



Smithsonian Associates

More Concertos: Front & Center!

Dr. Rachel Franklin

November 2, 2023 - 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. ET

NOV 2 Classical Perfection

We owe our modern day conception of concerto to Mozart's magnificent body of piano concertos, composed mostly for his own use and to establish his unique piano "brand." We survey a selection of these in tandem with the development of the piano. Both Mozart and Beethoven were extraordinary pianists; we also explore Beethoven's Mozartian inheritance and the role of improvisation in their works. Today's selections include Mozart's C minor concerto, K. 491 and Beethoven's concertos nos. 1 and 4. "Kapellmeister Mozart's...The hour of music I heard there was the happiest ever granted me. This little man and great master improvised twice...so wonderfully! so wonderfully! that I did not know where I was....He wove together the most difficult passages and the most ingratiating themes..." ***Joachim Preisler***

Works explored, media used:

Carl Philip Emanuel Bach, 1714-1788

Harpsichord Concerto in D minor Wq 23

- Mahan Esfahani, harpsichord, Johnny M Poon, Collegium Musicum Hong Kong

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mRNHpX_6T4s

Introducing Mozart's Fortepiano: Steven Devine, Principal Keyboard, Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2ef95BzfYcw>

W. A. Mozart, 1756-1791

Keyboard sonata in C, K. 545

- Wim Winters, clavichord

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XmBGXm6Gt24>

Keyboard concerto no. 9 in E flat, K. 271, the "Jeunehomme"

- Murray Perahia, English Chamber Orchestra

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d6D_IJivZ-8

Piano Concerto No. 24 in C minor, K. 491

- Murray Perahia, piano, English Chamber Orchestra

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NkoEkyFPaX0>

Piano Concerto No. 24 in C minor, K. 491

- Piotr Anderszewski, Sylvain Cambreling, Yomiuri Nippon Symphony Orchestra

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yo8j-m0Ctn8>

Clarinet concerto in A, K. 622

- Carlos Brito Ferreira, clarinet, Cristian Măcelaru, Romanian Chamber Orchestra

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B86uXI3qHjA>

Violin concerto no. 5 in A, K. 219 "Turkish"

- Christian Tetzlaff, Paavo Järvi, Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Bremen

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zwWi_BW33II

Joseph Haydn, 1732-1809

Cello concerto no. 2 in D Major, Hob. VIIb/2

- Xenia Janković, St. George Strings

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

L. V. Beethoven, 1770-1827

Piano Concerto No.1 in C Major, Op.15

- Martha Argerich, Václav Luks, inauguration of the 2nd Competition of Period Instruments in Warsaw, with a period piano, Erard 1858

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NzMg3wixJV0>

Piano concerto no. 4 in G, Op. 58

- Hélène Grimaud, Orchestre de Paris, Christoph Eschenbach

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8siki1iGkU0>

"Triple" Concerto for Violin, Cello & Piano in C Major, Op. 56

- Giora Schmidt – violin, Zuill Bailey – cello, Navah Perlman – piano, Itzhak Perlman – conductor, Israel Philharmonic Orchestra

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vtyod61mB6A>