

PHILADELPHIA CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY

a life more beautiful

Philippe Tondre, oboe;
Roberto Díaz, viola; Amy Yang, piano

Wednesday, February 8 – 7:30 PM

American Philosophical Society, Benjamin Franklin Hall

**PREVIEW
NOTES**

PROGRAM

Three Romances, Op. 94

Robert Schumann

Born: June 8, 1810, Zwickau, Germany

Died: July 29, 1856, Bonn, Germany

Composed: 1849

Duration: 12 minutes

Like so many of Schumann's vivid character pieces, the Three Romances have charmed listeners with sonic fairytales whose musical essence transcend even their specific instrumentation. The two outer Romances begin in a somber, minor key but pursue rich, wordless narratives in and out of a variety of moods. The center Romance is the inverse: starting in the light but shifting midway into a much darker outburst of passion.

Deux Rhapsodies

Charles Martin Loeffler

Born: January 30, 1861, Berlin, Germany

Died: May 19, 1935, Medfield, MA

Composed: 1905

Duration: 22 minutes

The Two Rhapsodies are revisions of two songs from a set of three Loeffler wrote in 1898 for bass voice, clarinet, and piano. They are settings of poems by the French symbolist poet Maurice Rollinat. Loeffler set many French symbolist poems to music, in addition to writing instrumental works inspired by poems. With influences ranging as wide as Brahms, Liszt, and Debussy, the Two Rhapsodies are a beautiful and mournful exploration of the three chosen instruments and their distinct sonorities. The piano often plays in the lower registers, dramatic and stormy. The oboe and viola play a mixture of simple, haunting harmonies and ornately flowing lines. The three instruments follow and copy each other throughout both movements, progressing in fits and starts.

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

Johannes Brahms

Born: May 7, 1833, Hamburg, Germany

Died: April 3, 1897, Vienna, Austria

Composed: 1894

Duration: 22 minutes

Brahms' Sonata in E-Flat was originally composed for the clarinet, but he soon decided to arrange it for the viola, feeling that the work's glowing, reflective character would be equally well-served by the rich-toned string instrument. The sonata is highly textured and more truly songful than any of the other string sonatas. The exceptionally beautiful first movement is bathed in a warm, sustained lyricism. The passionate second movement, in the form of a vigorous Scherzo, begins with a fiery viola solo. The final movement starts with a flowing, folk-like theme, which is followed by six variations. Brahms was always fascinated by the element of rhythm, and he uses complicated syncopated patterns as important structural components in several of them.

Schilflieder

August Klughardt

Born: November 30, 1847, Köthen, Germany

Died: August 3, 1902, Rosslau, Germany

Composed: 1872

Duration: 19 minutes

The *Schilflieder* (Song of the Reeds) were inspired by the poem of the same name by Nikolaus von Lenau (1802-50), whose poetry also inspired the tone poems of Richard Strauss and Franz Liszt. The *Schilflieder* are five fantasy pieces which describe a wanderer's day and evening in the forest and by a pond. Each has a different mood. Klughardt quotes the text from each of the five stanzas in each of the five fantasy pieces. Dedicated to Franz Liszt, the *Schilflieder* were quite well known during the composer's lifetime.