

Cello & Piano Concert

Stephanie Hunt, cello

Anne Ku, piano

Warnsveld

27 August 2010

| | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Songs My Mother Taught Me | Anton Dvorak (1841 – 1904) |
| Minuett | Ludwig van Beethoven (1770 – 1827) |
| Chanson Triste | Peter Tchaikovsky (1840 – 1893) |
| La Cinquantaine | Gabriel Marie (1852 – 1928) |
| Salut d'Amour | Edward Elgar (1857 – 1934) |
| Fantasiestücke | Robert Schumann (1810 – 1856) |

INTERMISSION

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Vocalise | Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873 – 1943) |
| Minuetto | Luigi Boccherini (1743 – 1805) |
| Intermezzo from Cavalleria Rusticana | Pietro Mascagni (1863 – 1945) |
| Sicilienne | Gabriel Fauré' (1845 – 1924) |

Programme Notes

Dvorak composed “Songs My Mother Taught Me” within a set of gypsy songs in 1880, set to poems of Adolf Heyduk in German (below). It was originally written for voice and piano, but later arranged for violin and piano by Fritz Kreisler, and famously recorded for the cello by Julian Lloyd Weber and Yo Yo Ma.

*Als die alte Mutter mich noch lehrte singen,
tränen in den Wimpern gar so oft ihr hingen.
Jetzt, wo ich die Kleinen selber üb im Sange,
rieselt's in den Bart oft,
rieselt's oft von der braunen Wange.*

English Lyrics (by Natalia Macfarren)

*Songs my mother taught me,
In the days long vanished;
Seldom from her eyelids
Were the teardrops banished.
Now I teach my children,
Each melodious measure.
Oft the tears are flowing,
Oft they flow from my memory's treasure.*

Beethoven's Minuett in G, originally written for orchestra, is more popular for the solo piano. In ABA form, the famous melody inspired the theme for the British comedy series *Fawlty Towers*.

Chanson Triste (sad song) Op. 40 no. 2 is one of the 12 piano solo pieces of moderate difficulty. Tchaikovsky composed this in 1878 in which he tried to distance himself from his wife who rejected his suggested divorce. It is a typical salon piece.

La Cinquantaine is a French word, which means "the Fiftieth" referring to the Fiftieth Wedding Anniversary, otherwise known as the Golden Wedding Anniversary where this piece often played.

Elgar wrote Salut d'Amour in July 1888 upon his engagement. Originally written for violin and piano, "love's greeting" has been transcribed more than any other work of his.

Schumann's three Fantasy Pieces op. 73 while originally written for clarinet and piano in 1849 have since been transcribed for violin and piano, cello and piano, etc.

Rachmaninoff published Vocalise op. 34 no. 14 in 1912 as a set of songs for soprano or tenor voice and piano. Vocalise itself has no text but to be sung with a vowel of the singer's choosing.

The **Minuet from String Quintet in E major op. 11 no. 5 g.275** is the most familiar work of the cellist Boccherini who wrote more than 100 string quintets. Written in 1771 and published in 1775, the minuet is actually in A major.

The instrumental intermezzo from the tragic, one-act opera **Cavalleria Rusticana** (rustic chivalry) is the most famous work of Mascagni, one of three winning operas to be staged the Teatro Constanzi in Rome in 1890.

Fauré originally conceived the **Sicilienne op. 78** for cello and piano but later included an orchestral version in op. 80. A sicilienne is a Sicilian shepherd dance, adopted by early 18th century composers as an instrumental form in 6/8 time.



Stephanie Hunt, cello

American cellist Stephanie Hunt is a versatile musician, performing on both modern and baroque cello. Stephanie enjoys playing orchestral and chamber music and has served as the principal cellist of the Shepherd School Opera Orchestra and assistant principal cellist of the Miami Symphony Orchestra. During her two summers as a Tanglewood Music Center Fellow, she worked with conductors James Levine, Kurt Masur, Seiji Ozawa, and Bernard Haitink. She has also had chamber music coachings with members of the Juilliard and Cleveland string quartets.

Stephanie graduated with a Bachelor of Music in modern cello summa cum laude from the University of Miami's Frost School of Music and received a Master of Music in modern cello from Rice University's Shepherd School of Music. She graduated with a Bachelor of Music honours and a Master of Music in baroque cello from the Utrecht Conservatory and also received her Master of Music there. Her teachers include Viola de Hoog, Norman Fischer, Hans Jørgen Jensen, Ross Harbaugh, and Monique Bartels. Stephanie lives in the Hague.

Anne Ku, piano

Born in Brunei of Chinese parents, Anne Ku starting performing from age 12 on Okinawa where she spent most of her youth. Her exceptional sight reading ability landed her engagements as choir accompanist, band keyboardist, church organist, and contract pianist. She won a full scholarship to Duke University in the USA. While majoring in electrical engineering and mathematics, she studied piano under Randall Love and gave a senior recital of Ravel, Debussy, and Poulenc. Anne has written two chamber operas based on real life experiences: "Jetsetter" and "Culture Shock!" Her ensemble work "All Tuned Out" was selected by Dutch Radio Four for broadcast in Spring 2007. Her works have been performed in the Netherlands, London, Slovakia, Cortona, and Honolulu. She wrote her piano teaching thesis on sight reading and a master's elective research paper on programming live music for elderly audiences.

Anne obtained her Bachelor of Music with Honours in Composition from Utrecht Conservatory in 2008. Since then she has focused mainly on chamber music with classical guitar, cello, and the French horn. Anne lives in Utrecht.

Website: <http://www.pianoguitar.com/cello/>