

# Winter Piano Recital



February 4, 2017  
Williamson Hall  
Westminster Choir College

- Title in Green-Baroque Style
- Title in Blue-Classical Style
- Title in Red-Romantic Style
- Title in Purple-Impressionistic Style
- Title in Orange-Contemporary Style
- \*New to the Studio

## \*Sophie Shin

**In My Dream**.....Jennifer Linn

This piece sounds soft and nice with the duet. It feels like relaxing music.  
I dream of flowers blowing in the sun.



**Puppy Dog**..... William Gillock (1917-1993)

The reason I like this song is because I like dogs. They are cute and cuddly.  
When I listen to this song, I imagine a puppy following a person wherever she goes.



## Holden Chang

**The Glass Slipper**.....William Gillock (1917-1993)

My piece sounds like soft dancing but then....Cinderella runs away, losing her glass slipper! The end sounds like staccato too and the notes are going up. The end sounds like staccato and the notes are going up. The first part makes me feel like sleeping, but then the end wakes me up.

## \*Erin Yoon

**Dalmatians**.....Tom Gerou

*Dalmatians* is one of the main songs in the famous Disney movie, *101 Dalmatians*. The elements in the song help to describe how Dalmatians look like. For example, the staccatos in the music show the dots and spots on a Dalmatian. The legato shows how the Dalmatians love to play. My favorite part is the staccato because it is energetic.

Dalmatinas! Dalmatians!  
Black spots here and there.  
Dalmatians! Dalmatinas! See dots everywhere.  
Dots and spots, spots and dots,  
Dalmatians have a lot of spots and dots, dots and spots;  
That is what they've got!  
Dalmatinas! Dalmatians! How many spots? Who knows?  
Dalmatinas! Dalmatinas!  
Polka dots from tail to nose.

**Rainbow Fish**.....Catherine Rollin

Through *Rainbow Fish*, I learned to crescendo and decrescendo musically. I was also introduced on how to play sharps. This piece is interesting in sound because it is peaceful yet mysterious. I hope you hear the rainbow fish swimming in the ocean as I play this wonderful piece.

## Clara Shin

**Prelude in A minor**.....J. S Bach(1685-1750)

*Prelude in A Minor* is very challenging because the piece has to be right on tempo. The composition has many trills, so it makes it even harder to stay on tempo. When I play this piece, it reminds me of two people trying to have a conversation but disagreeing and eventually shouting at one another. It feels that way because the left hand and right hand alternate sometimes. J. S. Bach was a German composer. His music was often played on instruments it was not written for.

**Fluttering Leaves in A minor**.....Carl Kölling (1831-1914)

Whenever I play *Fluttering Leaves in A Minor* by Carl Kolling, I have a vision of two best friends. One of them is planning a surprise party and is sneaking around his friend's house. The other friend catches him and demands to know why he sneaking around. After he is caught, he tells a really sweet lie with lots of flattery. However, the friend who does not know about the party is still curious but is now suspicious. As the other friend slips away, he invites people to the surprise party. Everyone is quiet. They then yell, "Surprise!" As the surprise dies down, everyone is happy.

## Pauline Lu

**A Memory of Paris**.....William Gillock (1917-1993)

*A Memory of Paris* is a very delicate and elegant piece. It reminds me of a outdoor cafe that is in a garden with a view of the eiffel tower. This piece was written by a man named William Gillock. William Gillock was a music educator and piano composer. He was born in LaRussell, Missouri, where he learned how to play the piano at an early age.



**Sonatina in C major**.....Tobias Haslinger (1771-1834)

This Sonatina is a very energetic and jumpy piece. It's as if my fingers are kids jumping on a trampoline (the piano) and playing tag. This piece is written by Tobias Haslinger who was an Austrian music publisher and composer. A sonatina is a simple or short sonata. A sonata is a piece made for a soloist.

## Joshua Jen

**Minuet in G minor BWV 115**.....Christian Petzold (1677-1733)

This minuet was from the Notebook for Anna Magdalena Bach, Johann Sebastian Bach's 2nd wife. Sadly, only a few of Pezold's composition's survived and he is best known for two minuets, BWV 114 and 115, in the Notebook of Anna Many people thought these pieces were composed by Bach until the 1970's when people found out that -Pezold wrote it.

This piece is very calm and sounds like people dancing. In fact minuets are slow stately dances from the eighteenth century. Its dynamics start and end with mf but piano and forte are all scattered throughout the song. Trills are scattered throughout the first half of the song and it ends with a trill.

**Noah's Ark**.....Catherine Rollins

*Noah's Ark* is composed by Catherine Rollin who was inspired by Noah's Ark, a painting by Edward Hicks. The painting is currently located in the Philadelphia Museum of Art. There are two key signatures in the piece. Written in G major, the changes in time signature from 4/4 to 6/8 and sharp contrast in dynamics set a unique and dramatic setting in each section. The beginning sounds like the huge and grand boat getting built. Then it sounds like animals climbing on the boat before the flood. It is animated and playful.

## Danica Bajaj

**Seascape**.....William Gillock (1917-1993)

William L Gillock was born in Missouri, where he learned piano at an early age. He believed that "melody and rhythmic vitality are essential to compositions that students want to learn," and he always applied this to his music. Gillock produced *24 Short Piano Preludes in Romantic Style*, including *Seascape*; each one of these preludes in a different key (12 major/minor keys) and *Seascape* is written in C minor.

*Seascape* is one of many different emotions. Intense and unsettling character reign throughout the piece. You feel as if you can see the limitless ocean horizon expanding in front of you or you can imagine infinite dark, royal blue water right before a big storm. Hand crossing, contrasting dynamics are used to paint just that, the seascape. Can you hear the ocean?

## Kaitlyn Tsai

**Sonatina in A minor**.....Friedrich Kuhlau (1786-1832)

Friedrich Kuhlau was a German-Danish composer. He was a central figure of the Danish Golden Age and is immortalized in Danish cultural history through his music for *Elves' Hill*. He was good friends and greatly influenced by Beethoven and was responsible for introducing Beethoven music to the people of Denmark. He expressed more of his personality in ambitious works like his piano quartets, his only string quartet, the piano concerto, operas and theatre music.

This piece is in the form of ABA, where the beginning and the end are almost identical, and the middle section is different in style. In section A, this piece is played with *allegro burlesco*, a brisk tempo and comical style. Meanwhile in section B, it transitions from lively and rapid to sweet and smooth. This composition consists of handful of grace notes making the piece more extravagant. The dynamic changes are scattered throughout the piece forming a thrilling affect. Not only does the dynamic changes make the piece sound grand, the collection of scales also creates a rousing mood. Following by a scale, the final note finishes off with a dramatic bang.

## Erin Chiang

**Sonata in F minor Op. 2 No.1, 1<sup>st</sup> movement**.....Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)

Ludwig van Beethoven was a prodigious German composer and pianist. During the transitional period between the Classical and early Romantic eras, he played a crucial part when it came to altering the style of music. Beethoven moved to Vienna in his early 20's, studying music with another world renown composer, Joseph Haydn. In his lifetime, Beethoven had composed 5 piano concertos, 9 symphonies, 32 piano sonatas, string quartets, masses, lieder, one opera, and other instrumental sonatas. Even though his hearing began to degenerate in the late 1790s, he continued to compose, perform, and conduct, even during the time he had gone completely deaf.

Op.2 contains 3 sonatas, each with their own style and characteristics. These sonatas were considered as his early compositions. Op.2 No.1 contains four movements, including *Allegro*, *Adagio*, *Menuetto-Allegretto*, and *Prestissimo*. Beethoven was inspired by Mozart at the time, with his music reflecting this recognition as people noticed the similarities of this piece and the finale of Mozart's *Symphony No.40*.

This piece is in sonata form, which is a type of composition that consists of three musical structures: the exposition, development, and recapitulation. A pattern of this piece is the *Mannheim Rocket*, meaning a rising scale or arpeggio, growing louder and faster as it continues higher. In this case, it is the repetitive F minor arpeggiation which rises with each note, building the excitement in the audience. The character of this piece is shown as tactile, yet with a masculine sound, emphasizing how it was composed by Beethoven.

## Aneeqah Kamani-Ahmed

**Sonatina in B flat major Op.168 No. 4**.....Anton Diabelli (1781-1858)

*Sonatina in B Flat Major* is a light, moderately paced piece that is playful and melodic. It starts out with a theme that has the right hand as the melody but has constant assistance from the left hand. Later, it goes into the same theme again, but this time in F major, and then back to the original theme. The piece is accentuated with turns all throughout the piece, in both hands. There are also many instances of alternating notes in the left hand while the right hand plays the melody. It is played “Allegro Moderato”, which means moderately fast. Anton Diabelli started composing music when he was only 19 years old. He was born in Salzburg, Austria but later moved to Vienna and started a music publishing firm with Pietro Cappi. He composed music for orchestra, piano, guitar, and voice but is best known for a waltz which he sent to many famous Austrian composers, asking them to write variations of it. Beethoven himself wrote 33 instead of one. This piece is known as Vaterländischer Künstlerverein, or “Patriotic Artists’ Association.” Anton Diabelli died in Vienna in 1858 at the age of 76.

## Mason Yang

**Scotch Poem**.....Edward MacDowell (1860-1908)

Far on Scotland’s craggy shore  
An old grey castle stands,  
Braving the fierce North Sea;  
And from the rugged casement  
There peers a lovely face,  
A woman’s, white with woe.  
She sweeps the harp strings sadly,  
The wind plays through her tresses,  
And carries the song amain.

*Scotch Poem* tells a story of a young girl who lives in a castle by the shore and plays the sad melody on her harp. MacDowell was born in New York City on December 18th, 1860. He was mostly known for his piece, *Woodland Sketches*. MacDowell’s piano pieces have descriptive names that conjure scenes from nature, fairy tales, and even poems, like this one

## Kylan Tatum

**Nocturne in C sharp minor, Op. 9 No. 4**.....Pyotr Tchaikovsky (1840-1893)

*Nocturne in C# minor* was composed by Tchaikovsky in the Romantic period. Written in 1873, this is one of the six pieces in the collection. The tragic and heartfelt melody makes this piece stand out among the set. Tchaikovsky transcribed the piece for cello and orchestra in 1888.

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky was born on May 7, 1840, in Russia. In 1861, Tchaikovsky began to take music lessons at the Russian Musical Society. A few months later, he attended the St. Petersburg Conservatory, becoming one of the school's first students. In 1863, he moved to Moscow, where he became a professor of harmony at the Moscow Conservatory. His pieces were first publicly played in 1865. Tchaikovsky resigned from the Conservatory in 1878, and spent the rest of his career composing. He died in St. Petersburg on November 6, 1893. He is most famously known for *The Nutcracker* and *Swan Lake* compositions.

## **\*Sanya Tejwani**

**Drifting Clouds**.....William Gillock (1917-1993)

Composed by William Gillock, *Drifting Clouds* is a piece that radiates a feeling of tranquility. One can imagine themselves lying on a green, grassy field on a spring afternoon, watching the clouds slowly move across the sky. The movement of the clouds is mirrored in the wide range of keys used throughout the piece.

**Indian War Chant**.....William Gillock (1917-1993)

*Indian War Chant*, also by William Gillock, encapsulates a scene of preparation for war within a Native American tribe. The use of staccatos throughout the piece suggests a manner of chanting as the tribe heads to a raid. At first, they march, hiding before shouting and running to attack, seen in an ending filled with crescendo.

Composer William Gillock was American music educator and composer, well known for his inventive and creative use of harmony within his pieces. He won the Award of Merit for Service to American Music on five different occasions. His pieces *Drifting Clouds* and *Indian War Chant* are perfect examples of the very height of his career as a composer.

## **Simran Buddhadev**

**Sonatina in G major, 1<sup>st</sup> Movement**.....Theodore Latour(1766-1837)

In *Sonatina in G major*, the melody is clearly placed in the right hand and broken chords as accompaniment in the left hand. It is a very light, simple yet cheerful piece. Jean Theodore Latour was a French pianist and composer. He was appointed official pianist of King George IV in the United Kingdom. Latour is known for his sonatinas and enjoyed composing sonatinas with theme and variation.

**No Worries**..... Elissa Milne

*No Worries* is a piece by Elissa Milne. This piece has a lively, carefree vibe as if someone is joking around and laughing. The subtle changes in dynamics really add to the overall feel of the piece. Elissa Milne has been composing since the age of 6 years old. With her musical education, she has been able to, through the use of staccato and dynamics, compose a piece with a lighthearted feel.

## **Tai Tatum**

**Air Show Acrobatic**.....Kevin Olson

*Air Show Acrobatics* is part of the *Sonatina in Flight* collection composed in 2011. The piece is characterized by a series of rapid repeats and dramatic and quick dynamic changes. It is an exhilarating piece.

Kevin Olson is a modern day composer and professor at Elmhurst College, where he teaches classical and jazz piano. He has a Bachelor and Masters degree in Composition and Theory from Brigham Young University, and a doctorate degree from National-Louis University. He was born in Utah and began composing at a very early age. He has been a Composer in Residence at the National Conference on Piano Pedagogy and has published over forty books through FJH Music Company.

## Jayden Shah

**Sonatina No. 1 in C Major** ..... Theodore Latour (1766-1837)

Sonatina No.1 in C Major by Latour is a very smooth piece. The scale in the piece is what makes the sonatina smooth. C major for this piece means that the scale in this piece is C Major. The end of the piece is very energetic. The end is energetic because the end becomes fast while the volume increases from Piano to Fortissimo. The composer Theodore Latour was a French pianist. He has created several other sonatinas.

**The Funny Dog** ..... Anne Crosby

Funny Puppy by: Anne Crosby is an energetic piece. The tempo of the piece is fast. Then slow. Then fast again. The piece represents puppies having fun together. Then in part to the puppies are having a conversation. Then it's back to the part where the puppies are having fun. Anne Crosby Gaudet was from Nova Scotia. She is very creative and insightful music teacher and composer. She has created many pieces.

## Tyler Kimm

**Thunder on the Plains** ..... Jennifer Linn

*Thunder on the Plains* was composed by Jennifer Linn. Jennifer Linn is a modern composer. She has been teaching piano for 30 years. She won the concerto-aria competition at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. In *Thunder on the Plains*, the piece portrays a storm happening on the plains. The piece portrays thunder by starting with soft notes, then out of nowhere are loud chords starting from low to high. Then the piece portrays rain by repeated notes which are played from slow to fast. This piece helped me to learn how to be more musically expressive.

**Sonatina Op. 51 No. 1** ..... Anton Diabelli (1781-1858)

The Sonatina was composed by Anton Diabelli. He lived in Vienna where Mozart also lived and made music. He started a music publishing company called Diabelli & Co. This is important because he would publish music for other people to see. I like this piece because it is fast and you can be loud in some parts. Another thing I like about this piece is that it repeats a lot so it's easier to learn. It is also the longest piece I have played, which was challenging. This piece helped me to learn how to play the fast and short scales evenly.

## Molly Chang

**Summer's Nocturne** ..... Catherine Rollin

*Summer's Nocturne* is a peaceful and heartwarming piece. This piece was written in the Romantic style. The tempo is not very fast but in certain parts the tempo speeds up. In the fast passages it's especially heartwarming. The mood of this piece is cantabile which means in a smooth singing style.

Catherine Rollin is a pianist, composer, clinician and a piano teacher. She has created the well known series Pathway to Artistry. She received most of her training with Micha Kottler. She has also taught many amazing students. She has been a judge for Lynn Freeman Olson!

**A Little Prank** ..... Dmitri Kabalevsky (1904-1987)

*A Little Prank* is a fast carefree piece. It makes you feel like you want to run. Also the mood of the piece is short and lively.

Kabalevsky was born on December 30th 1904 he died on February 14 1987. He made many compositions and was involved in choral music. His best known work is the opera Colas Breugnon it was based on a novel by Romain Rolland. He has tried to connect children with music.

## Sally Jung

**Divertimento in G Major, 1<sup>st</sup> movement**.....Franz Joseph Haydn (1732-1809)

Franz Joseph Haydn was an 18th century Austrian composer from the Classical period. He was one of the most prominent composers of his time, fondly referred as the “Father of the symphony” or “Father of the string Quartet” in recognition of his immense contribution to musical form. On top of that, another interesting nickname of him is “Papa” Haydn because he was not the inventor of the symphony or quartet but rather respected for perfecting them. Joseph Haydn has influenced so many other young pianists.

*Divertimento in G major*, also known as Sonata is written in G major and was published in 1766. The piece start with the upbeat rhythm and the cheerful melody shows the humor in Haydn’s composition. Playing fast trills and dealing with quick dynamic changes over various rhythmic patterns were a quite challenge. The energy and excitement in the music continues until the end of the piece.

## Mia Kimm

**Allegro in G minor**..... George Fredrick Handel (1685-1759)

*Allegro in G minor* was composed by George Frideric Handel. George Frideric Handel was a composer in the baroque period, born in Halle, Germany. Handel started out as an opera composer. One of his first operas was called, *Almira*, and took place in Hamburg. He produced many operas with the Royal Academy of Music. Later, when Italian operas were out of style, he created the English oratorio. His most famous oratorio is the *Messiah*. I like playing Allegro in G Minor, because it has a fast tempo, as indicated by its title. The piece gets louder as the notes get higher and softer as the notes get lower. Learning to play this piece, helped me to develop different skills. For example, I was able to add my own dynamics according to my interpretation of the piece and how I wanted it to sound.

**Nocturne in E minor**..... John Field (1782-1837)

*Nocturne in E minor* was composed by John Field. John Field was an Irish composer, born in Dublin. He moved to London with his family, where he studied under Muzio Clementi. Under Clementi’s teachings, Field became famous. In Russia, Field contributed much to the development of the Russian piano school. In addition, Field is famous for the creation and the development of the nocturne as an important type of piano music. Nocturne in E minor is a piece that dramatically changes ever so often. I like this piece because of it’s contrasting dynamics and the way it explores all types of different techniques to help make it sound more expressive, such as different ornaments and tempos.

## Zoë Chang

**Sonata in F major, Hob. XVI/23, 1<sup>st</sup> movement** .....Franz Joseph Haydn (1732-1809)

Dedicated to Prince Nikolaus Esterházy and composed in 1773, *Sonata in F Major* by Haydn is an exuberant piece, at times becoming vigorous, abrupt, and sorrowful. In the beginning, this piece portrays the more buoyant half of the moods, with the cheerful staccatos and scales. Then, later in the middle, it takes on a mysterious aura, silent and minor. The transition back to the joyful section is moody and angry, like a thunder storm spitting lightning. The piece ends with the most common theme throughout the piece, sounding ebullient and happy.

Franz Joseph Haydn was born on March 31st, 1732 in Rohrau, Austria. Haydn spent most of his career as a court musician for the rich Esterházy family. Unlike some composers, who weren’t recognized of their talent until after they were deceased, he was known and one of (if not, the most) celebrated composer in Europe. He was married to Maria Anna Theresia Keller, sister to his previous lover. They had a completely unhappy marriage, therefore having no children. Haydn died on May 31st, 1809 in Vienna, Austria.



## Raiya Shah

### **Morning Greeting**.....Cornelius Gurlitt (1820-1901)

*Morning Greeting* is a calming piece composed by Cornelius Gurlitt, who is a German that touched people's hearts through music. Cornelius Gurlitt was born on February 10th, 1820 and died on June 17th, 1901. "Morning Greeting" expresses the beautiful colors and tranquil feeling of a sunrise and a sunset because you can hear nature without any of the background noise. It shows the connection between night and morning through the soothing melody and the harmony. When I play the music, it reminds of me of the sunrise over a lighthouse in Canada and the elegant sunset over the beach in Mexico.

### **Minuet in A Minor** .....Johann Krieger (1651-1735)

*Minuet in A Minor* composed by Johann Krieger is an 18th century piece that is a graceful dance from France. Johann Krieger was a great German composer of classical music. He was born on February 25, 1649 and died on February 7, 1725. A minuet is a slow stately ballroom dance for couples. When I play the two different melodies with each of my hands, it represents the man and woman dancing separately and then coming together as the melodies combine. "Minuet in A Minor" reminds me that dancing is inside all of us no matter what kind of dance you like to do.

## Anya Shah

### **Sonatina in G major, 2nd movement**.....Ludwig von Beethoven (1770-1827)

*Sonatina in G major*, was written by Ludwig Van Beethoven who is considered one of the greatest composers of all time. Beethoven was a German composer and pianist who lived from 1770 to 1827. He has composed over more than 100 pieces such as, Moonlight Sonata, Symphony No. 9 and Fur Elise! This piece is the 2nd part of the movement. The mood in this piece is romantic and tranquil. I love this piece because it makes me feel like I am Cinderella and I am dancing at the ball with my Prince Charming!

### **Variations of a Russian Folk Song** .....Dmitri Kabalevsky (1904-1987)

*Variations of a Russian Folk Song* is written by Dmitri Kabalevsky. Kabalevsky was a Russian Composer and helped to set up the Union of Soviet Composers! Dmitri has written more than 50 pieces. Some of his pieces are, The Comedians, Colas Breugnon and Piano Concerto No.3. This piece is filled with a lot of tempo change and variations. There are 4 parts to this song. The first part is the theme which repeats throughout all the variations. Then you have the 1st Variation which is the same tempo as the theme but is filled with many 16th notes. The 2nd variation has a slower tempo than the first which makes it seem that there is a contrast between the music. The Final variation is the fastest variation because it adds a nice ending to the piece.

## Lauren Kim

### **Barcarolle**..... William Gillock (1917-1993)

*Barcarolle* is a delicate and gentle piece. A "barcarolle" is a song traditionally sung by Venetian gondoliers. This piece is meant to be played *andantino cantabile*, which means it is meant to be played at a walking tempo, and at a singable pace. The descending and ascending scales throughout this piece give it a graceful affect. Barcarolle starts out in F major but transitions into G minor about half way through the piece, by the end of the piece, the key has returned to F major, and ends on a major key.

Although William Gillock was recognized with many prizes, he is best known for his many pieces composed specifically for children. William Gillock allowed both children and adults to be able to enjoy music.

## Mark Santamaria

### Intrada in C major..... Christoph Graupner (1683-1760)

*Intrada in C major* was written by Christopher Graupner. He was born on the thirteenth of January, 1683, in Kirchberg, and died the tenth of May, 1760, in Darmstadt. He was first taught by his uncle, and later he worked with Bach. When Graupner died, many of his pieces were forgotten, but now, Graupner's pieces are going through a re-discovery. Many musicologists have found Graupner's pieces. *Intrada* is such an energetic and happy song, it sounds like you're jumping on a trampoline. It has a 4/4 time signature, and there are many different parts. As I play this piece you will hear the staccato and the detachment in the left hand. Overall it is a beautiful piece, and you will hear its beauty as I play.

### Valse Poético No. 4..... Enrique Granados(1867-1916)

*Valse Poetico No. 4* was written by Enrique Granados. He wrote it along with seven other waltzes. It has a  $\frac{3}{4}$  time signature. The song flows beautifully and delightfully. Every time I play the chord I can feel my heart go along with it. There is a part where I play many staccatos in a row and it is beautiful. Enrique Granados is a Spanish composer and he was born on July 27, 1867 in Lleida, Spain. This means a lot to me because my dad was born in the same place. Enrique Granados studied music in Barcelona. In 1887 he went to Paris to study, but didn't make it into the Paris Conservatoire. He died on a ship that got hit by a torpedo in 1916. Unfortunately, he was only 49.

## Meghan Tsai

### Polonaise in A major..... Frederic Chopin (1810-1849)

A Polonaise is a polish dance that was notorious for shaping the culture in different parts of Europe but especially in Poland. This Polonaise was nicknamed 'Military' due to the distinct rhythm that is rather short and sharp. In World War II, the infamous piece was used to rally the polish in response to German's invasion to provoke more nationalism in Poland.

This piece provides a continuous movement of repeating themes as well as very minimal range in dynamics. This means the dynamics only range from forte to even louder. The beginning and the end both sound grand while the middle section requires the pianist to play with different techniques. The monumental composition consists with mainly eighth notes and sixteenth notes. There is rarely a moment in this piece where it is necessary to sustain a note, which shows how fast the pace is. The minor details such as grace notes and incredibly loud trills are pieces to enhance the mood and tone of the overall piece. Another factor to emphasizing the ambitious parts of the piece includes Chopin's addition of the multiple accidentals. Despite playing on one piano, the chords create a subtle background where it almost sounds like multiple pianos are playing at once.

Frederic Chopin is a well known composer and pianist from the Romantic era. Just like many other famous composers, he too was introduced to music and had demonstrated great talent at such a young age. He was quite famous for his nocturnes and polonaises. His most famous works include Nocturne Op. 9, Polonaise A-flat Major Op. 53 and Waltz in C-Sharp Minor. His polish background was a huge influence on his compositions.

## Claire Chiang

**Intermezzo in A Major Op. 118 No.2**.....Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

Born in Hamburg, Germany, Johannes Brahms is often included within the “Three B’s” consisting of himself, Bach, and Beethoven. He was known as being unable to express his emotions towards others and was often considered as unsympathetic, since these hidden sentiments were woven into his music.

An intermezzo is a piece inserted between two longer movements in an extended composition or independent performance. *Intermezzo in A Major* is the most famous of six pieces in Op. 118 composed in the year 1893. Brahms dedicated this piece to Robert Schumann’s wife. The serene melody is regularly heard throughout the piece in various forms and thus helps to develop the thematic material of the work. Brahms wrote this piece in the form of ABA, starting and ending in A major along with a central section containing its minor key of F# minor. There is a different range of “p” sound that adds tenderness and loveliness as the piece progresses. Giving a profound and sullen feeling, *Intermezzo in A Major* displays Brahms’s romantic lyricism style through its structure and style.

## Ellie Shin

**Sonata Op. 10 No. 2, 1<sup>st</sup> movement**.....Ludwig von Beethoven (1770-1827)

This sonata is one of the three in Opus 10. It’s considered one of Beethoven’s earlier sonatas and a piece of varying emotions. The soft but punctual hops and the frenzied marching bring character and technicality into play, along with the sonata’s “exposition, development, recap” form. Grace notes and changes in the dynamic add detail to even the most mundane measures. The piece is written in F major, a key commonly used by Beethoven to convey a serene and calm atmosphere. Contrastingly, this piece exhibits a hint of humor and exuberance. It seems to tell a story of the mind’s thoughts throughout a typical day, twisting and turning between the excitement of new additions to the worries of making a bad impression. The short motive presented in the opening is prevalent throughout the piece, but you will never get bored.

## Sanya Iyer

**On the Lake**.....Heinrich Hofmann (1842-1902)

*On the Lake* is a peaceful, relaxing composition by the German composer Heinrich Hofmann. Hofmann composed operas, choral music along with solo piano. His most famous work is a composition entitled Frithjof Symphony. *On the Lake* was written in G major and is written in an ABA format. The right hand plays the melody throughout the piece while the left hand has a repetitive pattern of playing broken triads. The movement of each hand seems to echo ripples on the water or a boat rowing across the lake. During the B section, the piece causes some tension with a key change. It makes it feel like the ripples are getting bigger but then releases the tension and returns to the more joyful major key ending with a soft G major chord and continuing the peaceful water ripples.

**PoeAn Lu**

**Prelude in G minor, Op. 23 No. 5** ..... Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873-1943)

*Prelude in G minor* was composed by Rachmaninoff in 1901. It was included in his set of ten preludes labeled Opus 23 composed to show off and is one of his most well-known compositions. Rachmaninoff wrote in the late Romantic period. His music features sweeping lyricism, passionate melodies, and widely spaced chords (often, though not always, producing bell-like sounds).

This piece begins with a quieter march-like motif and gradually turns into the march of an entire legion. Then, the melody declimaxes into the second section, a smooth, lyrical melody. As this second section ends, one will hear the opening motif creeping in quietly, as if an army is silently marching into a city to attack it. They get louder and louder as they progress into the city, and, after destroying it, quietly march out.

**Benjamin Lo**

**Rhapsody in B minor Op. 79 No.1** ..... Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

Brahms composed his two rhapsodies, one in B minor and the other in G minor, in the summer of 1878 in the Austrian Dolomites. During this time he was about to complete his 2nd symphony and about to begin composing his 2nd piano concerto. When he finished the two rhapsodies, he dedicated both to his friend, Elisabeth von Herzongenberg. The B minor rhapsody is in a ABA form. Brahms begins the rhapsody with the dominant note of the B minor scale, F#. He continually brings back this opening theme throughout the piece. Although the piece in general can be described as bombastic, there are certain parts where the storm of notes clear: the tranquil D minor section and the pastoral B section. The piece ends in a poetic coda that is reminiscent of the D minor section.

Thank you for coming to listen to our children! I hope this is not the last time you will play the pieces you have performed today. This is a start and I hope you play more and treasure this wonderful music.

Playing a musical instrument is truly a gift. I seldom give compliments and save them for students' best works. But this does not mean how proud and happy I am for all the achievements you have made so far.

Great work tonight!

I really have to thank the parents for all the support and love. Have a wonderful evening!

Ms. Lee