



Annie Cao began her piano studies at the age of four and has continued to blossom into a mature and enthusiastic performer. Since 2010, she has participated in numerous festivals and competitions, consistently earning recognition and first place prizes. The past three years have especially note worthy with award winning performances in the B.C. Performing Arts Festival, the Canadian Music Competition, the Vancouver International Music Competition and the Pacific Youth International Piano Competition. Ms. Cao recently completed her A.R.C.T. Piano Performance Diploma achieving an impressive First Class Honours with Distinction. She is currently studying with David Vandereyk in Vancouver.

Program Notes

Bach's **Prelude and Fugue in D+** from the Well Tempered Klavier Book 2 dates to sometime between 1739 and 1742. The Prelude, by definition a piece that comes “before”, opens with a celebratory motive that continues throughout and is enhanced with triumphant echoes of trumpets and drums. In contrast, the Fugue is serene and contemplative with an intricate texture created by the frequent overlapping of the subject material.

The **Sonata in Ab Major, Op. 26** dates from 1800, Beethoven's “middle period”. The piece has four movements and begins with the *Andante con variazoni*, a theme and variations at a moderate pace. The second movement picks up the tempo with a *Scherzo and Trio, allegro molto* and is followed by the third movement, a lugubrious *Maestoso andante, marcia funebre, sulla morte d'un eroe* (funeral march, on the death of a hero). The final is noted as *Allegro* (lively) and is in a rondo form with the main theme returning several times throughout the movement.

The **Variations sérieuses, Op. 54** were composed in 1841 as part of a campaign to raise funds for a statue to honour Beethoven in his home town of Bonn, Germany. It is a profound, weighty piece based on a sacred chorale with seventeen variations. As with most compositions in this style, the piece becomes progressively more complex with each manipulation of the theme. In the final variation, Mendelssohn adds an exciting coda and uses a surprisingly hushed ending to complete the work.

A Wild Innocence was commissioned in 2011 by a music festival in Montreal. Its composer, David McIntyre, is a native of Alberta but is currently based in Regina, Saskatchewan. He is a leading composer of music for piano and he is also know for his vocal, choral, and chamber works.

The **Ballade Op. 38**, 1838-9, is said to have been inspired by Adam Mickiewicz's ballad *Switez*. The poem tells the story of the maidens in a Polish village, who are besieged by Russian soldiers. In desperation, they pray to be swallowed by the earth. When their wish is granted, the young women are transformed into beautiful flowers destined to adorn the village in perpetuity. If indeed Chopin used the poem as inspiration, he chose his topic well. The musical narrative of Op. 38 could easily represent various stages in the drama — confrontation, mediation, and finally transformation.

l'Isle joyeuse, written in 1904, was apparently inspired by Jean Antoine Watteau's painting *The Embarkment for Cythère* – an island off the coast of Greece said to be near Aphrodite's birthplace. Debussy's interpretation brings Watteau's work to life with an animated mood full of revelry and joy. The piece is in a complex sonata structure, beginning with a short introduction and an exposition of two themes. A more involved development section follows, then a short cadenza with muted “drum beats” which leads to a condensed recapitulation to round out the work.

The Vancouver/Burnaby Branch of the BCRMTA
proudly presents
Winner of the 2018 BC Piano Competition

Annie Cao

Prelude and Fugue in D+ BWV 874

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Sonata in Ab Major Op. 26

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)

Variations sérieuses Op. 54

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

*** Intermission ***

A Wild Innocence

David L. McIntyre (b.1952)

Ballade in F Major Op. 38

Frederic Chopin (1810-1849)

L'isle joyeuse

Claude Debussy (1862- 1918)

Please join us for a reception following the recital.
Saturday May 25, 2019, 7:00pm ~ Immanuel Baptist Church