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CONCERT HALL

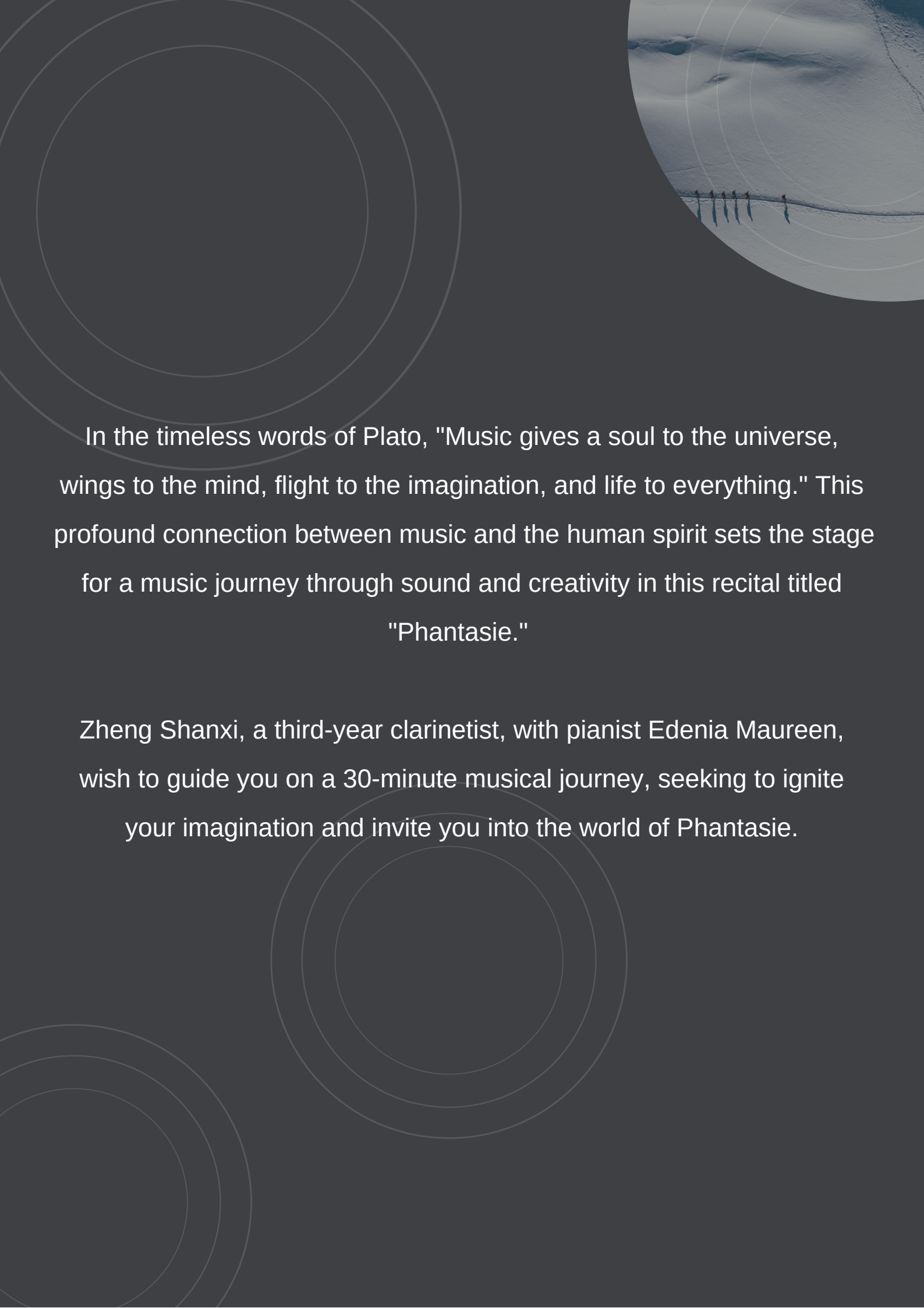


Phantasie

A Clarinet Recital

28th November, 2023

16:00



In the timeless words of Plato, "Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, and life to everything." This profound connection between music and the human spirit sets the stage for a music journey through sound and creativity in this recital titled "Phantasie."

Zheng Shanxi, a third-year clarinetist, with pianist Edenia Maureen, wish to guide you on a 30-minute musical journey, seeking to ignite your imagination and invite you into the world of Phantasie.



Performer

Zheng Shanxi, Clarinet
Edenia Maureen, Piano

Repertoire

Aaron Copland: Clarinet Concerto

I. Slowly and expressively

Cadenza

II. Rather fast

Duration: 15 minutes

Jörg Widmann: Fantasie for Solo Clarinet

Duration: 10 minutes

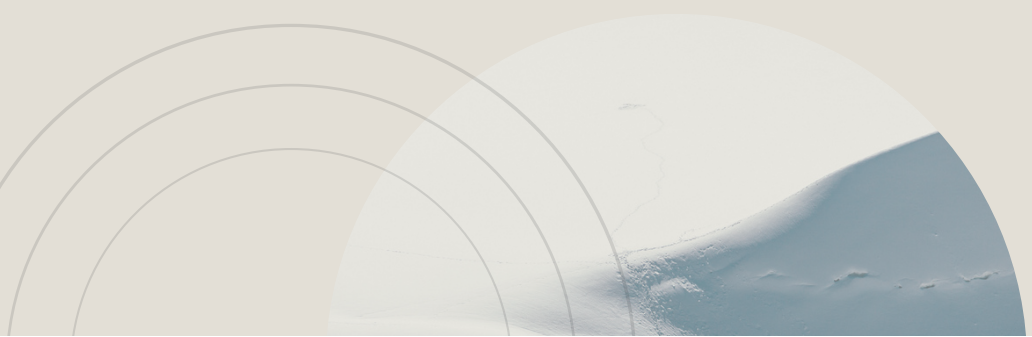




Aaron Copland: Clarinet Concerto

Aaron Copland's Clarinet Concerto, also known as the Concerto for clarinet, strings, and harp, stands as a testament to the fusion of classical and jazz elements. Composed between 1947 and 1949, the concerto was a response to a commission from jazz clarinetist Benny Goodman, who sought to collaborate with Copland in the creation of a clarinet masterpiece. Goodman's trust in Copland's creative freedom allowed the composer to weave an intricate musical tapestry.

Copland's Clarinet Concerto ingeniously incorporates jazz elements, showcasing his unique affinity for merging classical and jazz sensibilities. The concerto's structure is unconventional, with two movements played back-to-back, linked by a mesmerizing clarinet cadenza. The first movement is slow and expressive, brimming with bittersweet lyricism, while the cadenza allows the soloist to display virtuosic prowess and introduces Latin American jazz themes that dominate the second movement. The final movement, a free rondo, blends North and South American popular music, incorporating elements from Copland's experiences in Rio. It also pays homage to a Brazilian tune he encountered during his stay.



Jörg Widmann: Fantasie for Solo Clarinet

Jörg Widmann's "Fantasie for Solo Clarinet" is a striking work of virtuosity and creativity. Composed in 1993, it reflects the youthful exuberance and the virtuoso prowess of the composer, who was just twenty years old at the time.

Widmann's composition explores the boundaries of conventional playing, incorporating extended techniques such as multiphonics, flutter-tonguing, and key clicks. The piece also incorporates non-pitched sounds, challenging the notion that the clarinet is a one-voice instrument.

The Fantasie is structured into four sections, each characterized by dynamic and tempo extremes. It opens with a free, rhapsodic section, followed by a fast and brilliant movement. The third section, marked "Presto possibile," introduces the listener to a whirlwind of sound, while the final section, "Tempo come prima, ma poco più mosso," brings the composition to a riveting conclusion.

Throughout the piece, Widmann creates a sonic landscape rich in harmonies, with glissandos in the upper registers adding a touch of klezmer and jazz styles. The score incorporates silences as an essential element, marked by breath marks, fermatas, and actual rests, emphasizing the importance of pauses in the music.



Thank you

Zheng Shanxi, with pianist Edenia Maureen, invites you to embark on a journey through these two extraordinary pieces. Through the seamless fusion of jazz elements, beautiful melodies, and extended techniques.

As we explore the world of 'Phantasie,' may the music uplift your soul, awaken your imagination, and ignite your own flights of creativity. We hope you enjoy this 30-minute recital as much as we relish performing it for you, and that you discover the boundless possibilities that music offers in shaping the human experience.