



PCMS
CONCERTS.ORG

PREVIEW
NOTES

Midori, violin and Robert McDonald, piano
Tuesday, November 16 • 8:00 PM • Perelman Theater

Background

A child prodigy, Midori made her concert debut with the New York Philharmonic under Zubin Mehta at age 10, and four years later gave her legendary performance at Tanglewood. She is the recipient of the 1993 Suntory Music Award and the 2001 Avery Fisher Prize. She currently chairs the strings department at USC's Thornton School of Music.

Program

Violin Sonata in G Major, K. 301

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Born: January 27, 1756 in Salzburg, Austria

Died: December 5, 1791 in Vienna, Austria

Composed: 1778

Last PCMS performance: Erez Offer in 1997

Duration: 15 minutes

It has been suggested that this sonata was originally intended for flute rather than violin. Like all but the last of the six sonatas Mozart composed in Mannheim and Paris, the G major sonata is in only two movements: an Allegro con spirito followed by an Allegro in rondo form.

Violin Sonata No. 1

Bela Bartók

Born: March 25, 1881 in Nagyszentmiklós, Hungary

Died: September 26, 1945 in New York, NY

Composed: 1944

Last PCMS performance: Christian Tetzlaff in 2004

Duration: 38 minutes

With its expressionistic rhetoric and near-atonal harmonic and melodic language, Bartók's first violin sonata is one of the composer's most radical statements. The arresting opening bars are underpinned by fast, dissonant arpeggios from the piano that evoke the sounds of the cimbalom, a dulcimer-like instrument from Bartók's native Hungary.

Sonata for Solo Violin in A Minor, BWV 1003

Johann Sebastian Bach

Born: March 21, 1685 in Eisenach, Germany

Died: July 28, 1750 in Leipzig, Germany

Composed: 1720

Last PCMS performance: Christian Tetzlaff in 2008

Duration: 22 minutes

The period in which Bach composed the partitas and sonatas for solo violin also saw the composition of the Brandenburg Concertos, violin and keyboard concertos, orchestral suites and part of the Well-Tempered Clavier.

Nocturnes

George Crumb

Born: October 24, 1929 in Charleston, WV

Composed: 1964

Last PCMS performance: PCMS premiere

Duration: 10 minutes

In composing these nocturnes Crumb modified the treatment of the violin-piano combo by exploiting the timbral resources of the instruments. An integration in sound is achieved by having both instruments produce harmonics, pizzicato effects and rapping sounds.

Nocturne / Tarantella

Karol Szymanowski

Born: October 6, 1882 in Timoshovka, Ukraine

Died: March 28, 1937 in Lausanne, Switzerland

Composed: 1915

Last PCMS performance: PCMS premiere

Duration: 14 minutes

Szymanowski's Nocturne is by turns a relaxed and feverish exercise in exoticism. The Tarantella originated during a night of drinking and conveys the Bacchanalian frenzy one would expect based on its origins.