



Donald F. Cook Recital Hall
M.O. Morgan Building
Tuesday, 23 March 2004 at 7:00 p.m.

Philip Roberts piano

Prelude & Fugue in C# major, BWV 848, WTC I/iii J.S. Bach
(1685-1750)

Sonata Op. 53 in C major "Waldstein" (1803-4) Ludwig von Beethoven
(1770-1827)

Intermission

The August Collection: 24 Preludes for Piano (1987) Walter Buczynski
(1933-)

No. 1,6,7,10,13,21,24

L'Isle Joyeuse (1904) Claude Debussy
(1862-1918)

Pictures at an Exhibition (1874) Modest Mussorgsky
(1839-1881)

The Hut of Baba Yaga
The Great Gate at Kiev

Presented in partial fulfilment of the requirements for Music 445B

Programme Notes

Prelude & Fugue in C# major, BWV 848, WTC I/iii

The title statement of the Well Tempered Clavier indicates that these pieces were written not only to assist young, aspiring musicians in their studies but also to provide a diversion to accomplished musicians. Also, the advent of equal temperament gave Bach the ability to write his preludes and fugues in twelve different keys, whereas the Renaissance instruments would get progressively out of tune past a key signature of more than two sharps or two flats.

Sonata Op. 53 in C major "Waldstein"

This sonata was written for Count Waldstein who assisted a young Beethoven in his endeavors. Both the Waldstein Sonata and the Eroica Symphony were written at a turning point in Beethoven's musical life, and are regarded as being original, even revolutionary.

The August Collection: 24 Preludes for Piano

Written in the warm month of August, Buczinsky decided it was too hot to write anything with more than one main motivic idea, so he modeled these preludes after Chopin's 24 preludes for piano.

L'Isle Joyeuse

Originally planned to be included in the Suite Bergamasque, this work is based on Watteau's painting "Embarquement pour Cythère", depicting the aristocratic society sailing to a small island of dreams and passion.

Pictures at an Exhibition

This set of piano pieces, later orchestrated by Maurice Ravel, is based on a posthumous exhibition in 1874 of paintings and drawings by architect, illustrator and friend of Musorgsky, Victor Hartmann (1842-1873). The Hut of Baba Yaga is based on a design for a clock in the form of the witch Baba Yaga's hut, mounted on fowl's legs. The Great Gate at Kiev is Hartmann's design for a massive Gate in old Russian style in the city of Kiev. This movement includes a version of the promenade theme used throughout the piece to depict the composer walking through the gallery, as well as a variant of a Russian hymn.