

FRANCK Sonata in A for Violin and Piano

Franck's violin and piano sonata (1886), together with Fauré's (1876) and Saint-Saëns (1885), have been described as the "cornerstone of the French violin repertoire".

There is an element of nationalism there, a withdrawal from German culture (Wagner, Brahms) considering the background of enmity between France and Germany (Franco Prussian War 1870-71). Franck is considered to be a leader in finding a distinctive French musical flavour. Notwithstanding this, his music shows the influence of Wagner.

Franck presented this sonata to the famous violinist and composer Ysaÿe as a wedding gift in 1886. Ysaÿe premiered it, championed many of Franck's compositions and contributed to his subsequent fame.

Although Franck was 64 years old when he wrote this violin sonata, it belongs to the group of his most famous works, all written when he was in his 60s. He continually revised his compositions, producing only a few, but all beautifully crafted.

The first movement of this sonata in 9/8 time and can have a serenity reminiscent of the Bach *Largo* (in 6/8 time) heard earlier in this concert, and was conceived this way. However Ysaÿe played it faster, Franck liked it that way, and changed the tempo indication to *allegretto*. Elements of the opening theme of the first movement reappear in later movements, and whole fragments of the second and third movements reappear in the last movement in different keys, retaining their freshness and contributing to a nostalgic atmosphere.

Franck makes much use of modulation through many keys, emphasising tone colour. Perhaps there is a parallel with his contemporary Van Gough's emphasis of visual colour.

Next concert includes MOZART Quartet for Piano and Strings in G-minor K478. For information on future concerts, go to <http://www.acms-australia.org/sydney/>, click on "Concerts" in Navigation panel on the left hand side and scroll down or use the links.

All chamber music players are welcome to join the Amateur Chamber Music Society. If interested, write to membership@acms-sydney.org or ACMS Membership Secretary, PO Box 584, Balgowlah NSW 2093.

Kirribilli Neighbourhood Centre

www.KNCsydney.org

Chamber Music Concert

Sunday 6 June 2010

5pm



AMATEUR CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY

<http://www.acms-australia.org/>

- PROGRAMME -

SHOSTAKOVICH Quartet No3 in F major Op73 (1946)

(1) *Allegretto* (2) *Moderato con moto*

(3) *Allegro non troppo* (4) *Adagio*

violins Jenny Allison and Barbara Robinson

viola Marjorie Hystek cello Jane Smith

22'

BACH/WILLIAMS Three Short Pieces

BACH *Largo ma non tanto from Concerto for 2 Violins in D minor*
BWV1043 (~1730)

John WILLIAMS *Theme from Schindler's List* (1993) and

Dance with the Devil from The Witches of Eastwick (1987)

violin Cameron Hough violin Marjorie Hystek piano Ji-Hyun Kim

7'+5'+5'

- Interval -

FRANCK Sonata in A major (1886)

(1) *Allegretto ben moderato* (2) *Allegro*

(3) *Recitativo – Fantasia* (4) *Allegretto poco mosso*

violin George Carrard piano Neil Semmler

29'

- Supper -

Concert Organisers: Jenny Allison and George Carrard.

The manager and volunteer staff of the Kirribilli Neighbourhood Centre provide supper (wine juice and savouries) and charge \$10 entry donation (\$5 concession/seniors) to cover costs and to raise funds for the Centre

- Background Notes -

SHOSTAKOVICH Quartet No3 in F major Op73

Dmitri Shostakovich (1906-1975) wrote his music at a time in Russian history when the Stalinist regime was wreaking havoc on the Russian artistic community and, as a composer, he was variously either in or out of favour. There are differences of opinion as to whether his life and times should be taken into account when listening to his music, but Shostakovich himself gave titles to each of the five movements of his 3rd String Quartet, each title sets the mood of the movement: (1) Calm unawareness of the future cataclysm (2) Rumbblings of unrest and anticipation (3) Forces of war unleashed (4) Homage to the dead. We have chosen not to play the 5th movement only because on the length of the piece. There are moments of chaos in the music, but there are rich textures, moments of rich emotion, sarcastic playfulness - a challenging piece to play but rewarding to listen to.

BACH Largo ma non tanto from Concerto for 2 Violins in D minor BWV1043

This hauntingly beautiful piece is from one of the most famous works by Bach. It is characterized by a subtle yet expressive relationship between the violins. Bach wrote it in Leipzig for an orchestra of which he was the director.

WILLIAMS Theme from Schindler's List and Dance with the Devil from The Witches of Eastwick

John Towner Williams is an American composer, conductor, and pianist. In a career that spans six decades, he composed many of the most famous film scores in Hollywood history, including Star Wars, Superman, Home Alone, Harry Potter, all but two of Steven Spielberg's feature films, plus the theme music for four Olympic games and the NBC Nightly News.

Williams dedicated this piano/violin arrangement of the theme from the film "Schindler's List" to violinist Itzhak Perlman, who played for the soundtrack. "Dance with the Devil" is from the soundtrack of the film version of John Updike's novel "Witches of Eastwick". Its fiendish quality is well suited to the violin (which Paganini promoted as the devil's instrument), with the driving piano pulse to keep the devil dancing!