

Ravel was a French composer who lived from 1875-1937. Born in Ciboure to his mother of Basque, Ravel was attracted to the sounds of Spanish influence. Ravel was a brilliant colorist who absorbed ideas from various countries, and composed many pieces incorporating folk melodies. Despite being a composer of the 20th Century, Ravel was partial to clean melodic contours that incorporated functional harmonies, firm structures, and distinct rhythmic patterns. He did, however, adapt some of the impressionistic styles into his music.

Ravel's *Piece en form de Habanera* was originally composed in 1907 as a vocal study, and was later transcribed as a piece for solo instrument and piano. The technical difficulty shrinks in comparison to the musical difficulty, as Ravel was precise with his musical markings for expression and phrasing. The beautiful Habanera melody in the violin overlays the rhythmic piano pattern that together, form a remarkable composition by Ravel.

Pablo de Sarasate was an influential composer of the 19th Century. Born in Pamplona in 1844, Sarasate composed several pieces of Spanish influence. Sarasate was a Spanish composer and violinist. This composer was described as the ideal personification of a virtuoso violinist. His pure tone and sweet sound made this composer gain the admiration of many composers of the 19th Century. Sarasate had several compositions dedicated to him by several famous composers of this century, such as Saint-Saens, Lalo, and German virtuoso, Joachim.

Within a set of Spanish Dances composed by Sarasate, Romanza Andaluza illustrates music of his Spanish heritage. This third composition within the set of Spanish Dances is a duet between piano and violin. The first half of the composition begins with a repeated rhythm within the piano part, and a beautiful Spanish melody within the violin sounds on top of the piano's rhythmic pattern. The second half of the composition incorporates technical difficulty, which is portrayed through several chords and double stops.

Bibliography

Grove Dictionary of Music Online. Accessed 2 September 2004.



Department of Music

Junior Recital
Cheryl Vertigan, violin

Assisted by
Patricia Parker, piano

Saturday, September 11, 2004
2:00 pm
Harris Theatre

Program

Sonata #1 in G Major.....Ludwig van Beethoven

- I. Allegro con brio
- II. Andante con moto
- III. Minore
- IV. Rondo-Allegro

-Intermission-

Six Sonatas and Partitas.....J.S. Bach

- Sonata #1
- III. Siciliano
- IV. Presto

Piece en form de Habanera.....Maurice Ravel

Spanish Dances.....Pablo de Sarasate
#3 Romanza Andaluza

Notes on the Program

Beethoven, a German composer who was born in Bonn in December of 1770, lived a very accomplished life as violinist, pianist, and most importantly, as a respected and dominant musical figure during the 19th century. As personal sufferings of deafness and failure at happiness in relationships became evident in Beethoven's life, his compositions became increasingly individualized within musical style. During the year of 1789, Beethoven became active solely as a composer. A daring composer, as he was, Beethoven was not at all concerned with the playability of his compositions. He was especially interested in expressing emotions through the music, as well as inspiring the listeners. Beethoven's loss of hearing was said to have intensified his sense of inner concentration for his compositions. After his death in March of 1827, Beethoven was, and still is considered to be one of the most influential individuals of his time due to his musical abilities in composition.

Beethoven's first Sonata in G Major is a reflection of the Classical time period. This sonata was dedicated to Antonio Salieri, who was the first Kapellmeister of the Imperial Court at Vienna. Composed in Sonata form, this composition follows the Theme and Variation pattern, beginning with a forceful opening in the first movement. The piece continues through three movements, which offer an extension of the beginning theme, but change in style and key. The movements change from bold in the first movement, to simple and elegant and in the second variation. The third variation changes mood as heard in the minor key. The final movement of this Sonata is a Rondo, and has a joyous and playful appeal.

J.S. Bach was a composer of the Baroque time period. Born in 1685, Bach was considered a monument of the Baroque era due to his unequivocal contribution to the musical world. Bach was known to have helped establish equal temperament, and he also distinguished harpsichord as a solo instrument for orchestra, as opposed to the accompaniment position that it had held prior to Bach's compositions. Bach was a sensible musician who attuned imagination to reality within his compositions. His Six Sonatas and Partitas were works that explored the possibilities of unaccompanied violin. Within the 3rd movement of the first Sonata, Bach creates the illusion of two to four instruments playing at once, and each voice moves contrapuntally. Composing for unaccompanied violin was a tradition of the German descent, and Bach took this tradition and made use of it for his Sonatas and Partitas for solo violin. It is noted that Bach most likely composed these pieces as study material for advanced violinist artistry. The pieces are of such caliber that Bach, an expert violinist, was unable to play his own works at the time of composition. Technical difficulties combined with musical expression create the masterpieces of Bach's composition. Siciliano is a leisurely dialogue between the lower and upper voices that incorporates the musical texture alternating between homophonic and polyphonic writing. In contrast, the final movement, Presto, is entirely homophonic.