Susan Koester Craig
obo

Nai-Ying Liao
piano

Sunday, November 10, 2019
4:30 pm
Martha-Ellen Tye Recital Hall
Program

Concerto for Oboe

I. Allegro spiritoso

Sonata for Oboe

I. Élégie

Oboe Sonata in C Minor

I. Adagio
II. Allegro
III. Adagio
IV. Allegro

Three Romances for Oboe

II. Einfach, inning (simple, heartfelt)
III. Nicht schnell (not fast)

Program Notes

Joseph Haydn was an Austrian composer of the Classical era, during the late 1700’s. He is known for writing musical “jokes” into his pieces, which are meant to surprise the audience. There has been a dispute in the last 70 years as to whether Haydn actually wrote the oboe concerto that is attributed to him. This is because during that time period, publishers would publish lesser known works in Haydn’s name in order to gain popularity and profits. For this reason, the piece is said to be attributed to Haydn.

Francis Poulenc was a French composer and pianist of the mid-1900’s. He wrote his Sonata for Oboe in memory of his good friend Sergei Prokofiev, who was also a composer. It is one of the last pieces he wrote before he died. His goal was to write a sonata for every wind instrument, but only completed one for flute, clarinet, and oboe before he died. The piece shares a few motifs with his Sonata for Clarinet.

George Frideric Handel was a German and British composer during the Baroque era. The Oboe Sonata in C Minor was written around the time when Handel moved to London, which is where he wrote many of his pieces. The first two movements of this sonata are similar to the Flute Sonata in E Minor. The second movement of the piece is a fugue between the oboe and piano, which was famous during the baroque era. The sonata concludes with a movement in Bouree style, which was a dance performed during this time period.

Robert Schumann was a German composer during the Romantic Era. His music is known for having extreme emotional contrasts, which reflect his mood swings due to what was believed to be bipolar disorder. The Three Romances for Oboe are believed to have been written during one of his manic episodes, and were written as a Christmas present to his wife, Clara Schumann, who was also a composer. This is the only piece he wrote for oboe, and is the only oboe music during that time that was not commissioned by a famous oboist. The pieces were first performed privately by Clara Schumann on piano, and Francois Schubert on violin. The Three Romances for Oboe are considered a standard piece of oboe repertoire.

This recital is given in partial fulfillment of the requirements for a Bachelor of Music degree. Susan is a student of Amy Christensen.