

PHILADELPHIA CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY

a life more beautiful

PREVIEW
NOTES

Avi Avital, mandolin

Bridget Kibbey, harp

Thursday, February 13 – 7:30 PM

Perelman Theater, Kimmel Center

PROGRAM [Selection of Program Notes]

***Vocalise-Étude en forme de Habañera* [Arr.]**

Maurice Ravel

Born: March 7, 1875, in Ciboure, France

Died: December 28, 1937

Composed: 1907

Duration: 3 minutes

In the Vocalise, the insistent repetition of the habañera rhythm is set against the virtuosic runs and portamento effects in the voice part, showcasing Ravel's skill as a composer for the voice. The musical material for the Vocalise is thought to be derived from Ravel's opera *L'Heure espagnole*, which he was working on early in 1907. Though the work as a whole perhaps lacks substance, the Vocalise is a good example of Ravel's understanding of the musical potential of the voice, and it numbers among Ravel's other important works in the French-Spanish style.

***Sonata in E-flat Major, BWV 1031* [Arr.]**

Johann Sebastian Bach

Born: March 31, 1685, in Eisenach, Germany

Died: July 28, 1750, in Leipzig, Germany

Composed: 1730-1734

Duration: 10 minutes

No copy of this sonata has survived in Bach's hand, yet that's true of all but one of Bach's flute sonatas. Some musicologists suggest that this is the work, at least in part, of C.P.E. Bach or some other composer, yet the authorship has not been disputed seriously enough for this light, entertaining piece to be banned from the Bach catalog. Here, the composer takes note of the emerging galant style of the 1730s, with light textures, simple harmonies, and highly ornamented melodies

***The Seasons, Op. 37b* [Arr.]**

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Born: May 7, 1840, in Votkinsk, Russia

Died: November 6, 1893, in Saint Petersburg, Russia

Composed: 1875-1876

Duration: 41 minutes

The suffix "bis" at the end of an opus number often means the piece is an arrangement or adaptation of another work. In this case it was appended by Tchaikovsky's publisher, linking it to the then-recently published *Grand Sonata in G Major for piano, Op. 37*. Here, Tchaikovsky wrote 12 separate pieces as part of a commission from Nikolai Bernard, publisher of the monthly music magazine, *Novelliste*. The composer was to provide an appropriate piece for each of the 12 issues of the magazine, a work reflecting feelings or images associated with the month in the title.

***Siete canciones populares españolas* [Arr.]**

Manuel de Falla

Born: November 23, 1876, in Cádiz, Spain

Died: November 14, 1946, in Alta Gracia, Argentina

Composed: 1914

Duration: 11 minutes

Falla had found that the typical seven-note major or minor scales and the standard harmonies and progressions based on them somehow seemed false when used to set much folk music, particularly those using other kinds of scales or modes. When he applied his idea of harmonies to a Greek folk song. He liked the results so much he decided to try the same approach to Spanish folk songs or settings of Spanish folk poetry. The settings in *Siete Canciones Españolas* use folk and original melodies, and sometimes even adaptations of the previously published accompaniments to these melodies.