

CHEN I-CHING

Clarinet Senior Recital

with BEATRICE LIN, piano

25th April 2022, 3:50 pm
@YST Concert Hall

Program

Brahms Clarinet Sonata No.1

Denisov Sonata for Clarinet Solo

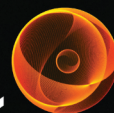
Intermission

Nielsen Clarinet Concerto

(feat. YURU LEE, percussion)

Yong Siew Toh
Conservatory
of Music

YST



25 April 2022 | MONDAY

Chen I-Ching Clarinet Recital

Beatrice Lin, *piano*

Programme

BRAHMS

Clarinet Sonata No. 1 in F Minor, Op. 120

I. Allegro appassionato

II. Andante un poco adagio

III. Allegretto grazioso

IV. Vivace

EDISON DENISOV

Sonata for Clarinet Solo

I. Lento, poco rubato

II. Allegro giusto

– Intermission 10 mins –

CARL NIELSEN

Concerto for Clarinet and Orchestra, Op. 57

About the Performer

I-Ching was born in Taipei, Taiwan. She started to play the clarinet at the age of 10. During these 10 years, I-Ching has won several awards in the National Student Music Competition in Taiwan, which includes clarinet solo, woodwind quintet, and orchestra performance. I-Ching is now a year 4 student at the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music under the tutelage of Mr. Ma Yue, Principal Clarinetist of the Singapore Symphony Orchestra.

Programme Notes

Brahms Clarinet Sonata No.1 in F minor, Op. 120

Brahms wrote the two Clarinet Sonatas during the same period in 1894. Both of them are dedicated to his friend, Richard Mühlfeld, who is also a clarinetist. This sonata has four movements, which are *Allegro appassionata*, *Andante un poco adagio*, *Allegretto giusto*, and *Vivace*. The first movement is in sonata form. It begins with a solo piano introduction in three parallel octaves, outlining a recurring motive throughout the whole movement. The second

movement is in ternary form. The clarinet introduces a simple descending theme decorated with turns. The piano writing is sparse in the first theme area. The third movement is also in ternary form. The last movement is in an altered rondo form, which can be analyzed as A-B-A'-C-B'-A". The movement begins with three accented Fs in a piano introduction serving as a sort of call to identify the first theme. Finally, the piece ends with a coda, and the sonata finishes in F Major.

Edison Denisov Sonata for Clarinet Solo

Denisov is considered one of the most influential Russian composers of the 20th century. He composed this clarinet sonata in 1972. It was dedicated to a clarinetist, Lev Mikhailov. This sonata is unequivocally the most performed solo clarinet work from the Soviet Union and one of the few works from this field that has found its way to the standard clarinet repertoire. Characteristics of this piece are the micro-intervals, the repeated use of large intervals and staccatissimo passages, as well as quick, extreme dynamic changes. The first movement, Lento rubato, is slow and

improvisatory, creating a mysterious and somewhat lamenting atmosphere. The first theme consists of the letters of Denisov's name: D-enisov-E-dis-on, transposed for the Bb-clarinet e-g flat-f. The use of initials was popular among the composers of Khrennikov's Seven; Firsova also uses her initials in her clarinet sonata. Another very popular gesture is fast legato passages built on the serial row of the movement. The second movement, Allegro giusto, is fast and strongly rhythmical. Like a thread throughout the entire movement, fast staccato notes in soft dynamics of the b-flat.

Carl Nielsen Concerto for Clarinet and Orchestra, Op. 57

Nielsen was a Danish composer, conductor, and violinist. He is considered the most prominent composer in his country. This clarinet concerto was written for the Danish clarinetist Aage Oxenvad in 1928. The concerto is presented in one long movement, with four different sections. In 1921, Nielsen heard the Copenhagen Wind Quintet rehearsing some music by Mozart. He was struck by the tonal beauty and musicianship of

this group, and he soon became intimately acquainted with its members. That same year, he wrote his Wind Quintet expressly for this ensemble. The last movement of this work is a theme and variations depicting in music the personalities of the five players and their respective instruments, much in the manner that Elgar portrayed his friends in the Enigma Variations. The Clarinet Concerto was completed during the most difficult period in Nielsen's life. That's why it may sound not beautiful and chaotic to most people. Additionally, the clarinetist to whom he dedicated this piece was suffering from Bipolar disorder. When we listen to this piece, we feel how much they struggle and suffer at that time.

Programme notes by Chen I-Ching.