

PHILADELPHIA CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY

a life more beautiful

PREVIEW
NOTES

CAROLIN WIDMANN, *violin*

GLORIA CHIEN, *piano*

Wednesday, March 27 – 7:30 PM

Perelman Theater, Kimmel Center

PROGRAM (*Selection of Program Notes*)

Violin Sonata in A Major, Op. 30, No. 1

Ludwig van Beethoven

Born: December 16, 1770, in Bonn, Germany

Died: March 26, 1827, in Vienna Austria

Composed: 1801-02

Duration: 25 minutes

Beethoven wrote nine of his ten sonatas for violin and piano in his late 20s and early 30s, from 1797-1803. The three sonatas of Op. 30 date to 1801-02, the same years that Beethoven confessed desperation over his growing deafness to his brother in the famous Heiligenstadt Testament letter, and also an intensely unstable moment in Viennese history, between the French Revolution and the Napoleonic wars.

Divertimento for Violin and Piano

Igor Stravinsky

Born: June 17, 1882, in Lomonosov, Russia

Died: April 6, 1971, in New York, NY

Composed: 1932

Duration: 20 minutes

Stravinsky's Divertimento for Violin and Piano is one of a number of offspring from the composer's 1928 ballet *Le baiser de la fée* ("The Fairy's Kiss"). The ballet itself is based on songs by Tchaikovsky and readily evokes the style of the earlier Russian master with its sweet, delicate melodies and sequential repetitions. The original music from *Le baiser de la fée* is altered somewhat in the Divertimento: Stravinsky shortens some sections and adds new endings to others. The violin and piano version of the Divertimento was a collaborative effort between Stravinsky and violinist Samuel Dushkin, who performed much of the composer's music.

Violin Sonata in F Minor, Op. 80

Sergei Prokofiev

Born: April 23, 1891, in Sontsiivka, Ukraine

Died: March 5, 1953, in Moscow, Russia

Composed: 1938-46

Duration: 32 minutes

Prokofiev wrote two sonatas for violin and piano. He started working on the Sonata No. 1 in F Minor, Op. 80, in 1938 but set it aside, finishing it nearly a decade later in 1946 after his second sonata was already published. Dedicated to the great violinist David Oistrakh who provided the impetus for its completion and who performed its premiere, it is an incredible virtuoso work, darker and more serious than the second sonata (originally for flute and violin). It was apparently influenced by a Handel sonata that Prokofiev admired, and its substantial four-movement design follows the Baroque plan of slow-fast-slow-fast.