense harmonies. The cello interrupted it suddenly and represents the melody together with the piano. After a exciting transformation of the theme. The beautiful second theme comes in. However, this theme is not further developed. Chopin brings in new melodies in both the cello and piano to reach the climax. After that, the exposition is repeated, and the development is again introduced by a piano solo. Instead of a standard recapitulation, the second theme happens here again magically. Followed by a stormy ending.

#### *II. Scherzo: Allegro con brio*

The second movement consists of a energetic yet quirky scherzo and a cantabile trio. The strong contrasting of the harmony and style makes the whole movement rich and interesting.

#### *III. Largo*

The heart of the work is indeed this tranquil Largo, a extremely beautiful movement with gorgeous melodies and charming harmonies.

*IV. Finale: Allegro*

The Polish-style fourth movement incorporates many typical Chopin languages, bringing the entire sonata to a brilliant ending.

**Igor Stravinsky: Suite Italienne for Cello and Piano**

Many string players will be familiar with 'Suite Italienne', which Stravinsky wrote in collaboration with leading performers of the time. This version was arranged for cello by the composer himself in collaboration with Gregor Piatigorsky in 1933. There are 5 movements in the whole piece, with a strong neoclassical style and Stravinsky characteristics.

*Programme notes by Liu Yunbei.*