



Donald F. Cook Recital Hall
M.O. Morgan Building
Monday, 15 May 2000 at 7:30 p.m.

Andrea Stowe

piano

Concerto in F minor, BWV 1056

Allegro Moderato

Largo

Presto

J.S. Bach
(1685-1750)

Sonata in A major, op. 120

Allegro Moderato

Andante

Allegro

F. Schubert
(1797-1828)

INTERMISSION

Prelude in B^b minor, op. 32, no. 2

Prelude in D major, op. 23, no. 4

S. Rachmaninov
(1873-1943)

Desperate Measures

Variations on a Theme of Paganini

Robert Muczynski
(1929-)

Presented in partial fulfilment of the requirements for Music 445B



Memorial
University of Newfoundland

PROGRAM NOTES

The *Concerto in f minor*, composed for harpsichord and orchestra, is, like most of Bach's harpsichord concertos, believed to be adapted from a previously existing concerto, probably for violin. The part previously given to solo violin is given to the right hand in this version, while the left hand, as if it were another instrument, plays a bass part. Many of Bach's harpsichord concertos were designed for performance by Bach and his students at his Leipzig home in 1731. For this reason, the texture and dynamics are thinner and softer to accommodate the small acoustic space.

The *Sonata in A major, op. 120* is one of Schubert's shorter works in this form. It was composed in 1819. Most scholars are agreed in calling it one of the most lyric works in the repertoire. Schubert composed it for Josephine von Koller, the daughter of one of his friends. About this young lady Schubert wrote to his brother, "she is very pretty, plays the piano well and is going to sing some of my songs." Josephine was 18 at the time. Schubert was 22.

The ten *Preludes, op. 23* were written in the year 1903. Dedicated to his cousin, Alexander Siloti, a former pupil of Franz Liszt, they were no doubt, Rachmaninov's most important solo compositions for the piano up to that time. In 1910, Rachmaninov completed his second set of preludes (op. 32) bringing to twenty-four the number of published works in this form. Like Bach's twenty-four Preludes and Fugues, Rachmaninov's preludes are deliberately written in each of the twelve major and minor keys. The B^b minor prelude is described as one of the most "searching and harrowing" works he ever wrote.

The theme for the work *Desperate Measures* by American composer, Robert Muczynski, comes from the last of Paganini's twenty-four caprices for solo violin. It has been used by various composers, such as Brahms, who wrote two books of difficult variations on this theme, and Rachmaninov, wrote a rhapsody on the theme for piano and orchestra. Even Andrew Lloyd Webber in his musical, "Song and Dance" has a cello play variations on this popular melody, which you will hear at the beginning of this work.