

PCMS Preview Notes

Jennifer Koh and Shai Vosner: Tuesday, February 23, 2010 – 8:00 PM
American Philosophical Society

Background

Jennifer Koh was born in Illinois and earned an English degree from Oberlin College. She is also an alumna of the Curtis Institute. Her most recent recording, *String Poetic*, includes works by Jennifer Higdon, John Adams and Lou Harrison and was nominated for a Grammy Award. Jennifer Koh currently plays the 1727 Ex Grumiaux Ex General DuPont Stradivari.

Program

Sonata in B-Flat Major, K. 454

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Born: January 27, 1756 in Salzburg, Austria

Died: December 5, 1791 in Vienna, Austria

Composed: 1784

Last PCMS performance: PCMS premiere

Duration: 22 minutes

No less an authority than Albert Einstein considered this sonata to be Mozart's best contribution to the repertoire. "One cannot conceive of any more perfect alternation between the two instruments than that of the first Allegro," he said.

Sonatina in A Minor, Op. 137, No. 2

Franz Schubert

Born: January 31, 1797 in Vienna, Austria

Died: November 19, 1828 in Vienna, Austria

Composed: 1816

Last PCMS performance: Arnold Steinhardt in 2010

Duration: 22 minutes

In its simple naïveté, this sonatina strikes quite a contrast with the symphony - his fourth, and so-called "Tragic", Symphony - that Schubert wrote at precisely the same time.

Sonata in G Major, K. 379

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Composed: 1781

Last PCMS performance: Tim Fain in 2007

Duration: 20 minutes

This sonata is one of the last works Mozart composed while he was in the service of the Archbishop Hieronymus Colloredo of Salzburg. He supposedly wrote it between 11 pm and midnight the night before it was performed for the first time.

Rondeau Brillante in B Minor, D. 895

Franz Schubert

Composed: 1826

Last PCMS performance: Leila Josefowicz in 2008

Duration: 15 minutes

The Rondeau Brillante is one of only three chamber compositions printed during Schubert's lifetime (the String Quartet in A Minor, D. 804 and the Piano Trio in E-flat, D. 929 are the others).