Program Notes

Christine Meyer

Senior Flute Recital

[Sketch of a flute and a microphone]
Concerto in G Major
Guiseppe Tartini

Guiseppe Tartini was born in Pirano, Istria on April 8, 1692 and died in Padua on February 26, 1770. An Italian composer, violinist, teacher, and theorist, he wrote numerous violin concerti and sonatas.

Tartini’s Concerto in G Major consists of three movements. Movements two and three will be performed this afternoon.

The second movement, Andante, has an opening statement in the orchestra that introduces the principal theme in the flute. This lyrically expressive theme is contrasted by a second theme which is more chromatic with dotted rhythms.

The third movement is a lively Allegro containing three solo sections for the flute separated by orchestral ritornelli.

The Pied Piper
Gordon Jacob

Gordon Jacob, a British composer, teacher, and writer, was born in London on July 5, 1895, and died in 1984.

According to an old German legend, the Pied Piper of Hamelin was a fantastically dressed musician who, in 1284, came to Hamelin, a small village in Prussia. Here, he was offered a sum of money to rid the town of rats. He charmed the rats by piping into the river Weser, where the rats subsequently drowned. However, the reward was withheld. In revenge, he used his magic piping to draw the 130 children of the town to a cavern in a hill, which closed after them forever.

In his work The Pied Piper, Gordon Jacob, uses the magically expressive qualities of the flute to cast a spell on the unsuspecting rats. The second movement incorporates the tin whistle-like sound of the piccolo to depict the march to the river Weser.

Suite for Flute and Jazz Piano
Claude Bolling

Claude Bolling was born in Cannes, France on April 10, 1930. He was a child prodigy pianist and made his professional debut playing for the U.S. Army at Nice when he was 15. He has been a very active performer and is the premier jazz pianist of France. This suite is a work in seven movements, for a 'classic' flute and a 'jazz' piano trio. This afternoon's performance will feature movements I, II, III, and VII.

Baroque & Blue

As the title suggests, this movement contains stylistically contrasting sections pitting the classical flute against the jazz piano trio. However, as the movement progresses, the two styles combine to create an eclectic and effective first movement to the suite.

Sentimentale

The Sentimentale is a work in ABA form, the outer sections of which consist of lyrical melody for the flute. The middle section is rhythmic and lively, and contains virtuoso writing for the flute, bass, and piano.

Javanaise

The Javanaise is a 5/4 dance movement in rondo form. The melodic material is equally shared between the flute and piano.

Veloce

This movement is in ABA form with a coda. The outer sections contain "jazzy" syncopations and scintillating sixteenth note runs for the flute and bass. The contrasting middle section allows the flutist to show her lyrical ability over a compelling piano accompaniment. A brief cadenza leads back to a statement of the first theme. The virtuosic coda brings the work to a fiery finish.
Andante et Scherzo
Louis Ganne

A French composer and conductor, Louis Ganne was born on April 5, 1862 in Buxières-les-Mines and died on July 14, 1923 in Paris. He studied with Perre Max Dubois and Cesear Franck at the Paris Conservatoire.

Dedicated to flutist Paul Taffanel, the Andante et Scherzo is a work in two sections which are connected by a cadenza for the flute. The opening Andante in d minor contains moment of simple lyricism interrupted by outbursts of playfulness. The highly chromatic cadenza leads into a 3/8 Scherzo in D Major. Typical of a Paris National Conservatory contest piece, the Andante et Scherzo is a musical as well as technical challenge for any flutist.

Three Shanties
Malcolm Arnold

Malcolm Arnold was born on October 21, 1921 in Northampton, England. He studied composition with Gordon Jacob at the Royal College of Music. Arnold's music is basically diatonic and key-oriented. In smaller-scale works, such as the Three Shanties, the main attraction often lies in the catchy tunes and pleasure which the music gives the performers.

The Harvard Dictionary of Music defines Shanty as: "a work song of English and American sailors, sung while pulling ropes or performing other work requiring concerted effort."

The first movement is an Allegro con brio and makes use of the "Drunken Sailor" tune. This melody is subject to numerous textural and rhythmic variations.

The second movement, Allegretto semplice, is derived from a shanty based on the following lyrics:

'Boney was a warrior
Way, hay, yah
Oh Boney was a warrior
John Francois'

This was a shanty sung by British sailors in reference to Napoleon "Boney" Bonaparte, who was defeated by Wellington and his British troops at the battle of Waterloo.

The work closes with an Allegro vivace comprised of a set of variations in contrasting meters and styles.