



PCMS
CONCERTS.ORG

PREVIEW
NOTES

Curtis Chamber Orchestra w/ Matthias Pintscher, conductor
Wednesday, January 26 – 8:00 PM
Perelman Theater

Background

The Curtis Chamber Orchestra draws its members from the Curtis Symphony Orchestra and has performed under the batons of Christoph Eschenbach, James Levine and Wolfgang Sawallisch, among others. Conductor Matthias Pintscher may be the most sought-after German composer of his generation. He divides his time equally between composing and conducting.

Program (ALL PCMS premieres)

Dumbarton Oaks

Igor Stravinsky

Born: Jun. 17, 1882 in Orianenbaum, Russia

Died: Apr. 16, 1971 in New York, NY

Composed: 1938

Duration: 15 minutes

Also known as the Concerto in E flat for chamber orchestra, this work is representative of Stravinsky's "neo-Classic" period, which spanned the middle third of his extraordinarily creative life. It was commissioned in celebration of the 30th wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Woods Bliss and named after their Washington, D.C. estate. Stravinsky was immersed in the music of Bach at the time, and the piece is in many ways an essay on the art of writing a concerto in the Baroque style realized in modern harmonic, rhythmic, and melodic idioms.

Neapolitan Songs

Hans Werner Henze

Born: Jul. 1, 1926 in Gütersloh, Germany

Composed: 1956

Duration: 17 minutes

The German-born, Italy-based Henze's music is extremely varied in style, having been influenced by serialism, atonality, Italian music, Arabic music and jazz as well as traditional schools of German composition. Written for the eminent baritone Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau, these five songs were written soon after Henze's politically-driven relocation to Naples.

Trois poèmes de Stéphane Mallarmé

Maurice Ravel

Born: Mar. 7, 1875 in Ciboure, France

Died: Dec. 28, 1937 in Paris, France

Composed: 1913

Duration: 12 minutes

The French symbolist poet Stéphane Mallarmé influenced a variety of artists, including Ravel. His famously dissociative imagery is reflected in the angularity and dissonance of Ravel's composition. The first song, "Soupir" (Sigh), is in two parts, the first slow and delicate (evoking the poet's "white fountains"), the second more spacious. The vocal line becomes more jagged in "Placet futile" (Futile Petition), a gently melancholy love song. And in the final song, the spare and mysterious "Surgi de la croupe et du bond" (Risen from the Crupper and Leap), Ravel comes as close as he would ever come to the atonality of Schoenberg.

Songs from Solomon's Garden

Matthias Pintscher

Born: Jan. 29, 1971 in Marl, Germany

Composed: 2009

Duration: 15 minutes

This setting of the second and brightest song from the *Shir-ha shirim* (*Song of Solomon*) was written for baritone Thomas Hampson and the New York Philharmonic, who premiered it at New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art last spring.