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Senior Clarinet Recital

Carson Conley, Clarinet

With:

Forrest Howell, Piano

Laura Lambrech, Oboe

Bebe Seidenberg, Violin

Eli Pouliot, Violin

Taylor Sapanara, Viola

Kate Fornshell, Cello

7:30 pm, November 2, 2024

Imig Music Building, Chamber Hall (S102)

Program

Clarinet Quintet in A major, K. 581 (1789)

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)

I. Allegro

II. Larghetto

III. Menuetto

IV. Allegretto con variazioni

Carson Conley, Clarinet

Bebe Seidenberg, Violin

Eli Pouliot, Violin

Taylor Sapanara, Viola

Kate Fornshell, Cello

—Intermission—

Première Rhapsodie (1911)

Claude Debussy (1862-1918)

Carson Conley, Clarinet

Forrest Howell, Piano

Sonatine for Clarinet and Piano (2008)

Valerie Coleman (1970-present)

Carson Conley, Clarinet

Forrest Howell, Piano

Serenade for Strings in E major, Op. 22 (1875)

Antonín Dvořák

(1841-1904)

Arranged by Kellan Toohey

II. Tempo di Valse

Carson Conley, Clarinet

Laura Lambrech, Oboe

Bebe Seidenberg, Violin

Eli Pouliot, Violin

Taylor Sapanara, Viola

Kate Fornshell, Cello

Program Notes

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart: *Clarinet Quintet*

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was born in 1756, in Salzburg, Austria. Son of violinist, teacher, and composer Leopold Mozart, Mozart composed over 600 operatic, symphonic, chamber, choral, and solo works in just 35 years. His most popular works include operas like *The Marriage of Figaro*, *Don Giovanni*, and *Magic Flute*, along with his last symphony, the “Jupiter”, a nickname for *Symphony No. 41*, and the *Requiem in D minor*, K. 626, which he was unable to complete before his passing. Mozart finished the work in 1789 for his friend Anton Stadler to showcase his virtuosity as a clarinetist.

The first movement *Allegro* is composed in sonata form and starts with an easy quality that sets the tone for the piece. Even in intense passages, it maintains an effortless, floating quality. The second movement *Larghetto* establishes a tender and poignant atmosphere; one might say these characteristics embody the spiritual heart of the piece. The third movement *Menuetto* is an extended minuet with two trio sections. Lastly, the fourth movement *Allegretto con variazioni* is a series of variations elegantly showcasing the capabilities of the clarinet.

Thanks to his *Clarinet Quintet*, among other late works by the composer, clarinetists hold great admiration and respect to Mozart for popularizing the instrument in classical music.

Claude Debussy: *Première Rhapsodie*

Claude Debussy, was born in 1862 in Saint-Germain-en-Laye, France. Debussy broke new ground through his use of harmony and

orchestration. These qualities are illuminated effectively through his *Première Rhapsodie*.

This work is one of the most famous clarinet solos of all time and for good reason. In 1909, the Paris Conservatoire commissioned Debussy to write this piece for the school's annual clarinet exam. While it was originally composed for clarinet and piano, he orchestrated it in 1911. With that in mind, the piece challenges the performer's endurance and facility of the clarinet.

Valerie Coleman: *Sonatine for Clarinet and Piano*

Grammy nominated flutist, composer and entrepreneur Valerie Coleman, born in Louisville, Kentucky, in 1970, began her musical studies at the age of 11. As a 14-year-old, Coleman had already composed three complete symphonies and won local and state competitions. She received a double B.A. in Composition & Music Theory and flute performance at Boston University, as well as a Master's degree in Flute Performance at Mannes School of Music where she currently teaches.

Coleman composed *Sonatine for Clarinet and Piano* after going on tour with professional jazz saxophonist Steve Coleman -- the two are not related. While going on tour with him, she became inspired to compose a work that evoked her experience at nightclubs on summer nights in Berlin. The composition intends to embody the improvisational qualities of the performances she witnessed in Berlin, and also present the rhythmic complexities and drama of these performances.

Antonín Dvořák: *Serenade for Strings in E major, Op. 22*

Antonín Dvořák was born in a Bohemian village in 1841. While his father was a butcher and innkeeper, he was also a professional zither player. Folk music played a prominent role in Dvořák's life at home and he would soon join his father, playing in the local band. Despite the challenges of living in poverty, Dvořák's parents encouraged his musical endeavors and he learned violin as well as began composing between the ages of 13 and 19 years. In addition to composing symphonies, operas, chamber works, piano works, and more, Dvořák taught composition at the Prague Conservatory and at the National Conservatory of Music of America in New York City.

Of his compositions, today you will hear an arrangement of the second movement of Dvořák's *Serenade for Strings in E major, Op. 22: II, Tempo di Valse* for two violins, viola, cello, oboe, and clarinet by my former clarinet teacher, Kellan Toohey. The *String Serenade* is one of Dvořák's most popular works and is performed frequently.

Acknowledgments

Daniel Silver, Professor of Clarinet at the University of Colorado,
Boulder

Forrest Howell, Piano

Laura Lambrech, Oboe

Bebe Seidenberg, Violin

Eli Pouliot, Violin

Taylor Sapanara, Viola

Kate Fornshell, Cello

Program notes by Carson Conley

I would like to thank Professor Silver for everything he has done for me. I would also like to thank Kellan Toohey for his arrangement, and for teaching me clarinet for nine years. Lastly, I would like to thank the

musicians above, and all of my friends and family members who have made this all possible. I wouldn't be here without you all.

Thank you.

Please join us for a reception following the concert in S101.

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