



Donald F. Cook Recital Hall  
M.O. Morgan Building  
Sunday, 8 April 2001 at 7:00 p.m.

## GRADUATION RECITAL

# Siaw Pei Tan, piano

Prelude and Fugue in G-sharp minor, Book II

J.S. Bach  
(1685-1750)

Sonata in E-flat major, Op. 31, No. 3

Ludwig van Beethoven  
(1770-1827)

*Allegro*

*Scherzo: Allegretto vivace*

*Menuetto: Moderato e grazioso*

*Presto con fuoco*

### INTERMISSION

Sonatine

Maurice Ravel  
(1875-1937)

*Modéré*

*Mouvement de Menuet*

*Animé*

Concerto in A minor, Op. 16

Edvard Grieg  
(1843-1907)

*Allegro molto moderato*

*Presented in partial fulfilment of the requirements for Music 445B*



**Memorial**  
University of Newfoundland

## PROGRAM NOTES

The Well-Tempered Clavier, a collection of forty-eight preludes and fugues in all major and minor keys, is one of Bach's most famous works. The collection consists of two parts, each containing twenty-four preludes and fugues. The first set dates from about 1722, during his time at Cöthen, while Book II was assembled for publication in 1744, while he was in Leipzig. The word "Clavier" means "keyboard," and the varying styles to be found among these works suggest that Bach may have had different keyboard instruments in mind for different preludes and fugues. The Prelude in G-sharp minor is unusual in that Bach has included dynamics markings. The highly chromatic fugue is in three voices which appear in descending order in the exposition.

Beethoven's Op. 31 comprises three piano sonatas, in G major, D minor and E-flat major. These three works are quite contrasting in character. The third sonata was written in 1802. It is lighter in style, more humorous and charming, than the more heroic sonatas from his middle period. The first of the four movements opens with a questioning motive whose tonality is unclear at first. The second movement is a mischievous scherzo. The third movement, a minuet and trio, is the most lyrical. The finale, a lively movement in 6/8 meter, gives the sonata its nickname, "La Chasse" or "Jagd-sonate".

Ravel, a French composer, was one of the most original and sophisticated musicians of the early twentieth century. He composed many piano works, and the Sonatine is one of his subtlest and most elegant works. Ravel wrote the Sonatine in 1903-5 and dedicated it to Ida and Cipa Godebski. The first movement, written in F-sharp minor, is in sonatina form, and features melodies doubled in octaves, as well as many consecutive fifths and ninths. The second movement, in D-flat major, is a minuet without a trio. The last movement, in F-sharp minor, is flowing and sparkling. Ravel's combination of virtuosic piano writing with the limited structure of sonatina form represents a remarkable achievement.

Grieg was a Norwegian composer, pianist and conductor. He was also a nationalist who strongly promoted Norwegian music. Grieg was best known for his lyric pieces, which drew on folk tunes and the Romantic tradition. The Piano Concerto in A minor was composed in 1868, while he was in Sjøllerød. Grieg continued to revise it, completing the final version shortly before his death. The theme of the concerto sounds somewhat Norwegian, but no folk music is quoted directly. The strengths of this concerto include beautiful melodies, brilliant piano figuration and a colorful and refined harmonic language. Grieg conducted the first performance in Copenhagen in 1869 and the pianist was Edmund Neupert. The first movement of the concerto is in sonata form.