

GRADUATE RECITAL

Teran Hall, viola Stephanie Lovell, piano

Friday, April 12th, 2024 | 3pm Frederick Loewe Performance Hall

Der Schwanendreher

Paul Hindemith (1895-1963)

I. Zwischen Berg und tiefem Tal

Sonatine

Maurice Ravel (1875-1937) arr. Skaila Kanga (1994)

I. Modéré

II. Mouvement de Menuet

III. Animé

Christopher Figueroa, flute Emily Linlo, harp

Sonata for Viola and Piano Rebecca Clarke (1886-1979)

I. Impetuoso

II. Vivace

III. Adagio

Paul Hindemith was a German composer and violist of the 20th century. He made significant contributions to 20th-century music. After gaining recognition as a violist in the early stages of his career, he became increasingly known as a composer who was developing a unique and distinctive musical style with elements of neoclassicism, expressionism, and traditional tonality. His career unfolded within a time period of significant historical events such as the rise of the Nazi regime in Germany. His music was eventually banned by the Nazis which led to his emigration to Switzerland and then eventually the United States. He continued to compose prolifically and received numerous awards and honors for his musical contributions.

Der Schwanendreher (The Swan Tuner), is a concerto for viola and small orchestra and is a cornerstone of the viola repertoire. This piece is known for its inventive use of folk melodies particularly from the German countryside. It also showcases his characteristic contrapuntal writing and harmonic language. Hindemith composed it in 1935 for his own concert use. This work hauntingly reflects his harassed situation in Nazi Germany.

Sonatine

Maurice Ravel (1875-1937)

Maurice Ravel was a French composer and pianist of the 20th century. He was known for his exquisite orchestration, distinctive harmonic language, and evocative melodies. He developed his unique compositional style with influence from Impressionism, Baroque music, jazz, and Eastern music. His works often feature intricate textures, colorful harmonies, and innovative instrumental combinations. Despite his musical success, he faced challenges in his personal life such as health and financial difficulties. He lived through a tumultuous period of the World Wars which had a significant impact on his life and work. He received numerous awards and honors for his musical contributions.

His sonatine was originally written for piano but has been arranged by Skaila Kanga for flute, viola, and harp. The work is charming and elegant, and is known for its clarity, brevity, and delicate beauty. Each movement is characterized by its distinct mood and character. This piece demonstrates Ravel's impeccable craftsmanship and attention to detail with intricate textures and colorful harmonies. It's a work of great depth and sophistication that reflects his unique musical voice.

Rebecca Clarke was a British composer and violist of the 20th century. She was a pioneering figure in 20th-century music who was known for her compositions that blend Romanticism with modernist tendencies. Her works draw attention for their emotional depth, rich harmonies, and inventive use of form. After her father banished her from the family home, she embarked on a career as a musician to support herself. She faced challenges as a woman in a male-dominated field, but she persisted and became one of the first female professional orchestral musicians in England. She was an advocate for women in music and participated in organizations such as the Society of Women Musicians. Interest in her works has become much more widespread after her lifetime which is leading to a reassessment of her contributions to music history.

Her viola sonata is one of her most famous compositions. This piece was entered into a composition competition in 1919 under a pseudonym. It received second prize which garnered attention to Clarke's talent as both a composer and performer. This sonata is known for its lyrical beauty, expressive depth, and virtuosic writing. It's admired for its inventive melodies, rich harmonies, and expressive depth. The sonata has become a cornerstone of the viola repertoire and its enduring popularity highlights Clarke's significant contribution to 20th-century chamber music, and her unique voice as a composer.

This recital is given in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Master of Music degree in Performance.

Teran Hall is a student of Kira Blumberg.

University of Redlands Conservatory of Music Land Acknowledgement

We are gathered on the land of the Serrano and Cahuilla peoples, and we acknowledge the important contributions of this community, their elders both past and present, as well as future generations. The University of Redlands Conservatory of Music is committed to continuing to learn about the land we inhabit, the people who have been displaced from this land, and building community with its original caretakers.