

Twyla's Senior Recital

October 25th, 2025

4:00pm

Kirmser Room 204, Kansas State University

PROGRAM

Three Romances for Violin and piano, Mvt. 2

Clara Schumann

Sicilienne

Maria-Theresa Von Paradis

The Deserted Garden

Florence B. Price

Chanson Trise

Pyotr Tchaikovsky

Violin Sonata 3 in F major Mvt 1, 2

George Friderick Handel

Violin, Twyla Lincicome
Piano, Connor Jones

Continue on for Program notes about each piece.

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Three Romances for Violin and Piano, Movement 2, Clara Schumann (1819-1896)

Clara Schumann was a famous solo pianist, composer, and teacher. She lived from September 13th, 1819 to May 20th, 1896. She was one of the most recognized women pianists of her time. She performed concerts for 61 years of her life. Schuman got her start at an early age. Throughout her career she supported and became close friends with Joseph Joachim, Johannes Brahms, and married to Robert Schumann. She supported and uplifted their careers by collaborating with them on concerts, compositions and more. It was not until recently that her music and compositions have been recognized as important. This is due to the time and how suppressed women composers were. Women composers were not allowed to publish their works under their own names, so there might be Clara Schumann pieces actually published under her husband's name.

The 3 Romances for Violin and piano is a piece I was introduced to while taking History 2 over the summer. I enjoyed hearing this piece and discussed with my professor, Dr Jansen, about learning a movement from this work. Not just for my recital but to explore composers who are not Bach, Beethoven, or in general dead white men from before the 1900s. I wanted to explore composers who were underrepresented during their time and now are coming to light as distinguished individuals who deserve recognition for their work. This shows that even when suppressed or completely erased from society's lens, underrepresented individuals will shine through.

Sicilienne, Maria-Theresa Von Paradis (1759-1824)

Maria-Theresa Von Pardis lived from May 15th 1759 to February 1st, 1824. She was a well known pianist, composer, and singer of her time. She was supported by her father Joseph Anton Von Paradis. She gradually lost her sight from the age of 2 to 5. She was in medical care to assist her sight loss in her adult life for a year until she was pulled from Frans Anton Mesmer's care. Eventually, her blindness became permanent. There is no discussion on what degree of blindness she had, but through her works she used more tactile devices to compose her works. She lived in the heart of Vienna where she knew Mozart, Salieri, and Haydn. Von Paradis has composed many operas, Cantanas, and solos, in which many pieces have been lost to time.

There is controversy between historians on who wrote this Sicilienne. One name mentioned multiple times is Samuel Dushkin, who has misattributed the piece to Von Paradis' name. This means that Dushkin composed this piece and published it under Paradis' name when she did not. Samuel Dushkin was a Polish violinist, composer, and pedagogue. He is of Jewish origin and was born on December 13th, 1891 and died on July 24th 1976. He worked closely with the composer Igor Stravinsky.

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I initially chose this piece knowing Maria-Theresa Von Paradis is a woman composer as well as a blind woman. She is a true inspiration showing music is not just for the privileged and able bodied. Disabled people deserve a right to express themselves in music if they so choose, like I found for myself. Von Paradis is part of the reason Braille was created. She knew Valentin Haüy where she shared her methods of reading and writing music with tactiles. This then gave Haüy the tools needed to continue this method and discuss it with Louis Braille who later invented Braille which is a universal tactile reading and writing device for blind individuals., which is still used today

The Deserted Garden, Florence B. Price (1887-1953)

Florence B Price was born in 1887. She is a well-known composer for her time due to being one of the first nationally-recognized Black Women Composers for her first Symphony. This symphony won a composition competition. Florence Price is known to have written over 300 pieces during her years. She is an African American composer born and raised in Little Rock Arkansas, Once she became of age was able to get into college and study music. She then returned back to Little Rock and met her husband, Thomas J. Price. Due to her race and segregation, she had a hard time finding work. Price, her husband, and two daughters then moved to Chicago due to racial violence in Little Rock for safety. Throughout the move and abusive treatment from her husband, she left him; taking the two children and moving into her friend's house and cohabitated with Margaret Bond.

Florence B Price is inspirational for the vast variety of pieces she composed throughout her life. She composed for various radio stations under a pen name. Price composed four total symphonies, many gospel, chamber, and solos like “ The Deserted Garden”

The Deserted Garden was composed in 1933. Referenced from Alex Burns’ article “This piece is a great example of Price incorporating Western traditions such as structure, and then her use of modal harmony and the way she progresses tonality. Throughout the piece Price uses the dorian mode and the pentatonic scale, which gives the piece the bluesy feeling. The rich sound of the lower register from the violin interweaves with the simple but effective piano accompaniment.” (Burns, 2020). Throughout the piece you can hear different shifts and changes from the violin. This gives the music a richness from the American southern musical scene. This is a representation of her individual experience as a Black American Woman who grew up in gospel scenes, Blues, and classical spaces. She is able to express herself fully in many of her pieces.

She is someone I wanted to highlight knowing that in her lifetime 1887-1953, she saw a major political shift. Segregation and Jim Crow laws were in full swing. We still see these effects today. It is so crucial to know history about not just the political figures of the time, but of individuals like Florence who dealt with many times feeling unsafe in her city. She was born from a biracial marriage, which at this time was not constitutionally legally recognized. She then also married Thomas who was also a white man. She is just another individual who would be lost to time if historians did not see value in her amazing story. I believe it is important to see how exploring, celebrating, and accepting our differences as human beings will show how similar we truly are and that we all deserve to be represented and seen by one another and our government.

Chanson Triste Op. 40 No.2, Pyotr Tchaikovsky (1840-1898)

Tchaikovsky was a well known composer. As a young child he began piano lessons. He was born in Russia with 5 younger siblings. Despite his parents wanting him to go into civil service, Tchaikovsky went into music fully encompassing his life. He composed many symphonies, operas, solo pieces, and ballets. Tchaikovsky is most notably known for his Ballets like Swan Lake or The Nutcracker. He had a good bond with many of his younger siblings, in which he wrote letters consistently through his life and adventures. These letters were kept from the public for over a century. In 2018 some of his letters to his brothers Modest and Anatoly were released to the public in an english translation.

Chanson Triste has been arranged for different ensembles including for Violin and Piano. The original Chanson Triste was composed for piano. This piece translates to "sad song". While thinking about this piece I interpret Chanson Triste as a sad and elegant piece. Tchaikovsky went through many challenging aspects of his own identity and being Russian. Which shows how he was able to discreetly express his troubles in Chanson Triste.

Pyotr Tchaikovsky is now recognized as a gay man in the 1800s. He never publicly admitted this due to Russia's ban and oppressive nature of LGBT identities. This still reigns true for Russia and even in many states in the US. There are plenty of letters written to his brother, Modest, discussing his wants and desires as a closeted gay man. He even married Antonina Miliukova who was a student of his at the time to keep up the expectations. This marriage was short lived and he expressed to Miliukova their relationship was only platonic from his side. Two months after they got married they got a divorce.

Right now, LGBT individuals around the US are being treated and claimed to be terrorists and extremists by the current administration. From someone who is still finding themselves in life, I do not believe we are extremists or terrorists. When I was researching Tchaikovsky's story these are the same claims in which the Dictators of Russia used. LGBT people want to be able to fully themselves. I have seen and felt this happiness first hand. I enjoy seeing how much happier individuals are when accepted and respected for their identity. Tchaikovsky is just one voice and view of how LGBT people have been treated throughout history and today.

Sonata 3 in F Major, Movements 1 and 2, George Friderick Handel (1685-1759)

George Friderick Handel was born in Halle, Germany in 1685. As a young child he gravitated to music, disregarding his fathers' wishes for him to be a lawyer. He secretly practiced the Harpsichord that was stored in the attic. Later on he expressed his talent and began his music education under Friedrich Wilhelm Zachow where he mastered the Organ, Harpsichord, Violin and Oboe. He later moved to Hamburg to be a part of the orchestra as a violinist and harpsichordist. Handel then traveled to Rome, Italy which was the epicenter for Baroque Opera and Sacred music. He finally settled down in London, England after becoming the Kapellmeister to the Elector of Hanover. He made his Operatic debut with "Rinaldo" in 1711. In Handel's final years he became blind, and yet still composed his final works like the Messiah. There have been discussions about Handel's death relating to late stage lead poisoning which caused blindness, headache, irritability, and saturnine gout.

His Third Violin Sonata reminds me of walking through nature and feeling more grounded. The first movement is of this nature. Both movements have two different sections. The first movement does not repeat, but the second movement does. In the second movement the first section is an introduction to the melody which gets repeated. The second section joins in with rhythmic and melodic changes and developments throughout until you find yourself back at the main melody reinstated, this also repeated. When performing this piece I feel a sense of calm. The second movement is playful, bubbly, and bouncy. There is this child-like wonder when performing this piece. When listening to this piece, think of running through the fields on a sunshine day in the summer.

Handel is one of the composers I chose due to circumstance. I bonded with this piece through realizing my self worth, Self confidence, and who I am as a person living in this world. It has grown with me in a way I can not describe other than how thankful this piece has been a solid consistency in my life.

Final Thoughts

Over the course of my undergraduate I dealt with self discovery of being Nonbinary, knowing that this is an identity that is heavily oppressed as well as other transgender identities. I knew when I was in high school that I was not the same as my peers, not only through being disabled. I did not feel anything I did would make me more of one gender or another. Finding this aspect of my identity as well as being Asexual was hard. I knew there would be challenges and for the longest time I was afraid of being disowned by anyone who knew me. I have fully accepted myself for who I am. Due to this acceptance, I am more happy and grateful for the people who accept and respect me. No matter who someone is they do not change in the core of themselves. I think this is crucial when discussing such oppressed identities and minorities in this time where Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion are being targeted by the federal administration. As well as affecting college funding, which affects the resources people like me have to succeed in a higher education degree I have the right to an education, I have the right to be in public spaces as a queer disabled individual. I have the right to be who I am; no government, politician, or anyone can tell me who or what I should be. I believe representation gives everyone the chance to see, even just a glimpse, of themselves in someone else, just like these composers did for me and I hope you do too.

Thank you to those who have supported me near and far. My parents, Family, Friends, Peers, Professors, and Advisors to make this recital come true by supporting me and my efforts to make the world just a bit brighter.