



PCMS
CONCERTS.ORG

PREVIEW
NOTES

Ricardo Morales, clarinet; Efe Baltacigil, cello; Natalie Zhu, piano
Monday, January 10 • 8:00 PM • American Philosophical Society

Background

A native of San Juan, Puerto Rico, Ricardo Morales joined the Philadelphia Orchestra as principal clarinet in 2003. Prior to this he was principal clarinet of the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, a position he assumed at the age of 21. Efe Baltacigil, The Philadelphia Orchestra's associate principal cellist, was born in Istanbul, Turkey and completed studies at the Curtis Institute, working with Peter Wiley and David Soyer. He was awarded an Avery Fisher Career Grant in 2006. Natalie Zhu began her piano studies at the age of six in her native China, and by fifteen was enrolled at the Curtis Institute, where she received the Rachmaninoff Award and studied with Gary Graffman. She is the recipient of a 2006 Musical Fund Society Career Advancement Award and a 2003 Avery Fisher Career Grant.

Program

Sonata in E-flat Major, Op. 120, No. 2

Johannes Brahms

Born: May 7, 1833, in Hamburg, Germany

Died: April 3, 1897, in Vienna, Austria

Composed: 1894

Last PCMS performance: Anthony McGill in 2005

Duration: 22 minutes

Brahms' two Op. 120 sonatas are richly textured and more truly songful than any of the string sonatas. The wealth of lyrical melody in the sonata's opening and closing movements led Brahms to abandon the idea of a slow movement in favor of a scherzo-type middle movement in E-flat Minor.

Sonata in E-flat Major, Op. 167

Camille Saint-Saëns

Born: October 9, 1835 in Paris, France

Died: December 16, 1921 in Algiers, Algeria

Composed: 1921

Last PCMS performance: Anthony McGill in 2001

Duration: 17 minutes

Saint-Saëns' Clarinet Sonata has four movements, and thus might be said to reach back past the Romantic sonata tradition to the Classical tradition that Saint-Saëns loved so much. It contains passion aplenty, from the opening melodic strains of the Allegretto first movement to the florid virtuoso material of the Molto Allegro fourth movement.

Clarinet Work TBA

Luigi Bassi

Born: 1833 in Cremona, Italy

Died: 1871 in Italy

The principal clarinetist of La Scala in Milan for many years, Luigi Bassi composed a total of 27 works for clarinet. He also wrote 15 operatic fantasies for the instrument, including *Fantaisie brillante* in Verdi's *Rigoletto*.

Clarinet Trio in A Minor, Op. 114

Johannes Brahms

Composed: 1891

Last PCMS performance: Schumann Trio in 2009

Duration: 25 minutes

While on a visit to Meiningen in 1891, Brahms asked Richard Mühlfeld, the clarinetist of the Meiningen Court Orchestra, to perform for him. He was so impressed that he returned seven months later with two new works for clarinet written for him. The Trio is a typical example of the restrained and concentrated style of Brahms' later works and is most notable for its polished workmanship and Romantic warmth.