

GRADUATION RECITAL PROGRAMME

NOTES

8th May 2024, 11:50AM

Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music

Amir Hasif, trumpet

Gabriel Hoe, Piano

Légende

George Enescu (1881-1955)

Composed in 1906 by Romanian composer George Enescu, "Légende" showcases Enescu's unique blend of traditional folk elements with the rich harmonies and expressive gestures of late Romanticism. The piece was written for the 1906 trumpet competition at the Paris Conservatory and was premiered in the contest by students of Professor Merri Franquin, to whom this piece is dedicated to.

The solemn and mysterious opening set the stage for the solo trumpet's entrance. Accompanied by the rich and lush harmonies of the piano, the trumpet comes in with its lyrical melody. The versatility of the trumpet can be seen throughout the piece as it alternates between moments of virtuosic brilliance and soft lyricism. The piece ends with a soft and reflective coda, leaving the listeners spellbound by its depth and beauty.

The use of exotic harmonies and modal scales suffuse the music with a sense of Eastern European mystique, evoking images of ancient landscapes and folk traditions. The rich tapestry of colours and textures of this enchanting work continues to captivate audiences and performers alike, reaffirming its status as a masterpiece of the trumpet repertoire.

Concerto in E-flat Major

Johann Baptist Georg Neruda (1708-1780)

Composed by Czech composer and violinist, Johann Baptist Georg Neruda, the Trumpet Concerto in E-flat Major exploits the brilliance and versatility of the trumpet as an instrument within the Baroque era. Composed in 1750, in a period when the trumpet was going through significant improvement and development, the concerto demands technical proficiency and expressiveness that were unconventional for the instrument at the time.

Structured in three movements (*Allegro - Largo - Allegro*), the first movement begins with a lively tempo and spirited melodies. The second movement, unlike the exuberant first movement, leaves listeners in awe with its lyrical and introspective nature. The solo trumpet sings plaintively over a somber orchestral accompaniment, putting on to the center stage the instrument's ability to express profound emotion and sensitivity. The final movement reinstates the vibrant character of the opening, featuring brisk tempos and spirited rhythms.

The Neruda Trumpet Concerto remains a significant work in the trumpet repertoire, adored by listeners and performers alike. Its lasting popularity is a testament to Neruda's skilful craftsmanship and the timeless appeal of the trumpet as a solo melodic instrument. Through its expressive melodies and virtuosic displays, the concerto continues to captivate listeners and showcase the trumpet's versatility and appeal.

Solo de Concours

Théo Charlier (1868-1944)

Translated to “Competition Solo” in English, Solo de Concours was written in 1900 by Belgian composer and trumpet virtuoso Théo Charlier, and was intended as an obligatory piece for a competition. "Solo de Concours" has since become a staple of the trumpet repertoire, admired for its technical challenges and expressive depth. Charlier, an accomplished trumpeter himself, composed this piece to present both the technical prowess and musicality of the performer. The work's inclusion as a competition piece ensured its widespread dissemination and enduring popularity among trumpet players.

Following a standard ternary form consisting of three main sections, the opening section establishes the thematic material and sets the tone for the piece. It features brisk tempos and lively rhythms, presenting technical challenges such as rapid articulation and scalar passages. The middle section, in contrast to the energetic opening, featured a slower tempo and lyrical lines. This section allows the performer to demonstrate their ability to sing and express emotion through the trumpet's melodic capabilities. The final section returns to the lively character of the opening, building upon the thematic material presented earlier in the piece. A thrilling display of virtuosity, the performer navigates through intricate passages and dazzling runs with precision and flair.

"Solo de Concours" stands as a testament to Théo Charlier's mastery of the trumpet and his ability to compose music that both challenges and delights performers and audiences alike. With its technical demands, expressive depth, and melodic beauty, this piece continues to hold a prominent place in the repertoire of aspiring and professional trumpet players, ensuring Charlier's legacy endures for generations to come.

Someone to Watch Over Me

George Gershwin (1898-1937)

arr. Joseph Turrin

"Someone to Watch Over Me" is a timeless ballad composed by George Gershwin, with lyrics by his brother Ira Gershwin. Written in 1926, the piece has since become a jazz standard, recorded by various artists across various genres and instrumentations. Gershwin wrote this masterpiece in the high point of his career, when he was composing music for both Broadway and the concert hall. The song was originally featured in the musical "Oh, Kay!" as a solo for the character Billy, expressing his longing for love and protection. Its heartfelt lyrics and haunting melody struck a chord with audiences, ensuring its enduring popularity long after the musical's initial run.

The song's melody is characterized by its lyrical beauty and expressive phrasing, evoking a sense of yearning and longing. Gershwin's harmonies are rich and lush, infusing the song with emotional depth and complexity. The piece bears the unmistakable influence of jazz and its timeless melody and poignant lyrics have made it a favorite among performers from diverse musical backgrounds, including jazz vocalists, pop singers, and instrumentalists.

Strasbourg / St. Denis

Roy Hargrove (1969-2018)

Roy Hargrove was an influential trumpeter and bandleader in the modern day jazz scene. Known for his technical brilliance, soulful sound, and innovative approach to jazz, Hargrove made significant contributions to the genre throughout his career. "Strasbourg / St. Denis" is a vibrant and infectious jazz composition named after a bustling intersection in Paris, France. This tune clearly demonstrated Hargrove's mastery of the jazz idiom and his ability to inject elements of traditional jazz with contemporary flair.

"Strasbourg / St. Denis" has become a modern jazz standard, frequently performed by jazz musicians and bands around the world. Its infectious groove and memorable melody make it a favorite among both performers and audiences, serving as a testament to Roy Hargrove's enduring influence on the jazz genre.