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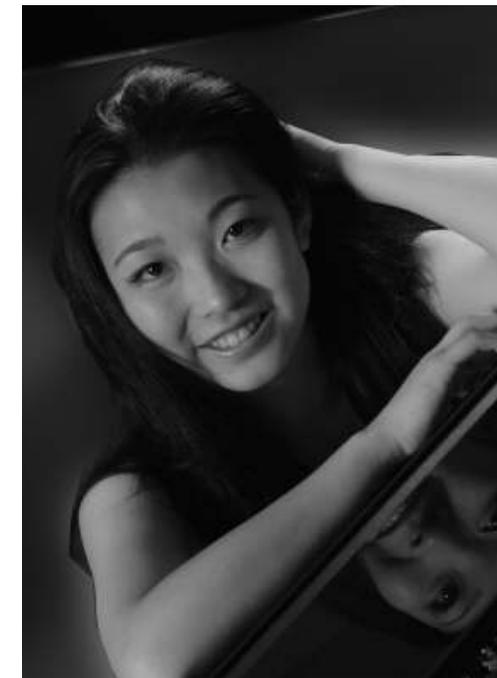
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The
The German Society of Pennsylvania
presents

Claire Huangci



Sunday, January 9, 2011 at 3:00pm

The German Society of Pennsylvania
www.germansociety.org

611 Spring Garden Street
Philadelphia, PA 19123

Calendar of Events

January

- Sun. Jan. 9 "Wister and More!" presents Pianist Claire Huangci, 3pm
Jan. 10 – March 31 Winter Session of German Classes for Adults (beginner to advanced)
Fri. Jan. 14 Friday Film Fest, "Wir Wunderkinder", 6:30pm
German with German subtitles
Jan. 15 – April 2 Winter Session of German Classes for Children (3-12 years old)
Mon. Jan. 17 German Society Board of Directors Meeting, 7pm
Sat. Jan. 29 Book Club Meeting, 1:30-3pm
Sat. Jan. 29 German Story Hour for Children, Time TBA
Sat. Jan. 29 Horner Library Open, 10am-4pm
Sun. Jan. 30 "Wister and More!" presents American Virtuosi, 3pm

February

- Fri. Feb. 11 Friday Film Fest, "Effi Briest", 6:30pm (German with German subtitles)
Wed. Feb. 23 *Konversationsabend*, Topic TBA, 7pm

March

- Sat. March 5 *Karnevalsparty*, 8:11pm
Sun. March 6 "Wister and More!" presents the Wister Quartet, 3pm
Fri. March 11 Friday Film Fest, "Romy", 6:30pm (German with German subtitles)
Sat. March 12 Book Club Meeting, 1:30-3pm
Sat. March 12 Horner Library Open, 10am-4pm
Mon. March 21 German Society Board of Directors Meeting, 7pm
Sat. March 26 Spring Clean-Up, 10am
Sun. March 27 "Wister and More!" presents Delius Society Concert, 3pm

April

- Fri. April 8 Friday Film Fest, "Friendship", 6:30pm (German with English subtitles)
Sat. April 9 *Hamburger Abend*, 7pm
Sun. April 17 "Wister and More!" presents the Wister Quartet, 3pm

History of the German Society of Pennsylvania

In 1683 thirteen families from Krefeld under the leadership of Frankfurt lawyer, Franz Daniel Pastorius, founded the first German colony in America: Germantown — today part of Philadelphia. Many of these immigrants formed clubs that enabled them to preserve their cultural heritage. They also formed clubs that emphasized a specific geographic area, such as the Swabians, Bavarians, Saxons, Danube Swabians, Plattdeutsche, Tyroleans, and many others.

The German Society of Pennsylvania, founded in 1764, is the oldest German organization in the United States. It was founded to protect German immigrants from unscrupulous shipping agents and to ensure just treatment on their arrival here.

Since that time, the German Society has dedicated its efforts to preserving German heritage. This it does, for instance, by offering a full-fledged German language program as well as scholarships and prizes to students of German. In addition, the Society is a source of cultural programs, lectures, film series, and seminars. These events build bridges and strengthens relations among individuals, organizations, businesses, and governments.

The fine arts program also includes presentations that feature European music and literature as well as access to the *Joseph P. Horner Memorial Library* for education and research. The newly restored Library, holding over 70,000 volumes, is the largest private German library outside the Federal Republic of Germany.

In serving its members and the community, and in all its undertakings, the Society strives to benefit anyone in need of its resources.

Since the time of Pastorius, more than 8,000,000 Germans reached these shores. Today, 29% of the total population in the United States claims Germany ancestry.

Claire Huangci

Born in Rochester, NY, 19 year old pianist Claire Huangci astonishes all who hear her perform. Legendary pianist Vladimir Krainev has dubbed her the pianist with “the fastest fingers in the world.”

Claire received a grand piano for her sixth birthday, and after exploring the instrument herself, she was enrolled into Settlement Music School of Philadelphia when she was seven.

During her years at Settlement, she performed in the gala concert with the World Festival Orchestra in Cincinnati, OH, and performed a winner’s concert in Carnegie Hall.

In 2003, Claire was accepted by the Curtis Institute with a full scholarship from the Hirsig Family Foundation. She went on to win the Philadelphia Orchestra Competition and performed with the Philadelphia Orchestra under the baton of Wolfgang Sawallisch.

In April 2006, Claire won the first prize in the 57th Kosciuszko Chopin International Piano Competition in New York City. She has performed in numerous solo recitals and concerto appearances throughout the country in states including Colorado, California, Texas, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, and New York. In the same year, she was invited to join the Yamaha Artist Services, Inc. roster and became the youngest Yamaha Artist.

The 2007 season represented a milestone in Claire’s career. She made her first appearances in Europe with solo performances in Munich, Frankfurt, Paris, and other cities.

In May 2009, she gave a solo tour in Israel and was the guest star of the popular Israeli TV show ‘Intermezzo’.

Deutsche Welle, a German news program, will feature a video profile of Claire in February 2010.

During the current and upcoming seasons, Claire will perform in venues and festivals in France, Germany, Switzerland, and a return to Poland for the 2010 Chopin Duszniki Festival, as well as tours in America. She has also been given the honor of performing the opening concert at the Shanghai EXPO with Stuttgart Radio Symphony Orchestra and Sir Roger Norrington in May 2010, as part of the orchestra’s Asian tour, with additional concerts in Macao and Beijing’s National Theater of the Performing Arts.

Claire is supported with scholarships from DAAD as well as Deutsche Stiftung Musikleben for the past two years. Having completed four years of study at The Curtis Institute of Music, Claire is continuing her music education in Germany at the Hannover Hochschule für Musik under Professor Arie Vardi.

Claire Huangci, piano

PROGRAM

French Overture

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

Ballade No. 4 in F minor Op. 52

Frederic Chopin (1810-1849)

Heroic Polonaise Op. 53

Frederic Chopin (1810-1849)

INTERMISSION

Variations Serieuses

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1848)

Fantaisie

Alexander Scriabin (1872-1915)

Preludes

Sergei Rachmaninov (1873-1943)

Danse Macabre

Camille Saint Saens (1835-1921)

Franz Liszt (1811-1886)

Vladimir Horowitz (1903-1989)

There will be one 15-minute intermission. We offer refreshments from our bar during that time.

Your ticket to our concert also invites you to a complimentary reception with the artist in the Ratskeller (downstairs) following the performance.

PROGRAM

J.S. Bach's *Overture in the French style*, BWV 831, original title *Overture nach Französi-cher Art*, also known as the *French Overture* and published as the second half of *Clavier-Übung II* in 1735 (along with the *Italian Concerto*), is a suite in B minor for two-manual harpsichord written by Johann Sebastian Bach. The term 'Overture' refers to the fact that this suite starts with an Overture movement, and was a common generic name for French suites (his orchestral suites were similarly named).

Frederic Chopin's **Ballade No. 4 in F minor, Op. 52** was composed in 1842 in Paris and Nohant, and revised in 1843. The work was dedicated to *Baronne C. de Rothschild*, wife of Nathaniel de Rothschild, who had invited Chopin to play in her Parisian residence, where she introduced him to the aristocracy and nobility. According to Robert Schumann, this *Ballade* was inspired by Mickiewicz's poem *The Three Budrys*, which tells of three brothers sent away by their father to seek treasures, and the story of their return with three Polish brides. "It is the most exalted, intense and sublimely powerful of all Chopin's compositions... It is unbelievable that it lasts only twelve minutes, for it contains the experience of a lifetime."

Chopin's **Polonaise in A-flat major, Op. 53** for solo piano was written by Chopin in 1842. This masterpiece is one of Chopin's most popular compositions and has always been a favorite of the classical piano repertoire. The piece requires exceptional pianistic skills and virtuosity to be played at an appropriate level of quality. It is also sometimes referred to as the *Drum Polonaise*.

Felix Mendelssohn's **Variations Serieuses** is a set of variations Mendelssohn wrote that illustrates his conversion from Jew to Christian. The variations are a blend of types that show the range of both Mendelssohn's skill at composition as well as his knowledge of history. Strict canon and fugue textures appear next to free variations and lyrical, accompanied song. And yet, the set as a whole is a coherent, progressive and unified elaboration of the theme. Although transferring this music from two guitars was difficult, the result is a beautiful piece that is mesmerizing and kaleidoscopic in performance.

NOTES

The Alexander Scriabin **Fantasia** is a single sonata-form movement which bridges the gap between the 3rd and 4th sonatas. This is the only piece written in Scriabin's time as professor at the Moscow Conservatory.

The work is popular with Russian pianists but its existence was forgotten by the composer. When a pianist started to play one of its themes on the piano in Scriabin's Moscow flat Scriabin called out from the next room "*Who wrote that? It sounds familiar*". "*Your Fantasia*"; was the reply. Scriabin said, "*What Fantaisie?*"

The virtuosic style is close to that of the Third Sonata. The brooding opening gives way to one of Scriabin's inspired second subjects which is sustained for twenty-six bars. Noticeable are the touches of the canonic treatment. The third theme is close in its massive confidence and chromatic harmony to the world of the 3rd Symphony. The recapitulation was later expanded and rescored. The emotional line rides on through a long coda, a device used later in the 7th sonata.

Sergei Rachmaninov's **3 Preludes** of Op. 32 are from an original set of 13. They are a strongly contrasting group, with the first representing a march in fantasy form, a lullaby interlude, and a perpetuum mobile last.

Prelude Op. 32 no. 4 is in the form of a fantasy-march, with march motifs interspersed in dreamy lyricism. Technically, the piece is extremely demanding requiring big hands and much power. Op. 32 nos 5 and 6 are much shorter, but no. 5 is among one of Rachmaninov's most haunting themes and with no. 6 being one of tempestuous force and a jazzy lilt.

Camille Saint Saens wrote his original score **Danse Macabre** for violin and orchestra which was later transcribed to solo piano by Franz Liszt and further transcribed by Vladimir Horowitz.

According to legend, Death appears at midnight every year on Halloween. Death calls forth the dead from their graves to dance their dance of death for him while he plays his fiddle represented by a solo violin. His skeletons dance for him until the rooster crows at dawn, when they must return to their graves until the next year.