



PCMS
CONCERTS.ORG

PREVIEW
NOTES

Colin Carr, cello and Thomas Sauer, piano
Sunday, November 21 • 3:00 PM • American Philosophical Society

Background

British cellist Colin Carr appears throughout the world as a soloist, chamber musician, recording artist, and teacher. In recent seasons he has performed cycles of Beethoven's complete works for cello and piano with accompanist Thomas Sauer throughout the United States, England and France. As a member of the Golub-Kaplan-Carr Trio, he recorded and toured extensively for 20 years.

Program

Cello Sonata in B-flat Major, Op. 45

Felix Mendelssohn

Born: February 3, 1809 in Hamburg, Germany

Died: November 4, 1847 in Leipzig, Germany

Composed: 1838

Last PCMS performance: David Soyer in 2004

Duration: 25 minutes

Though somewhat overshadowed by the Op. 58 cello sonata, Op. 45 certainly exemplifies the composer's fluid, elegant handling of string instruments as well as his ability to extract novel material from standard forms.

Variations Concertante, Op. 17

Felix Mendelssohn

Composed: 1829

Last PCMS performance: Peter Stumpf in 2003

Duration: 10 minutes

Mendelssohn dedicated this piece to his brother Paul, a cellist. Throughout the concertante theme and the eight subsequent variations, the composer conveys a sense of elegant lyricism combined with clever textural and thematic interplay between the cello and piano.

12 Variations in G Major, on Handel's "Judas Maccabeus"
Ludwig van Beethoven

Born: December 16, 1770 in Bonn, Germany

Died: March 26, 1827 in Vienna, Austria

Composed: 1796

Last PCMS performance: M. Perényi & A. Schiff in 2007

Duration: 12 minutes

One of Handel's most popular oratorios supplied the theme for these variations, which exhibit the decorative, high-Classical style and maintain the harmonic movement of Handel's theme. In the piece Beethoven displayed a virtuosity and control unparalleled in his earlier works, an interesting development in that he had few examples on which to model compositions for the unusual combination of cello and piano.

Cello Sonata in A Major, Op. 69

Ludwig van Beethoven

Composed: 1807

Last PCMS performance: Jan Vogler in 2008

Duration: 28 minutes

This sonata bears the heading "Inter Lacrimas et Luctum" (Amid Tears and Sorrow). Although its rich melodicism does not immediately strike the listener as particularly sad, there are glints of melancholy, particularly in the darkly shaded first movement.