

A **JUNIOR** RECITAL

PERFORMING:

Alban Berg
Piano Sonata Op. 1

Felix Mendelssohn
Fantasie Op. 28



YST

Young Siew Toh
Conservatory
of Music

Viona
NATALIE SANJAYA

28. 11. 2022 MON 6:40 PM SGT
YST CONCERT HALL

Junior Recital Programme Notes

ALBAN BERG (1885-1935)

Piano Sonata Op. 1 (1910)

Berg was an Austrian composer from the Second Viennese School. He took lessons from Schoenberg from 1904 to 1911 and composed the Piano Sonata Op. 1 as a graduation piece. This piece is a single-movement work which is quite unusual as Berg had complained to Schoenberg that he lacked inspiration after the first movement. It is believed that Schoenberg said that it is a clear indication and perhaps “had said all there was to say”.

This piece shows off Berg's mastery of “developing variation”, a method focusing on developing and uniting a piece from one single idea. Additionally, he adheres to a precise, recognized sonata form with distinct exposition, development, and recapitulation sections. Although this piece is based in B minor, Berg adopts a rich post-Wagnerian tonality. The whole-tone scales and frequent chromaticism create an expressive emotional impact that is rife with uncertainty and dread, only to resolve in the final few bars.

FELIX MENDELSSOHN (1809-1847)

Fantasie in F sharp minor, Op. 28 (1833)

Mendelssohn entitled this piece “Scottish Sonata” which he then removed after publishing it, leaving it to be with “Phantasie”. He was always fascinated by Scotland folk music and literature which inspired him to compose the Scottish Symphony and the Hebrides Overture after visiting Scotland.

This Fantasie consists of three movements and is in a sonata form (fantasy-sonata). The first movement's beginning, “Con moto agitato,” features a deep F# bass resulting in an ominous air opening with arpeggiated harp-like notes which then brings us to the melancholic main theme marked “Andante”. It will then grow to be more agitated and develops into a more improvisatory development section as it will subdue back to its melancholic nature. A lively second movement in A major comes next providing a carefree outlook compared to the previous movement. The relentless sixteenth note gives out a certain kind of momentum for “Presto” in the third movement. A final call is made at the coda where it will drive to the bottom of the piano with its thunderous effect bringing it to the end.

About the Performer

Indonesian-born pianist, **Viona** Natalie Sanjaya, is a third-year student studying at the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music. She is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Music (Hons) in Piano Performance under the tutelage of Prof. Thomas Hecht and Dr. Khoo Hui Ling. An avid musician, Viona has received numerous accolades and awards. She recently won the YST Concerto Competition 2022. She also won first prize in the 2019 National JCoM Piano Competition. Viona has had the pleasure to have masterclasses with Tamas Ungar, Steven Spooner, Rafael Luszczewski, Ng Chong Lim, David Kaplan, and many other renowned pianists

As an active performer, Viona has performed in notable venues across various continents such as Carnegie Hall in New York, USA, the Sydney Opera House in Australia and Esplanade Theatres by the Bay in Singapore. She is also awarded at the Singapore Music Teachers Association, Sydney Eisteddfod, and ASEAN International Chopin Piano Competition.

Viona is also an award-winning Electone player. She represented Indonesia at the Asia Pacific Electone Festival 2012 (Jakarta), 2014 (Malaysia), 2016 (Macau), 2017 (Singapore) and the prestigious Yamaha Electone Concours 2012, 2014, 2017 (Japan). Not only that, but she was also chosen to perform for the International Junior Original Concert 2018 performing her own composition.