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An Invitation to the Party!

Who doesn’t love a great party? Many of our friends that we love are there, as well as new people to meet and get to know! Like any festivity we need to start off with some music to invite everyone onto the dance floor: waltzes of Schubert formed into a delightful medley by Franz Liszt! Then we move to the Viennese waltzes of Brahms that gather in their strength, complexity, and seriousness. To conclude the 1st half, we invite the rambunctious Debussy into the mix as he delights with the rhythmically contagious “Masques” and the ecstatic melodies and harmonies of “The Joyful Island”!

Like most parties, celebrities and high-profile individuals arrive “fashionably late” so with Schumann’s Carnaval, we get to see the main attraction: musical images of the actors from the popular 16th century Italian theatrical group: Commedia dell’arte, the 2 personalities of Schumann himself (Eusebius and Florestan) and more! People as famous as Clara Schumann, Paganini, and even the enigmatic Chopin grace us with their presence, until the evening ends with every artist who wishes to join the “League of David” in a march celebrating the triumph of art over those who oppose it!

Liszt/Schubert: Soirees de Vienne no.6 (Sophie Menter Version) Brahms: 16 Waltzes op.39
Debussy: Masques
Debussy: L’isle Joyeuse

Intermission
Schumann: Carnaval

1. Préambule
2. Pierrot
3. Arlequin
4. V alse noble
5. Eusebius
6. Florestan
7. Coquette
8. Replique
9. Sphinxs
10. Papillons
12. Chiarina
13. Estrella
14. Reconnaissance
15. Pantalon et Colombine
16. Valse allemande – Paganini
17. Aveu
18. Promenade
19. Pause
20. Marche of the League of David against the Phillistines

*Note, if a projector is available for this event, the audience can get to know all of these characters on a more personal level as they get to see and hear the voice of each individual alongside the concert!
The Sound of Paintings

Music Inspired by Visual art

Music and Visual Art have often been intertwined throughout history, with some composers writing particular pieces of music because they were extremely inspired by the paintings they viewed. In this special one-hour presentation, the audiences will view paintings by artists such as Watteau, Böcklin, Hartmann, van Gogh, and more, alongside the music of Debussy, Rachmaninoff, and Mussorgsky. This is an opportunity to experience the world of Art in a multi-dimensional way and see the sparks that lead to the creation of masterpieces in the piano literature!

Debussy: Masques (5.5 mins)
Mezzetin – Jean-Antoine Watteau

Rachmaninoff: Prelude Op.32 No.10 (6 mins) The Homecoming – Arnold Böcklin

Debussy: L’isle joyeuse (6 mins)

L’Embarquement pour Cythere – Jean Antoine Watteau

Mussorgsky: Pictures at an Exhibition (30 min)
- Promenade (Mussorgsky by Ilya Repin)
- The Gnome (The Gnome by Victor Hartman)
- Promenade
- The Old Castle (Landscape with the Ruins of the Castle of Egmond by Jacob van Ruisdael)
- Promenade
- Tuileries (Blind Man’s Buff By Andre Henri Dargelas)
- Bydlo (Cart with Black Ox by Vincent van Gogh)
- Promenade
- Ballet of Unhatched Chicks (Victor Hartmann)
- Samuel Goldenberg and Schmuyle (Victor Hartmann)
- Promenade
- Limoges. The Market (Market in Nizhny Novgorod by Apollinari Vasnetsov)
- Catacombs – With the Dead in a Dead Language (Victor Hartmann)
- The Hut on Hen’s Legs (Baba Yaga by Ivan Bilibin) and Victor Hartmann
- The Great Gate of Kiev (Victor Hartmann)

*Note, if a projector is available for this event, the audience can see the paintings and hear their story alongside the concert*
The Road to Jazz

Join me as I trace the development of Jazz, from its genesis in the 18th century to being one of the most popular forms of music in the 21st! Bach’s Goldberg Variations show a piece unified by a 32-bar chord progression, just like any standard jazz chart. Composers like Chopin and Debussy wrote music that would inspire many jazz ballades from a melodic and harmonic standpoint. Ragtime was an American music that was popularized by Scott Joplin in the 19th century, eventually making its way over to Europe and into the ears of new composers like Schulhoff who left their own individual mark on the style. Toward the end of World War II, we began to get music like Prokofiev’s Precipitato from Piano Sonata No.7 that has a mechanistic, intensely chromatic quality while combining jazz and even Rock n’ Roll!

Jazz pianists like Bill Evans, Richie Beirach and Joseph Kozma wrote beautiful ballades for the piano, but one of the most iconic pieces of jazz piano music is Rhapsody in Blue by George Gershwin. This is his seminal work, combining jazz, and classical elements in perfect harmony.

Bach: Goldberg Variations
Aria, Variations, 1, 7, 4, 5
Chopin: Nocturne op.37 no.1
Debussy: From Preludes Book 1: La fille aux cheveux de lin
Chopin: Etude Op.25 No.9 in G flat major
Joplin: Maple Leaf Rag
Schulhoff: Ragtime from Pittoresken
Prokofiev: Precipitato from Piano Sonata No.7

Intermission

Bill Evans: Danny Boy
Richie Beirach: Elm
Joseph Kozma: Autumn Leaves
Gershwin: Rhapsody in Blue