

Sonata No. 7- Sergei Prokofiev (Continued)

The seventh sonata was written in 1942 in the midst of World War II. It contains music that is almost violent in its emotional span. The first movement brings back memories of military marching and puts us in the midst of a conflict. Moments of charm and lucidity are mixed with deliberate harshness and shrillness. The second movement is almost painfully beautiful and one can clearly hear church bells imitations. The last movement is a short but stupendous, stormy and exciting.

Concerto No. 1 in F# minor- Sergei Rachmaninoff

S. Rachmaninoff is considered one the great representatives of Russian late Romanticism. He attended the St. Petersburg Conservatory graduating with the prestigious Great Gold Medal. He made his career as a composer, conductor and pianist. In 1917 during the revolution he left his native country, at first living in Europe and finally settling in the United States. His music has deep expressiveness and pronounced lyrical quality. Most of his compositions are written in his early years in Ivanovka, a small village deep in the Russian countryside.

The first piano concerto was written in 1890-1891, later revised in 1918. It embraces all the elements typical of Rachmaninoff's music, beautifully shaped melodies, thick texture and harmony. The solo cadenza is one of the most challenging and vibrant ever written.

Bibliography

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J. Rushtono: 'Mozart, Wolfgang, Amadeus', Grove Music Online ed. L. Macy (Accessed 25 January 2005), <<http://www.grovemusic.com>>
A. Walker: 'Franz, Liszt', Grove Music Online ed. L. Macy (Accessed 25 January 2005), <<http://www.grovemusic.com>>

Artist Biography

Ina Radeva Mirtcheva started playing the piano when she was five years old. From 1st until 9th grade she attended the Lubomir Pipkov Music School in Sofia, Bulgaria, where she had music instructions in piano, chamber music, accompaniment, solfeg, music history, music theory and harmony. In 1998 she moved to the United States and entered the honors program at the Levine School of Music in Washington DC. She is currently a senior piano performance major, part of the honors program at George Mason University, studying with Dr. Anna Balakerskaia.

Ms. Mirtcheva has performed numerous recitals as a soloist and with chamber music ensembles at venues including the Kennedy Center, Polish Embassy, Boston Conservatory, Smithsonian Institute. She is recipient of a Strathmore Hall Award, first prize in Marlin Engel Solo competition, an Award by ARTS. She is also the recipient of C.B. Cook Scholarship Award. In 2003 Ms. Mirtcheva was a GMU Concerto Competition winner and performed with the George Mason Symphony Orchestra in the Annual Music Scholarship Concert. During the summers of 2003 and 2004 Ms. Mirtcheva and her trio D' Anciana were Fellowship Artist at the Yehudi Menuhin Chamber Music Seminar in San Francisco. Ms. Mirtcheva has also twice participated in the International Soesterberg Music Festival in the Netherlands.

My warmest thanks go to my piano teacher, Dr. Anna Balakerskaia, and the entire wonderful music department at George Mason University.



COLLEGE OF VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS

Department of Music

Senior Recital
Ina Mirtcheva, Piano

Student of:
Dr. Anna Balakerskaia

Monday, February 21, 2005
8:00 p.m.
Center for the Arts Concert Hall

Program

Sonata K310 in A moll Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)

I. Allegro Maestoso

II. Andante cantabile con pressione

III. Presto

Mephisto Waltz, Number 1 Franz Liszt (1811- 1886)

☞ *Intermission* ☞

Sonata No. 7 Sergei Prokofiev (1891 – 1953)

I. Allegro inquieto

II. Andante Caloroso

III. Precipitato

Concerto No. 1 in F# minor Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873-1943)

I. Vivace

☞ Accompanied by Brendan Conway ☞

Please join me for a reception afterwards! Thank you!

Notes on the Program

Sonata K310 in A moll- Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

W. A. Mozart was born in Salzburg, Austria. As a child prodigy, he was prolific at the piano and started composing at the age of five. He was performing extensively throughout Europe by the age of six. Visiting all those different cultural centers highly influenced the young boy. Mozart became familiar with various musical styles like the lavishly colored Italian Opera and the rich traditional traits of German and Austrian music. Mozart composed numerous works for solo piano, as well as concertos, chamber works and many symphonies. His gift for creating beautiful melodies has charmed millions of people and has given him the recognition as one of the most influential and significant composers of all time.

The sonata K 310 in A moll was written in Paris in the summer of 1778. One of his most stirring and magnificent works it was composed just a few months after his mothers' death. A typical three-movement sonata, (fast-slow-fast) its turbulent nature is coupled with a rigorous thematic development, a larger structure and profound expressiveness. The minor tonality reflects emotions of a deeper kind: grief and passion.

Mephisto Waltz Number 1- Franz Liszt

Known as the most virtuosic pianist of all time, this Hungarian born composer was also a revered conductor. He set new standards in performance and pedagogy, such as turning the piano sideways so that the audience can see the profile of the pianist, as well as memorizing scores. He wrote numerous original pieces and transcribed and arranged for piano many works by other composers, including a piano version of all nine symphonies of Beethoven. With his sensational technique, he captivated audiences, mesmerized his listeners, and even made women faint. His piano compositions are among the most difficult ever written and are a surviving proof of his genius and showmanship.

The Mephisto Waltz, written in 1861, is based on a scene “Dance in the Village Inn” from the poem Faust, by Nikolaus Lenau (1802-1850). First written as an orchestral work Liszt later transcribed it for the piano with the desire and goal to make the piano sound like an orchestra or at least as rich in scope as one. It has since become one of his most famous and most often played works.

Sonata No. 7- Sergei Prokofiev

S. Prokofiev is considered one of the most significant composers in the first half of the 20th century. His desire to compose was shown at a very early age and by the time he entered the St. Petersburg conservatory at age 13 he had already written four operas, two sonatas, a symphony, and a lot of piano pieces. With vivid temperament that made him seem arrogant and presumptuous sometimes, Prokofiev stood apart from his contemporaries. His unprecedented musical ideas, combining elements of the modern, the lyrical and the classical make his music sound unique, fresh and innovative. Some even say that one can live and die in one measure in the music of Prokofiev.

(Notes continue on the back page.)