EVREN OZEL, piano
Winner, 2021 Concert Artists Guild Competition

Traced Overhead

This program features all works by pianist-composers, and the newer masterpieces by Thomas Adès show signs of influence from the older masterpieces by Beethoven and Chopin. Both Beethoven’s Op. 111 and Adès’ Traced Overhead have the sense of rising from the depths of darkness to the heights of heaven over the course of the work, with the last movement of each taking up the majority of the piece, in a chorale-fashion. The Chopin and Adès Mazurkas mingle with one another in a semi-humorous manner, and the program ends with two classic Chopin dazzlers.

Ades: Traced Overhead (12 minutes)
Beethoven: Sonata Op. 111 (25 minutes)
- intermission
Chopin: Mazurkas, Op. 59 (10 minutes)
Ades: Mazurkas, Op. 27 (8 minutes)
Chopin: Ballade, Op. 38 (7 minutes)
Chopin: Scherzo, Op. 31 (9 minutes)

Scenes from Childhood

This program takes the listener on a musical “lifelong journey” in some ways. Schumann’s Kinderszenen ("Scenes from Childhood") show the composer’s simpler, more untriggered side compared to his other, much larger cycles. The score of Scriabin’s 5th Sonata is inscribed with a verse from his very own “Poem of Ecstasy” and the composer’s fascination with sensuality is apparent in the luscious harmonies and recurring thematic material. Among Ligeti’s first book of etudes, the last three are perhaps most widely-known: “Fanfares” and “Arc-en-ciel” have elements of Jazz music woven into their pianistic difficulties, and “Automne à Varsovie” is more melodious and melancholic. The program ends with Beethoven’s final piano sonata, which was written when the composer was already completely deaf, and the emotional power of this mature work is overwhelming in the best way possible.

Schumann: Kinderszenen, Op. 15 (19 minutes)
Scriabin: Sonata No. 5, Op. 53 (11 minutes)
Ligeti: from Etudes, Book 1 (13 minutes)
Fanfares
Arc-en-ciel
Automne à Varsovie
Beethoven: Sonata Op. 111 (25 minutes)