



Smithsonian Associates

The Great Composer-Pianists: Mozart, Beethoven, Chopin, Brahms

Dr. Rachel Franklin

Wednesday, May 25, 2022 - 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. ET

WK 3. SYLLABUS & WORKS

May 25th: Fryderyk Chopin, 1810-1849

“The tone he could draw from the instrument, especially in cantabiles, was always immense...He gave a noble manly energy to appropriate passages with overpowering effect – energy without roughness – just as, on the other hand, he could captivate the listener through the delicacy of his soulful rendering – delicacy without affectation. For all the warmth of Chopin’s temperament, his playing was always measured, chaste, distinguished and at times even severely reserved.” *Karol Mikuli*

Because of both his fragile health and the exquisite patina of his style, our understanding of Chopin’s playing is sometimes clouded by romantic myth. While he only enjoyed performing for private audiences, many reports show him to have been a mesmerizing player with a piano technique and harmony so revolutionary that it left his brilliant friend Franz Liszt scrambling to keep up.

Chopin’s works explored; media used:

Variations on "Là ci darem la mano" Op. 2

- Kun-Woo Paik, Warsaw Philharmonic

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jYONTFkgXmo>

Concerto in F minor, No. 2, Op. 21

- Artur Rubinstein, André Previn, London Symphony Orchestra

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nhZm-vr4QZo>

Selection of Etudes Op. 10 & Op. 25

- Evgeny Kissin

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5hwOveZlugk&t=950s>

Etudes, Op. 10: Etude No. 5 in G-Flat Major, "Black Keys"

- Janina Fialkowska

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N-jv8fXNUYI>

Sonata in B flat minor, Op. 35

- Rachel Franklin

Chopin Preludes Op. 28 No's 1-14

- Raoul Koczalski, recorded 1938- 39

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xhfmIUVSNDw>

Waltz in C# minor, Op. 64, No. 2

- Dinu Lipatti

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CK6lVqclnJs>

Nocturne No. 13 in C minor Op. 48 No. 1

- Maria João Pires

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fck-EoNcFyg>

Barcarolle in F# major, Op. 60

- Rachel Franklin

A number of you have reached out to me asking about my concert performances now that pandemic restrictions are easing. For my upcoming performance of Beethoven's Emperor Concerto, please click on this link:

<https://washingtonsinfonietta.org/concerts/2020/6/13/music-among-friends-7nfff-tzw78>