

Senior Recital

Andrew Wilson, piano

April 15, 2023

5:00pm

All Faiths Chapel, Kansas State University

PROGRAM

Tocatta in E minor BWV 914.....Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Prelude

Un poco allegro

Adagio

Fuga

Piano Sonata No. 8 in A minor K. 310.....Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)

Allegro maestoso

Andante cantabile con espressione

Presto

Intermission

Scherzo Op. 31 in B flat minor.....Fryderyk Chopin (1810-1849)

Sonata Op. 1 No. 1 in F minorSergei Prokofiev (1891-1953)

Allegro

KANSAS STATE
UNIVERSITY

School of Music,
Theatre, and Dance

Toccatina in E minor BWV 914 Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

- I. Prelude
- II. Un poco allegro
- III. Adagio
- IV. Fuga

Johann Sebastian Bach was born in Eisenach, Germany in 1685 and died in Leipzig, Germany in 1750. He is considered one of the greatest innovators of keyboard repertoire. In 1700, Bach attended the St. Michael's school in Lüneburg, where his organ teacher, Georg Böhm, introduced the young Bach to the music of Buxtehude. Bach composed Seven Toccatas BWV 910-916 during his early years living in Weimar (1703-1707).

The word "toccata" stems from the Italian word *toccare*, which means, "to touch." Generally, toccatas are keyboard pieces, originally for organ or harpsichord, and they have many forms and styles. The toccata can be characterized as an improvisatory virtuoso piece consisting of fast-moving passages emphasizing the dexterity of the performer.

The Introduction begins with a four-note motif that starts on the offbeat. He develops this motif by increasing the texture to three voices and modulating to closely related keys. As common in all movements of this toccata, each begin in E minor and conclude in E major. The second section, *Un poco allegro*, is a four-voice double fugue. Two fugue subjects begin together and are always played simultaneously upon each new entry. This lighter section should contrast the darker opening.

The *Adagio* section is highly improvisatory and feels much more free consisting of arpeggios and scalar passages. This section hints back to the dark introduction and consists of many different changes of mood. The authenticity of the final section, *Fuga*, is unknown. The opening subject is nearly identical is an anonymous manuscript that is accredited to Benedetto Marcello. This section can be characterized by the energetic and persistent 16th note rhythm that occurs until the end of the piece.

Piano Sonata No. 8 in A minor K. 310 W.A. Mozart (1756-1791)

- I. *Allegro maestoso*
- II. *Andante cantabile con espressione*
- III. *Presto*

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was born in 1756 in Salzburg, Austria and died 1791 in Vienna. A child prodigy, Mozart is considered one of the greatest composers in the history of classical music. He composed in all genres of his time and was exceptional in them all. His father Leopold Mozart was a violinist and author. He took the young Mozart to Munich to play at the Bavarian Court, and then a few months later to Vienna to perform in the Imperial Court and other noble estates. After the success of these performances, Leopold left his position at the prince Archbishop's court in Salzburg and took the family on tour, visiting all the main cultural centers of Europe.

Eventually Mozart began to rebel from the control of his father and wanted to travel freely. Mozart wanted to go to Paris, but his father insisted that Mozart's mother accompany him on his travels. When Mozart and his mother arrived in Paris, she was seriously ill. After she had passed, Mozart returned home to Salzburg a few months later. Mozart composed a total of 19 solo piano sonatas and only two of them are written in a minor key. Sonata K. 310 was composed in 1778 while Mozart was living in Paris. The tensions and darkness captured in this sonata give us a glimpse into his mind following the death of his mother.

The first movement *Allegro maestoso*, is in the style of a "Turkish March." The Ottoman Turks had a colorful and distinctive militaristic style called "janissary", which can be heard throughout this movement. The movement begins in the home key of A minor and modulates to several closely related keys. The development section begins in C major before modulating to more distant keys before returning to A minor for the end of the movement. The second movement *Andante cantabile con espressione*, is a delicate lyrical movement with a stormy development. The final movement, *Presto*, is built of a three-note motif that becomes the basis for the entire movement. Similar to the first movement, this movement begins in A minor and ends passionately in A minor.

Scherzo Op. 31 in B-flat minor Fryderyk Chopin (1810-1849)

Chopin was born in 1810 in Żelazowa Wola, Poland, and died in 1849 in Paris, France. He was a child prodigy on the piano and as a composer. At age 8 he made his first public appearance at a charity concert in Warsaw. At age 16, Chopin enrolled in the newly founded Warsaw Conservatory of music. He made his debut in Vienna in 1829. Soon after, Chopin, while performing in Vienna again, learned of the Polish revolt against Russia, a political development which ultimately led him to settle in Paris.

After his departure from Poland, his musical style began to evolve. He composed a several single movement solo piano pieces including the four ballades, the four scherzos, and the two fantasies. Chopin was influenced by the scherzos of Beethoven. In the classical era, a scherzo is typically associated with a multi-movement work and has a lighthearted mood. The word *Scherzo* translates to "joke" in Italian; although, Chopin's scherzos are quite the opposite. Straying from the traditional form, Chopin composed a total of four single movement Scherzos between the years 1835-1843, each of them being dark and passionate.

According to Wilhelm von Lenz, a pupil of Chopin, the composer said that the opening of Scherzo No. 2 in B-flat minor was a question and the second phrase the answer. In the words of Lenz regarding Scherzo No. 2, "For Chopin it was never questioning enough, never soft enough." The opening section is in B-flat minor, however Chopin does not stay here for long and modulates to many different keys throughout the piece before returning to B-flat minor to conclude the piece.

Piano Sonata No. 1 in F minor Op. 1Sergei Prokofiev (1891-1953)

Allegro

Sergei Prokofiev was born in Sontsovka, Ukraine in 1891 and died in Moscow, Russia in 1953. As a child, his mother arranged trips to Moscow regularly to see opera and theater performances. He attended the St. Petersburg Conservatory from 1904-1914. Prokofiev was a Soviet composer who wrote in a wide range of musical genres solo piano music, symphonies, film music and more. His career led him to travel to many countries and meet many prominent figures. Characteristics of his compositions include new harmonic language, being highly expressive, and rhythmic vitality.

Prokofiev composed his rarely performed today Sonata Op. 1 when he was only fifteen years old in 1906. This sonata is a reworking of a three-movement sonata he had composed a few years prior. He discarded the other two movements and renamed it Sonata Op. 1. Prokofiev stayed true to the classical sonata form. All themes presented are related to each other which brings a sense of unity to the music. This sonata marks the end of his early period and the start of a new more mature period. This piece, along with his Op. 2 Etudes, were premiered during his first appearance in Moscow in 1910. The stylistically, this sonata represents late Romanticism and is quite different from Prokofiev's later works.

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