

Toan Tran
Bassoon

Neilson Chen, piano
Yiqian Song, piano
Evelyn Jones, bassoon

Recital Series
Katzin Concert Hall
Saturday, April 18, 2015 - 12:00 PM

ASU Herberger Institute
FOR DESIGN AND THE ARTS
ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Program

Sonata for viola in d minor

- I. Allegro moderato

Mikhail Glinka
(1804 - 1857)

Yiqian Song, piano

Duet Concertino

- I. Poco lento; allegro bucolico
- II. Andante flessibile
- III. Allegro spiritoso

Allan Stephenson
(b. 1949)

Evelyn Jones, bassoon

~ Intermission ~

Veils for bassoon and piano

- I. Tempus
- II. Discretio
- III. Tristitia
- IV. Dominium

Steven Williams
(FILL IN DATES)

Iguazu

~world premier~

Christopher Marchant
(b. 1997)

**This recital is in partial fulfillment of the degree of Doctor of Musical Arts.
Toan Tran is a student of Dr. Albie Micklich.**

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Program Notes

***Sonata for viola in d minor* - Mikhail Glinka**

This beautiful but unfinished sonata was originally written for viola and is one of their most prized works. Of the two completed movements, the first one is often performed on the bassoon. In some ways, the piece seems like it was always intended for the bassoon since it plays strongly to the instrument's strengths. It features many color changes throughout the work and exploits the bassoon's extensive range. The piece is a wonderful example of high Romantic composition with its long, flowing lyrical lines and intense drama. Glinka and his family were fierce Russian nationalists and thus did not face the discrimination and angst that Russian composers are typically known for. Some of Glinka's most famous compositions were operas and therefore this piece exhibits many characteristics of operatic music such as sudden shifts in dynamics to showcase changing emotions and liberty in tempo throughout the work.

***Duet Concertino* - Allan Stephenson**

Allan Stephenson was born in the United Kingdom however he spent most of his life in South Africa and all of his mature works, including this Duet Concertino, were composed there. His music is known for its Romantic-style writing with more modern rhythmic variations such as frequently changing meter and weak-beat accents. This duet in particular employs the two bassoons in equal voices allowing each performer many moments to shine. As is typical of Stephenson's works, this piece is incredibly charming and pleasant to listen to. It is a lighthearted affair that will have the melodies engrained in the listener's ears long after the performance.

***Veils for bassoon and piano* - Steven Williams**

Steven Williams, an American composer, wrote this piece for his wife, Rose Corrigan, an acclaimed recording studio bassoonist in Los Angeles. Corrigan has played on over 500 movie soundtracks throughout her career and therefore it is not surprising that the piece her husband wrote for her could pass as a work meant for a blockbuster film. This piece is somber and oftentimes even angry, with repeated use of the bassoon's darkest timbres and extreme ranges. The four movements are performed without pause beginning with a ominous low pedal from the bassoon and ending with a cry for escape at the highest end of the instrument's tenor register.

***World Premiere* *Iguazu* - Christopher Marchant**

Iguazu Falls is a collection of waterfalls on the Iguazu River between the borders of Argentina and Brazil. Small islands resting on the precipice of the 2.7-kilometer-long Parana Plateau create massive cataracts and waterfalls that range from 60-82 meters high. Water cascades down and either flows into the upper or lower Iguazu. The water in lower Iguazu empties into the Parana River and the water in upper Iguazu flows into a narrow chasm called The Devil's Throat before making its way into the Parana. Approximately half of the water surges into The Devil's Throat, and the other half empties directly into the Parana. A drop of water traveling down the Iguazu river has potential to travel down any of the 275 waterfalls and cataracts. A drop of water can travel down the falls in infinite ways but will inevitably make its way into the Parana. The paths we choose in life carry us down various cataracts and currents, similar to a drop of water travelling down the Iguazu. It is interesting to note that despite the various paths we choose down the river of life, we all end up in the same place in the end.

Citation: Meyer, Amelia. "Iguazu Falls." Brazil.org.

'Iguazu' is divided into ten sections:

- I. Droplets
- II. Collected Tears
- III. Steady Current
- IV. Rumbling Undertow
- V. Turbulent River
- VI. Serene View Over the Precipice
- VII. The Glorious Plunge
- VIII. Mists of Broken Dreams
- IX. Moving On
- X. Tranquil Embrace of the Ocean

From the composer:

'Iguazu' was written for a friend I met during my undergraduate studies at Arizona State University. Toan Tran taught me bassoon technique lessons as a freshman and I grew tremendously under his tutelage and am so very grateful for his guidance and counsel.

From the performer:

This work was written in celebration of the closing chapter of my musical life. I have had the immense fortune of studying, teaching and performing with so many wonderful people throughout my life due to music. It has always been a great passion of mine and I, like many of you, have grown greatly from studying music. Despite half a lifetime of dedication and innumerable goals made, achieved and failed, sometimes life has a way of turning out far differently than you had anticipated. This recital is my last as a student of Arizona State University but it will also likely be my last as a would-be professional musician.

I would like to thank all of the various teachers, friends and colleagues that have shared their musical journeys with me, especially my friend and mentor, Dr. Albie Micklich.

No matter how many different and seemingly disparate directions that life can take, like a drop of water in the Iguazu river, the ultimate location will still be the place that you were always going to go and also the place that you were always meant to go.