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2024-25



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The University of Colorado Boulder, Colorado's flagship university, honors and recognizes the many contributions of Indigenous peoples in our state. CU Boulder acknowledges that it is located on the traditional territories and ancestral homelands of the Cheyenne, Arapaho, Ute and many other Native American nations. Their forced removal from these territories has caused devastating and lasting impacts. While the University of Colorado Boulder can never undo or rectify the devastation wrought on Indigenous peoples, we commit to improving and enhancing engagement with Indigenous peoples and issues locally and globally.

Senior Recital

Benjamin Kohav, piano

7:30 p.m., Saturday, April 5, 2025

Chamber Hall (S102)

PROGRAM

Preludes, Op. 23

Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873-1943)

III. Tempo di minuetto

IV. Andante cantabile

6 Klavierstücke, Op. 118

Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

II. Intermezzo

III. Ballade

VI. Intermezzo

—Intermission—

Sonata in C minor, Op.13

Ludwig Van Beethoven (1770-1827)

I. Grave, allegro di molto e con brio

II. Adagio cantabile

III. Rondo: Allegro

PROGRAM NOTES

This program showcases a selection of works from the Romantic and Classical periods, with emotional depth and technical complexity.

The first two pieces come from Sergei Rachmaninoff's Preludes, Op. 23, a set known for its dramatic contrasts and expressive lyricism. The third prelude, Tempo di minuetto, evokes a sense of a march and nostalgia, while the fourth, Andante cantabile, is a tender, lyrical piece that contains Rachmaninoff's trademark sweeping, romantic melodies.

Next, we hear three selections from Johannes Brahms' 6 Klavierstücke, Op. 118, a series of intimate piano works. The famous second Intermezzo brings warmth with its gentle, singing character. The third piece, Ballade, is more dramatic, with a sense of narrative and unfolding tension. The final Intermezzo in this set, which is the sixth, returns to a deeply reflective and mysterious mood, its poignant harmonies evoking a sense of longing.

The program concludes with Ludwig van Beethoven's Sonata in C minor, Op. 13, "Pathétique". Known for its profound emotional range, the first movement opens with the iconic and unique Grave, a slow, dark introduction that leads into the vibrant Allegro di molto e con brio ("very quickly and with spirit"). The second movement, Adagio cantabile, is a lyrical and serene contrast, a sense of calm after the intensity of the opening. The sonata concludes with a playful Rondo: Allegro, its lively theme is a fitting resolution to this monumental work.

ABOUT THE COMPOSERS

Sergei Rachmaninoff (April 1, 1873-March 28, 1943) was a Russian composer, pianist and conductor, known for lush harmonies and virtuosic piano writing. Rachmaninoff's compositions include piano concertos, symphonies, and numerous solo piano compositions, with works such as his Piano Concerto No. 2, Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini. Following the Russian Revolution, he emigrated to the United States, where he continued composing and performing, cementing his reputation as one of the greatest pianists of the 20th century. His music is beloved for its emotional expression and technical brilliance.

Ludwig van Beethoven (December 17, 1770-March 26, 1827) was a German composer and pianist whose groundbreaking works bridged the Classical and Romantic eras. His music is known for its dramatic intensity, structural innovation, and profound expressiveness. His 32 piano sonatas, string quartets and symphonies pushed the boundaries of form and emotion, reshaping Western classical music. Beethoven's legacy as a revolutionary artist and musical visionary endures, inspiring generations of musicians and composers.

Johannes Brahms (May 7, 1833-April 3, 1897) was a German composer and pianist, regarded as one of the leading figures of the Romantic era. His music is known for its emotional depth, blending the classical traditions of composers like Beethoven with the expressiveness of the Romantic movement. Brahms composed symphonies, concertos, chamber music, and choral works, with notable pieces such as his Symphony No. 1, Piano Concerto No. 2. Brahms' is celebrated for its richness and intellectual rigor.

ABOUT THE PERFORMER

Benjamin Kohav is a senior at the University of Colorado Boulder (CU Boulder) pursuing a Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance and Bachelor of Science in Computer Science. He began his music studies at the Parlando School for the Arts in Boulder at age five with Keiko Haneda. Starting in 2013, he passed several examinations through the Royal Conservatory of Music (RCM) of Toronto and performed multiple times as a piano soloist with the Inside the Orchestra program in Colorado. Following this, he took part in the Rising Stars Festival and the 2021 Schmitt Colorado Piano, receiving Honorable Mention, competitions while studying under Crystal Lee. Kohav holds a scholarship from the Dorian De Long Arts and Music as well as the College of Music. At CU Boulder, he studies with Alejandro Cremaschi, Professor of Piano Pedagogy. He also previously studied briefly with Andrew Cooperstock, Piano Performance, and Robert Hill, former Professor of Harpsichord/chair in Baroque Music Performance, completing his minor in Harpsichord performance. He was a finalist in the College of Music Honors (Concerto) Competition in the 2022-23 academic year.

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