



Music Program

SENIOR RECITAL

Raphael Querubin, *piano*

From the studio of Renee Witon

This recital is given in partial fulfillment of the requirements for a
Bachelor of Arts in Music

Friday, April 12th, 2024 | 7:00 PM
Saint Mary's College Chapel

Program

Sonata in D Major, Op. 10 No. 3 Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)
Presto
Largo e mesto
Menuetto e Trio Allegro
Rondo Allegro

The Sunken Cathedral Claude Debussy (1862-1918)
(from Preludes Book 1)

Etude in C# Minor, Op. 10 No. 4 Frédéric Chopin (1810-1849)

INTERMISSION (10 minutes)

Italian Concerto, BWV 971 Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)
Allegro
Andante
Presto

Black Earth Fazil Say (1970-)

Program Notes

by Raphael Querubin

Throughout his life, Beethoven would publish upwards of 50 sonatas, which are still performed in today's concert repertoire. The sonata I'm playing for you this evening is No. 7, which was published in 1798 when he was 28 years old. I really love this piece for its wide array of emotions, from a grandiose first movement, to a sad and desperate second movement, which gives way to a light and bouncy third movement, and finishes with a fun and playful fourth movement.

Claude Debussy was an Impressionist composer. Impressionism was an artistic movement in France taking place from the late 19th century into the early 20th century, which emphasized images rather than emotions. In this case, the image being portrayed in this piece is based on an old French legend where a cathedral completely submerged underwater rises out of the water and then sinks back down, which is what you'll hear in this piece. It's full of brassy bell tones that start very softly and submerged before the volume rises and becomes this big brassy melody. The prelude ends when the cathedral sinks back into the sea.

Chopin's Etude, Op. 10, No. 4, in C sharp minor, otherwise known as the "Torrent Etude" due to its rapid runs and very loud octave passages, paints the picture of a strong windstorm. Chopin composed several infamous etudes throughout his life, and this one stuck out the most to me for its rapid scale-like passages, its fun yet challenging arpeggios, and the thunderous roar at the finale.

Johann Sebastian Bach is undoubtedly one of the most famous composers of all time, known for his abundance of running melodies and counter melodies, creating works that are "challenging but fun to perform," and this piece is no exception. This concerto is very similar to the Beethoven sonata that started the recital, with a big and grand first movement, a slow, emotional second movement, and a fast and fun third movement.

"Black Earth" by Fazil Say. Fazil Say is a Turkish composer born in 1970, and he has a long history of writing some amazing works. It's based on a melody called Kara Toprak, written by Asik Veysel for a Turkish string instrument called the Saz, which is why you'll hear— you know what, I won't spoil that. You'll just have to hear it for yourself.

What I love the most about this piece is the progression. It starts desolate and barren, but eventually fills with little running notes of life before bursting to life and building to this climactic moment, and then— it's gone. And all that remains is the Black Earth.

Acknowledgments

I would like to dedicate this performance to several individuals who have played significant roles in my musical journey.

My parents, Sara and Paolo, thank you for unwaveringly believing in me and supporting my dreams. Your attendance at every recital, your cheers throughout each performance, and your financial backing for my college education have been instrumental in shaping me into the musician I aspire to be.

Diego, my brother, your steadfast presence and shared musical experiences have enriched my journey in immeasurable ways. I am excited to witness the bright future that awaits you.

Lolo and Lola, though you are dearly missed every day, your inspiration and unwavering belief in me continue to guide me forward.

My extended family, your continuous support and encouragement have been invaluable throughout my musical endeavors.

Ninong Jong and the Marquez family, your gift of the piano in our loft holds immense significance in my musical journey. Without it, I would not be standing here today.

Renée Witon, Dr. Lino Rivera, Dr. Sixto Montesinos, Dr. Julie Ford, Tara Sundy, your guidance and teachings have shaped me into the best pianist I can be.

Dr. Sauerberg, Dr. Conner, and the Math faculty, thank you for accommodating my dual majors and providing understanding during my academic pursuits.

Jerome Cuenco, Meredith Hawkins, and the First Unitarian Church of Oakland, thank you for providing platforms to give back to the community through music. It has been an honor collaborating with each of you.

Graduate School Music Department at the University of Nevada, Reno, your acceptance enables me to continue my pursuit of becoming a professional musician. I eagerly anticipate beginning my first semester in the fall.

My friends, your unwavering support and encouragement have been a constant source of strength. Thank you for being there, whether for performances or casual hangouts.

The venues I've accompanied, thank you for the opportunities to contribute to the community through music.

Everyone who has attended my performances and offered kind words, your encouragement has lifted my spirits more than you know.

You, the audience watching this recital, thank you for joining me on this special evening. Your presence means the world to me. It is an honor to share my music with you tonight.