



Thursday, 25 November 2004, 7:30 pm

ZEYNEP UCBASARAN

piano

Mozart, Saygun, Beethoven, Muczynski, Liszt

Programme

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791) SONATA in C, K. 330

Allegro Moderato
Andante Cantabile
Allegretto

A. Adnan Saygun (1907-1991) ANADOLU'DAN (FROM ANATOLIA), Op.25

Meseli - Allegremente
Zeybek - Sostenuto e pesante
Halay - Con Moto

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827) 7 BAGATELLES, Op.33

No. 1 in E-flat major
No. 2 in C major
No. 3 in F major
No. 4 in A major
No. 5 in C major
No. 6 in D major
No. 7 in A-flat major

Robert Muczynski (1929-) SIX PRELUDES, Op. 6

Vivace
Lento
Allegro giocoso
Allegretto meno mosso
Moderato
Allegro Marcato

Interval (20 minutes)

Franz Liszt (1811-1886) VALLÉE D'OBERMANN

LES CLOCHES DE GENÈVE

APRÈS UNE LECTURE DU DANTE -FANTASIA QUASI SONATA

IMPORTANT NOTICE

All mobile phones must be switched off.

Would patrons also please stifle coughing as much as possible and ensure that watch alarms and any other electrical devices which may become audible are switched off.

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Programme notes

Wolfgang A. Mozart (1756-1791)

The sonata K. 330 in C was most likely composed in Vienna in the early 1780's along with the sonatas K. 331-332, and published by Artaria in 1784. The sonata is characterized by its purity, peaceful mood, beauty of its themes, and the economy of its musical language. The first movement is built around a lively motive and an extended lyrical conclusion. The beautiful middle movement derives its charm from the utter simplicity of its thematic material and the transparency of its harmonic structure. The finale is in sonata form with concise phrases, introduced by a simple first theme.

A. Adnan Saygun (1907-1991)

Adnan Saygun occupies a unique place as modern Turkey's most important contemporary composer. Saygun's musical education started in Izmir, and then continued in Paris under Vincent d'Indy. Upon his return to Turkey, he developed an intense interest in folk-music, and he achieved a creative fusion, combining elements of Turkish folk-music with western European techniques and through this synthesis developing a unique personal style. His compositional oeuvre is of major importance, both in scope and significance, covering all aspects of classical music.

Anadolu'dan (From Anatolia) op. 25, was written in 1945. It is based on three Anatolian folk-tunes, which form the three movements of the suite. The first movement *Meseli*, is a lilting syncopated tune that Saygun expands in range and color. The dominant aspect of the second movement *Zeybek* is rhythm. The last movement *Halay* contains certain elements of atonal writing and frequent changes in syncopation and tempo markings.

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)

Beethoven's Bagatelles are short and lyrical works for the piano that are considered to be the forerunners of the character pieces of the romantic period. In contrast with the long phrases and elaborate development sections of the piano sonatas, these attractive gems are based on short subjects with a certain economy of composition. Beethoven published three sets of these "Kleinigkeiten" as Op. 33, Op. 119 and Op. 126. The seven bagatelles in Op. 33 from 1801-1802 are brief and masterful works in miniature, musical diversions relying loosely on the folk idiom, but crafted with the unmistakable touch of a master.

Robert Muczynski (1929-)

Robert Muczynski was born in Chicago of Polish-Slovak parents. He studied composition with Alexander Tcherepnin at DePaul University in Chicago. Internationally recognized, Muczynski's works appear with increasing frequency on programs in the US, Europe, the Far East, Australia and Mexico. Muczynski was trained as a performing pianist, and his works reflect his high level of skill at the instrument. His Op. 6 titled *Six Preludes for Piano* was composed in 1953-54.

Interval (20 minutes)

Please check that your mobile phone is switched off,
Especially if you used it during the interval

Franz Liszt (1811-1886)

Franz Liszt wrote three virtuoso sets of descriptive character pieces based partly on the lyrical and pictorial impressions of his travels in Switzerland and in Italy. He worked on these pieces almost all of his adult life. *Les Cloches de Genève* and *Vallée d'Obermann* are from *Années de Pèlerinage, Première année: Suisse*. This set of nine pieces is based on Liszt's impressions of the sights and sounds of his stay in Switzerland during 1835-36.

Liszt dedicated *Les Cloches de Genève* to his eldest daughter, Blandine, in commemoration of her birth in Geneva on December 18, 1835. Distant sound of the bells of Cathedral of Saint-Pierre quietly announces this impressionistic and poetic piece. The sound of the bells then extends in range, increase in dynamics and rhythm with the addition of descending harp-like figurations.

In spite of its title, *Vallée d'Obermann* is not the musical representation of some Swiss valley, but refers to the French writer Etienne Pivert de Sénancour's autobiographical epistolary work *Obermann* (1804) which takes place in Switzerland. Liszt's treatment reflects the sentimental attitude toward nature and the morbid melancholy of this novel.

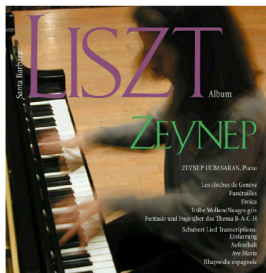
Popularly known as the *Dante Sonata*, *Après une Lecture du Dante - Fantasia quasi Sonata* is from *Années de Pèlerinage, Deuxième Année: Italie* (No. 7). Dante's *Divine Comedy*, the greatest poem of the middle ages, was Liszt's inspiration for this piece. The fantasy is a powerful meditation on two contrasting themes of Dante's journey through the Inferno: the gruesome torment and suffering of the eternally damned, and the tragic love story of Francesca da Rimini. Liszt's treatment of the infernal chaos and dark circles of hell travelled by Dante with the spirit of Virgil as his guide is a mass of taxing technical challenges and formidable passages of virtuoso piano-writing.

Biography

Pianist **Zeynep Ucbasaran** started her music studies at age four at the Istanbul Conservatory. She has her Concert Artist Diploma from the Liszt Academy of Music, Budapest, where she studied under Prof. Katalin Nemes, pupil of Bela Bartok, and other noted artists. She obtained her graduate and advanced graduate degrees in Piano Performance from Hochschule für Musik, Freiburg, Germany and from the University of Southern California, Los Angeles. Among other professional awards such as the American Liszt Society Award, Ucbasaran was a prize-winner in the 1996 and 2000 Los Angeles Liszt Competitions. She was designated a "woman of distinction in the year 2003" by the Daughters of Ataturk organization in the US. She has given many recitals and concerts in Turkey, Egypt, Hungary, Germany, Sweden, Norway, Slovenia, and in the United States.

Her recordings of the music of Franz Liszt "Santa Barbara Liszt Album" (2002), "Liszt / Sonata in B Minor" (2003), and Franz Schubert "Virtuoso Schubert" (2003), were issued by Eroica Classical Recordings.

Since 1996 she has been living in Santa Barbara, California. More information on Zeynep Ucbasaran can be found at her website: www.zupiano.com.



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