

**Jake Reding – Senior Piano Recital**

*Student of Fr. Bob Koopmann, OSB*

Sunday March 28th, 2021

Stephen B. Humphrey Theater

Program

Prelude in B minor, Op. 28, No.6 Frederic Chopin

Prelude in E minor, Op. 28, No.4 Frederic Chopin

Intermezzo in A major, Op. 118, No.2 Johannes Brahms

Impromptu in G-flat Major, Op. 51 Frederic Chopin

--------------------------------------- 10-minute Intermission ---------------------------------------

Sonata in G Major, Hob.XVI:40, Mov. 1 Franz Joseph Haydn

Nocturne in F sharp minor, Op. 48, No.2 Frederic Chopin

Variations on the Kanon Johann Pachelbel (arr. George Winston)

**Frederic Chopin** (1810-1849) is one of the greatest composers for solo piano, especially of the Romantic era. Although Chopin battled with tuberculosis and was forced to flee Poland, his home country, due to Russian occupation, he has produced some of the finest musical works ever heard. The opening of my recital will feature two of his twenty-four preludes. The B minor prelude is sometimes referred to as the cello prelude because the left hand beautifully imitates a melancholy cello bowing up and down. Chopin’s E minor prelude, recognized almost instantly among some, is one of his most powerful pieces. The left hand spends the entire piece searching for the final chord, while the right hand provides a single note melody full of despair. Although these two preludes aren’t the most difficult pieces technically, they are full of subtle harmonic shifts that accurately reflect Chopin’s genius. Before the intermission, I will play one of his four impromptus. The speed and range of the keyboard used in the first and third section make this an exciting piece to play and listen to. The middle section has a completely different texture and color which contrasts with the rest of the piece. Later on, I will play one of my favorite Nocturnes. Chopin’s Nocturnes are complex and expressive, making each piece like its own story. They are some of my favorite pieces to play and listen to.

**Johannes Brahms** (1833-1897) is another great Romantic era composer. He is a celebrated composer of solo piano, symphony orchestra, chamber ensembles, organ, and voice. Six piano pieces, Op. 118, composed near the end of his career, are some of his finest solo piano compositions. I will be playing the second of the six pieces, one of his most famous. Brahms’ brilliance in shaping phrases is one of his most notable qualities that makes his music stand out. Each of his phrases have a perfect start and end point that rise and fall beautifully.

**Franz Josef Haydn** (1732-1809) was a classical era composer who spent the majority of his career as a musician for the Esterházy family in Hungary. Along with composing solo piano works, he also composed great works for symphony, string quartets, and other groups. This is the first classical era piece of music that I learned. One unique quality about this piece is that every section is repeated once, allowing the performer to play with a slightly different style each time. The juxtaposition of G major and G minor along with chromatic motifs make this piece exciting. Haydn’s playfulness and comedic approach are refreshing when contrasted with more serious music.

**George Winston** (b. 1949) is an American pianist who composes mostly for solo piano, but also composes for acoustic guitar and harmonica. He, unlike many other artists, is not bound to one set genre. Winston has produced albums that have topped the charts for new age, jazz, and holiday music. Of course, Kanon was originally composed by Johan Pachelbel in the key of D major, but Winston composed his arrangement in the key of C major. Winston’s music inspired me to start taking lessons again in high school, after I had decided to quit piano in middle school. This piece will always be my favorite piece because it’s the first piece I learned when I decided to retake piano lessons. It is also my Mom’s favorite piece, and my older sister asked me to play it at her wedding in September, so I guess I should have a good handle on the piece sooner or later. ☺

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