

PHILADELPHIA CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY

a life more beautiful

PREVIEW
NOTES

Chee-Yun, violin

Mak Grgić, guitar

Friday, May 10 – 7:30 PM

Perelman Theater, Kimmel Center

PROGRAM (selection of notes)

East/West-ish

Preludes (Sel.) (Trans. Heifetz)

George Gershwin

Born: September 26, 1898, New York, NY

Died: July 11, 1937, Hollywood, CA

Composed: 1942

Duration: 10 minutes

Jascha Heifetz and George Gershwin, two of the best-known figures in American music, were good friends and often played together. Heifetz had urged Gershwin to write a violin concerto for him, but unfortunately Gershwin died before the project got off the ground. Heifetz's transcriptions of Gershwin's Preludes for solo piano are the next best thing. His version showcases both instruments, and the music shines with the violin's new sonorities.

Romanian Folk Dances

Béla Bartók

Born: March 25, 1881, Sânnicolau Mare, Romania

Died: September 26, 1945, New York, NY

Composed: 1915

Duration: 7 minutes

Bartók's Romanian Folk Dances are based upon the fiddle-tunes of the Transylvanian districts and vary in mood from the vital haughtiness of the Stick Dance, to the insinuating flirtatiousness of the Sash Dance, the gentility of the Horn Dance, the rhythmic lift of the Romanian polka, and the bold vigor of the final two dances.

Suite Populaire Espagnole

Manuel de Falla

Born: November 23, 1876, Cádiz, Spain

Died: November 14, 1946, Alta Gracia, Argentina

Composed: 1914

Duration: 13 minutes

In his Spanish Suite, Manuel de Falla did more than just reproduce the emotionality of folklore, suspended between deep singing and elemental rhythm – he sublimated it. The musical narration, varying from one individual miniature to the next, draws the audience into a kaleidoscope of colourful images of music and movement.

Histoire du Tango (Sel.)

Astor Piazzolla

Born: March 11, 1921, Mar del Plata, Argentina

Died: July 5, 1992, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Composed: 1985

Duration: 12 minutes

Astor Piazzolla was keenly aware of the changing style of the Argentine national dance over his lifetime. *Histoire du Tango* is the vehicle by which he explores this change. Like North American jazz, tango originated in bordellos, hence "Bordel 1900." The second movement, "Café 1930," derives from the period when tango was the favorite dance of all classes in Argentina and known worldwide. The third movement, "Nightclub 1960," evokes Piazzolla's return to Argentina after his efforts to create Jazz Tango in the U.S.

Le Grand Tango (Arr. Gubaidulina)

Astor Piazzolla

Composed: 1982

Duration: 11 minutes

A sonic representation of Argentine culture and passion, Piazzolla's *Le Grand Tango* was originally written for the cello and piano. Esteemed composer Sofia Gubaidulina later did a fabulous virtuosic arrangement for the violin and piano that is well known amongst violinists who have been charmed by Piazzolla's music.