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Alumnus Recital:Seung-Hye Lee, Piano

Seung-Hye Lee Piano
Illinois State University

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Illinois State University
School of Music

Alumnus Recital
Seung-Hye Lee, *Piano*

Center for the Performing Arts
November 14, 2004
Sunday Evening
7:00 p.m.

This is the sixty-ninth program of the 2004-2005 season.

Program

Humoreske, Op. 20

Einfach
Sehr rasch und leicht
Noch rascher
Hastig
Nach und nach immer lebhafter und stärker
Einfach und zart
Intermezzo
Innig
Sehr lebhaft
Mit einigem Pomp
Zum Beschluß

Robert Schumann
(1810-1856)

Sonata in B Minor

Franz Liszt
(1811-1886)

Program Notes

Schumann wrote to Clara in March 1839: "I have been all week at the piano, composing, writing, laughing and crying all at once." *Humoreske* is a barometer of the exuberance and optimism that could dominate Schumann's spirit, of his tenderness and passion for Clara and at the same time, of his melancholy, the side of his nature that would so tragically dominate his last years.

Schumann explained in a letter to Simonin de Sire: "I only give a title to my compositions when they are completed. I regret that the French language has no equivalent for words so essential to the understanding of the German sensibility as humor or *gemütlichkeit* --- a happy combination of feeling and wit." In the ancient sense, "humor" meant the contrast of temperaments. Schumann wrote to his friend Ernst Becker, "It is not all gay, and perhaps among the things I've done one of the more depressing." "Variations, but not upon a theme," is how Schumann characterized *Humoreske*. In the *Humoreske* the changing faces of Eusebius (the image of nostalgic dreamer) and Florestan (the image of a noble and enthusiastic man of action) are reflected as in a mirror and the two aspects of the same personality succeed each other without transition, just as, in his boyhood letters to his mother: "At present I feel gayer than usual..."--- and, ten lines further on: "It is fortunate that I do not live alone, for I should abandon myself to the sadness which hardly ever leaves me." Sorrow and pleasure alternate in the most natural way in the heart of the "poet of poets," as Liszt called Schumann, who himself once summed up the quality of his own nature in a letter to his fiancée: "these two discordant souls which I feel within myself...." Light and shadow ---such was Schumann's life and such his art.

Written in 1852, the monumental and masterful Sonata in B minor dates from Liszt's Weimer period, the years of his greatest productivity: 12 symphonic poems, the Faust and Dante symphonies, a number of piano works plus numerous transcriptions and some larger scale vocal works. It has been suggested that the sonata carry a programmatic content, as if Liszt had undertaken a huge and complex self-portrait full of the contradictions that were his nature. The entire sonata is in one movement, all of it based on transformations of the simple themes heard during the introduction. Here he had been strongly influenced by Schubert's "Wanderer" Fantasy, a work he had transcribed for orchestra in 1851. In the sonata Liszt sums up all the power of expression the instrument is capable of, attesting to his own statement that "the ten fingers of a human being suffice to reproduce the harmonies that are played by the combination of hundreds of musicians." Thus the sonata presents the epitome of keyboard writing, its potentialities have been exploited to the fullest. The B minor sonata is not only a worthy epilogue to great keyboard-literature, but also an example of the aesthetic principle that prevailed in the late Romantic period. Liszt was never satisfied to follow traditional channels and, progressive-minded as he was, he had become one of the leading composers who felt that in the 'music of the future' content should dictate form.

The sonata was published in 1854 with a dedication to Robert Schumann, Liszt acknowledging Schumann's dedication to him of the Fantasy in C. (When the Fantasy was reissued years later, after the death of its composer and when Liszt's endorsement of Wagner had alienated her, Clara Schumann removed the dedication from its title page.) Hans von Bülow premiered the sonata in Berlin in 1857.

About the Artist ...



Seung-Hye Lee is currently on the piano faculty at Millikin University, Decatur, IL. Her duties include teaching 3 sections of class piano, a music theory fundamental classes, 30 preparatory piano students, and accompanying opera productions, voice masterclasses, auditions, and faculty recitals. She received her Doctor of Musical Arts degree in piano performance from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in May of 2002 in record time in the history of the piano department of the school. She also holds two masters degrees in piano performance and music therapy from Illinois State University and a BM in Musicology from the most prestigious institution in Korea, Seoul National University where she entered as honorary scholarship student and graduated with Summa Cum Laude. She has won several competitions including the UW-Madison Concerto Competition, the ISU Concerto-Aria Competition, the UW-Madison Beethoven Solo Piano Competition, and the Korean National Piano Competition. An active solo and collaborative pianist, she was invited to play Rachmaninoff's 2nd piano concerto with Mendota Philharmonic Orchestra in 2003 and J. S. Bach's D minor concerto with Millikin String Arts Ensemble Orchestra in 2004. She has also served as an accompanist for international instrumental/voice competitions. Her students have won various competitions including YSO concerto Competition, MAPTA Awards in Madison, and Chopin Competition in Minnesota. Her teachers include Christopher Taylor, Howard Karp, Pawel Checinski, Tella Marie DeBose, Hye-Ryung Kim, and In-Sook Kim.

Upcoming Events

November

15	Guest Artist, Johannes Dietrich, <i>violin</i>	CPA Concert Hall	7:00 p.m.
15	* Music Factory	Kemp Recital Hall	8:00 p.m.
16	* Convocation	CPA Concert Hall	11:00 a.m.
16	* Greg Hamilton & Kate Hamilton & Guests	Kemp Recital Hall	8:00 p.m.
17	* Guitar Potpourri	Kemp Recital Hall	7:30 p.m.
18	* Senior Recital, Brian Bromberg, <i>cello</i>	Kemp Recital Hall	7:00 p.m.
18	Wind Symphony	CPA Concert Hall	8:00 p.m.

December

04	* Senior Recital, Aaron Kavelman, <i>percussion</i>	Kemp Recital Hall	2:00 p.m.
05	Music for the Holidays	CPA Concert Hall	3:00 p.m.
05	Music for the Holidays	CPA Concert Hall	7:00 p.m.

Madrigal Dinners

December 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 15, 16, & 17 @ 6:30 p.m.

Matinee

December 4 @ 12:00 p.m.

All Friday and Saturday Evenings are Medieval Dinners.

Concert events, locations and times are subject to change.

* indicates free concerts