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PREVIEW
NOTES

Cecile Licad, piano
Friday, February 4 – 8:00 PM
American Philosophical Society

Background

Called "a pianist's pianist" by *The New Yorker*, Cecile Licad's artistry is a blend of daring musical instinct and superb training. A native of the Philippines, she began her piano studies at the age of three with her mother and honed her talents at the Curtis Institute of Music with Rudolf Serkin, Seymour Lipkin and Mieczyslaw Horszowski. She is one of the youngest musicians ever to receive the prestigious Leventritt Gold Medal. A highly regarded chamber musician, she has performed regularly with ensembles such as the New York Chamber Symphony, St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, Guarneri Quartet, Takacs Quartet, Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, and Musicians from Marlboro.

Program

Impromptu in F-sharp Minor, Op. 12, No. 1 & 2

Alexander Scriabin

Born: Jan. 6, 1872 in Moscow, Russia

Died: Apr. 27, 1915 in Moscow, Russia

Composed: 1895

Last PCMS performance: PCMS premiere

Duration: 10 minutes

Scriabin's oft-neglected and rarely played impromptus have the same kind of mystery and gloom that runs through all of his compositions. If one is relating them to his other works, they perhaps come closest to his etudes.

In the Mist, "Im Nebel"

Leos Janáček

Born: Jul. 3, 1854 in Hukvaldy, Czech Republic

Died: Aug. 12, 1928 in Moravská Ostrava, Czech.

Composed: 1913

Last PCMS performance: Lars Vogt in 2004

Duration: 16 minutes

This collection of four pieces lives up to its name by maintaining an air of distance, as if the piano were at times lost in a bank of clouds. It makes few technical demands of the performer—but it requires a light, rhapsodic touch and close attention to the halting nature of its delicate phrases.

Sonata in F Minor, Op. 14

Robert Schumann

Born: Jun. 8, 1810 in Zwickau, Germany

Died: Jul. 29, 1856 in Emden, Germany

Composed: 1835-36

Last PCMS performance: PCMS premiere

Duration: 29 minutes

Originally in five movements, Schumann's Concert sans orchestre, Op. 14, was first published with only three movements in 1836. Schumann revised the piece in 1853, publishing it as his Piano Sonata in F Minor and dedicating it to the German-Bohemian pianist and composer Ignaz Moscheles. Brahms gave its premiere performance in 1862 in Vienna.

24 Preludes, Op. 28

Frédéric Chopin

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

Died: Oct. 17, 1849 in Paris, France

Composed: 1839

Last PCMS performance: Garrick Ohlsson in 2010

Duration: 36 minutes

Chopin published these preludes immediately after his wintertime stay (with writer George Sand) on Majorca. The set contains one short piece in each of the 24 keys. Although the term *prelude* is generally used to describe an introductory piece, Chopin's stand as self-contained units, each conveying a specific idea or emotion.