



Smithsonian Associates

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

Dr. Rachel Franklin

Wednesday, June 1, 2022 - 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. ET

WK 4. SYLLABUS & WORKS

June 1st: Johannes Brahms, 1833-1897

“Brahms’ playing...was, indeed, stimulating to an extraordinary degree and so ***apart*** as to be quite unforgettable. It was not the playing of a virtuoso, though he had a large amount of virtuosity (to put it moderately) at his command. He never aimed at mere effect, but seemed to plunge into the innermost meaning of whatever music he happened to be interpreting, exhibiting all its details and expressing its very depths.”

Brahms trained intensely as a pianist and all his piano compositions demand a massive and highly-controlled technique. He was also a renowned pedagogue, and he and his muse Clara Schumann taught many students whose playing was subsequently captured by early recording, finally allowing us a tantalizing glimpse into the performing styles of the 19th century.

Brahms's works explored, media used:

Scherzo in E flat minor, Op.4

- Carl Friedberg (1872-1955), recorded 1953

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AaNWjImTw6Y>

Sonata no. 3, F minor, Op. 5

- Hélène Grimaud

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

Hungarian Dance No. 2, arranged for violin and piano by Joseph Joachim

- Joseph Joachim (1831-1907), 1903 with unknown pianist

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K6Apn0-z1jU>

Violin and Piano sonata in G major, Op. 78, II. Adagio

- Ilia Korol, violin (Cai von Stietencron, 1999) Natalia Grigorieva, fortepiano (Streicher, 1870)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cgY8-W0nlvU&t=48s>

Violin and Piano sonata in G major, Op. 78

- Julia Fischer, Yulianna Avdeeva

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Ec_DnPL578

Piano concerto No. 1 in D minor, Op, 15

- Radu Lupu/Jukka-Pekka Saraste, Finnish Radio SO (Video 1996)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=79lbldvXzFc>

Clarinet Sonata No. 2 in E-flat Major, Op. 120

- Han Kim, Ilya Rashkovskiy

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7tHkEqGMouM>

Quintet in F minor, Op. 34

- Lana Trotoevskaya, violin Yuka Matsumoto, violin Tetsuomi Nagata,
viola Sebastien Hurtaud, cello Simon Lane, piano
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https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K7sq_Osc-hA

Op. 119, No. 2. Intermezzo in E minor

- Ira Brauss, on an 1870 Streicher piano

Op. 119, No. 2. Intermezzo in E minor

- Hélène Grimaud

Op. 117, No. 1. Intermezzo in E flat

- Hélène Grimaud

Op. 39, Waltzes, No. 9, No. 15

Op. 79, No. 2. Rhapsody in G minor

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

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>