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PREVIEW
NOTES

Mitsuko Uchida, piano
Tuesday, January 18 – 8:00 PM
Perelman Theater

Background

Born in Japan and trained in Vienna, Mitsuko Uchida has lived in London for more than two decades. She is renowned for her interpretations of Mozart and Schubert and has also illuminated the music of Berg, Schoenberg, Webern and Boulez for a new generation. She is a trustee of the Borletti-Buitoni Trust and co-director of the Marlboro Music Festival.

Program

Sonata in E Minor, Op. 90

Ludwig van Beethoven

Born: Dec. 16, 1770 in Bonn, Germany

Died: Mar. 26, 1827 in Vienna, Austria

Composed: 1814

Last PCMS performance: Russell Sherman in 2003

Duration: 13 minutes

Among Beethoven's shorter sonatas, this work's modest proportions belie an emotional complexity that presages his future works in the genre. The composer considered titling it "Struggle Between Head and Heart" or "Conversation with the Beloved," an allusion to a love affair between Count Moritz Lichnowsky, the sonata's dedicatee, and an opera singer he later married.

Dauidsbündlertänze, Op. 6

Robert Schumann

Born: Jun. 8, 1810 in Zwickau, Germany

Died: Jul. 29, 1856 in Eendenich, Germany

Composed: 1837

Last PCMS performance: Richard Goode in 2004

Duration: 34 minutes

The 1st edition of the *Dauidsbündlertänze* (Dances of the League of David) contains dances composed for a group of musical friends (real and imagined, alive and dead) that Schumann assembled around himself in support of his ideas. Reflecting the two sides of Schumann's personality, some of the dances are marked as being composed by "E." (Eusebius) and the rest by "F." (Florestan). Florestan's pieces are the more lively and exuberant; Eusebius' are more dreamy and wandering.

Prelude in C-sharp Minor, Op. 45

Frédéric Chopin

Born: Mar. 1, 1810 in Zelazowa Wola, Poland

Died: Oct. 17, 1849 in Paris, France

Composed: 1841

Last PCMS performance: Garrick Ohlsson in 1998

Duration: 5 minutes

The last of Chopin's 26 preludes is perhaps his deepest work in the genre and one of his most popular and widely played compositions. Full of expressive depth, it begins with a gentle, melancholy theme and remains profoundly atmospheric throughout. Of particular note is the composer's brilliant manipulation of his thematic material and the way he allows sunlight to break in occasionally, as when the theme is played for the second time and blossoms into hopeful joy.

Sonata in B Minor, Op. 58

Frédéric Chopin

Composed: 1844

Last PCMS performance: Jeremy Denk in 2009

Duration: 28 minutes

Chopin's third and final piano sonata is similar in structure to his second – only with a lyrical largo instead of a funeral march – and it has been suggested that in this work the composer was attempting to address the criticisms of the earlier piece. The work opens on a martial note, the heavy chords and filigree in the opening of the first movement giving way to a more melodic second theme.