

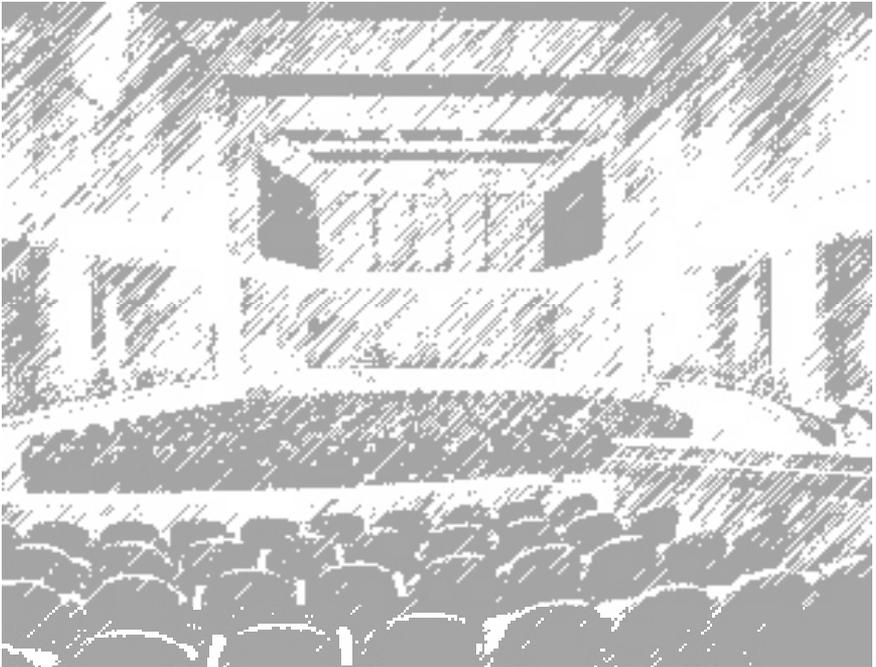
Kennesaw State University
College of the Arts
School of Music

presents

Guest Artists

The Pianissimo
The Musical Arts Association's
Piano Ensemble Concert

The Feast of Eight Hands



Wednesday, February 26, 2014

8:00 p.m

Audrey B. and Jack E. Morgan, Sr. Concert Hall
Dr. Bobbie Bailey & Family Performance Center

Seventy-sixth Concert of the 2013-14 Concert Season

Program

The Feast of Eight Hands

LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN (1770-1827)

arr. F. X. Chwatal

Egmont Overture, Op. 84 for 2 pianos 8 hands

KYUNG MEE CHOI (b. 1971)

The Mind That Moves for 2 pianos 8 hands (2011)*

ALBERT LAVIGNAC (1846-1916)

Galop March for 1 piano 8 hands

Intermission

CHARLES CAMILLE SAINT-SAËNS (1835-1921)

arr. E. Guiraud

Danse Macabre, Op.40 for 2 pianos 8 hands

SOONMEE KANG (b. 1948)

Poongryu II for 2 pianos 8 hands (2014 revised)

MIKHAIL IVANOVICH GLINKA (1804-1857)

arr. J. Spindler

Overture of Ruslan und Ludmila for 2 pianos 8 hands

* *It was commissioned and premiered in 2011 by The Pianissimo- The Musical Arts Association.*

* *Pianissimo's residency at Kennesaw State University is made possible in part by the Global Engagement Grants from the College of the Arts in KSU.*

* *Special thanks to the support by the Asian Studies Program of the Interdisciplinary Studies department in Kennesaw State University.*

Program Notes

Egmont Overture, Op.84 for 2 pianos 8 hands LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN / F. X. CHWATAL

Egmont, Op. 84 is a set of incidental music pieces for the play of the same name by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe. Beethoven wrote it between October 1809 and June 1810, and it was premiered on June 15, 1810.

The subject of the music and dramatic narrative is the life and heroism of a 16th-century Dutch nobleman, the Count of Egmont. In the music for *Egmont*, Beethoven expressed his own political concerns through the exaltation of the heroic sacrifice of a man condemned to death for having taken a valiant stand against oppression. The overture later became an unofficial anthem of the 1956 Hungarian revolution. The overture, powerful and expressive, is one of the last works of his middle period; it has become as famous a composition as the *Coriolan Overture*, and is in a similar style to the *Fifth Symphony*, which he had completed two years earlier.

Franz Xaver Chwatal (1808-1879), German composer and music educator, arranged *Egmont Overture for two pianos eight hands*.

The Mind That Moves for 2 pianos 8 hands (premiered in 2011) KYUNG MEE CHOI

As the title shows, *The Mind That Moves* expresses human mind that always changes. However, our mind embodies certain shapes as water develops waves. Sometimes it changes suddenly, but mind is not an isolated individual but an organic movement such as flowing water. The piece consisted in five sections with various rhythm, harmony, tempo, timbre and dynamics, through which the changes of human minds are sketched. Also, there are common motives throughout the pieces that gives unity to the sections.

Galop-Marche for 1 piano 8 hands ALBERT LAVIGNAC

Albert Lavignac was a French music scholar known for his essays on theory and a minor composer. He was born in Paris and studied with at the Conservatoire de Paris, where later he taught harmony. Among his pupils were Henri Casadesus, Vincent d'Indy, Philipp Jarnach, Gabriel Pierné, Amédée Gastoué, Florent Schmitt, and Claude Debussy.

His condensed work, *La Musique et les Musiciens*, an overview of musical grammar and materials, continued to be reprinted years after his death. *The Galop March* was first published in 1874 Paris and it was very popular at that time. Since four pianists sit on one piano, the narrow space between pianists creates humorous scenes.

Danse Macabre, Op.40 for 2 pianos 8 hands
CHARLES CAMILLE SAINT-SAËNS / É. GUIRAUD

Danse Macabre, Op. 40 is originally a tone poem for orchestra, written in 1874 by French composer Camille Saint-Saëns. It started out in 1872 as an art song for voice and piano with a French text by the poet Henri Cazalis, which is based on an old French superstition. According to legend, "Death" appears at midnight every year on Halloween. Death calls forth the dead from their graves to dance their dance of death for him while he plays his fiddle (here represented by a solo violin). His skeletons dance for him until the rooster crows at dawn, when they must return to their graves until the next year.

American-French composer Érnest Guiraud arranged the piece for two pianos eight hands. He won the Prix de Rome in 1859 and became close friends with Camille Saint-Saëns, Emile Paladilhe, Théodore Dubois, and especially Georges Bizet. Guiraud taught at the Paris Conservatoire. He was a founding member of the Société Nationale de Musique and the author of an excellent treatise on instrumentation.

Poongryu II for 2 pianos 8 hands
SOONMEE KANG

Soonmee Kang, a Korean woman composer, is an emeritus professor at the Sungshin Women's University in Seoul, Korea. *Poongryu II for 2 pianos 8 hands* is based on the Samulnori, which is Korean traditional percussion music. Samulnori consists of several Jangdans (rhythmic patterns), typically beginning in slow tempo and gradually faster to the end. *Poongryu II* explores three Jangdans of Samulnori: O-cha-chil-gut, Gut-geo-ry, and Dong-sal-puri. O-cha-chil-gut especially consists of asymmetrical rhythmic patterns, which has been used for calling ghosts when a shaman is performing a Gut (Korean shaman ritual). Dong-sal-puri, which is similar to a cheerful western four beats rhythm, employs the tune of the renowned choral "What can wash away my sin" at the end of this music. That means a kind of redemption to the previous exorcism in this work. *Poongryu II* was originally composed for three pianos and percussive instruments in 2013. The composer arranged two pianos-eight hands for this concert after the premiere of the music.

Overture of Ruslan und Ludmilla for 2 pianos 8 hands
MIKHAIL IVANOVICH GLINKA / J. SPINDLER (SCHIEGNITZ)

Ruslan and Lyudmila is an opera in five acts composed by Mikhail Glinka between 1837 and 1842. The opera is based on the 1820 poem of the same name by Alexander Pushkin and premiered in Saint Petersburg in 1842 at the Bolshoi Kamennyi Teatr. German pianist Julia Spindler arranged the overture for two pianos and eight hands.

Personnel

Dr. Joo-Hye Lee

(President)

Seoul National University BM

Indiana University MM

University of Illinois DMA

Faculty at Konkuk University at Seoul, Korea

Dr. Yoonmi Ham

(Conference Chair)

Ewha Woman's University BM and MM

University of Illinois DMA

Faculty at Ewha Woman's University at Seoul, Korea

Ms. Kyung Sun Byun

(Youngnam Region Chair)

Seoul National University BM

Western Illinois University MM

University of Illinois DMA candidate

Faculty at Silla University, Busan, Korea

Dr. Yanghee Park

(Seoul & Kyunggi Region Chair)

Hanyang University BM

Indiana University MM

University of Illinois DMA

Faculty at Baekseok Arts University at Seoul, Korea

About The Pianissimo

The Pianissimo, founded in 2005 by Joo-Hye Lee and Soohyun Yun in the USA, is a multiple-hand piano ensemble specialized group; 1 piano 4 hands, 2 piano 4 hands, 6 hands, 8 hands, etc. "The Pianissimo" indicates not "very soft" as a dynamic sign, but "two pianos" or "two pianists" inspired by the dynamic symbol "pp" that contains two "piano's." Constituted with 60 Doctors of Musical Arts and DMA candidates in piano performance majors, The Pianissimo has two main activities: performance and academic research. In 2005, The Pianissimo (Joo-Hye Lee and Soohyun Yun) gave the first concert in Illinois and gave a presentation at the College Music Society Rocky Mountain Chapter conference in 2006 with the subject, "The Value of the Piano Duo in Musical and Educational Aspects." After moving its domain to Seoul, Korea in 2007, The Pianissimo reorganized itself by recruiting and increasing members in order to take the academic activities as well as performance in full swing.

The Pianissimo- The Musical Arts Association was officially founded in March 2011. The Pianissimo has tried to vitalize piano ensemble through excavating new repertoire for the genre. To do this, The Pianissimo has commissioned and premiered piano ensemble pieces every year since 2010: *Four Colors for 2 pianos 4 hands* by Korean-born composer Hee Yun Choi, was commissioned and premiered at The Pianissimo 2010 concerts "Six Colors of Piano," supported by Seoul Foundation for Arts and Culture. In 2011, The Pianissimo commissioned *The Mind That Moves* piece for 2 pianos 8 hands to Kyong Mee Choi, an Assistant Professor of Music Composition at Roosevelt University in Chicago, and premiered the piece at The Pianissimo 2011 concerts, "The Feast of Eight Hands," at Seoul Arts Center. The concert was nominated as the recipient of the Korean Arts Council Performing Arts Excavating Funds in 2012. With the support of Korean Arts Council, The Pianissimo presented the concert, "The Feast of Eight Hands 2," in September, 2012, the program included the newly commissioned piece *Water Bloom*, composed by Kyong Mee Choi.

As a leading piano ensemble team based on academic research, The Pianissimo-The Musical Arts Association holds academic conferences, publishes academic journals, and presents master classes and workshops in an effort to share the outgrowth of various activities of the PP-MAA with every member of the society.

Kennesaw State University School of Music

The School of Music at KSU has dedicated, vibrant, and talented faculty and staff that are completely devoted to teaching, performing, scholarship, and serving our community. It is an incredibly exciting place to study, boasting state-of-the-art facilities with opportunities to produce and explore music in a dynamic place that is ahead of the curve for what it means to be a musician in the 21st century. Our students come from the leading musical honor organizations across the region and are poised to lead the cultural offerings and musical education in our area and beyond for years to come.

We welcome you to attend a concert, meet our faculty and staff, and feel the energy and excitement that our students exude. We are fully committed to our purpose as educators, performers, and scholars. We hope that you will find as much enjoyment in our product as we do in producing it.

Connect with the School of Music

For more information about the School of Music, connect with us online at the websites below. Tweet at us during tonight's concert from Morgan Hall's Tweet Seats to connect with fellow concertgoers during the performance.

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Please consider a gift to the Kennesaw State University School of Music.
<http://community.kennesaw.edu/GiveToMusic>

Upcoming Events

Unless otherwise noted, all events will take place at 8:00 pm in Morgan Concert Hall.

Thursday, February 27
Philharmonic & Concert Band

Thursday, March 20
Jazz Ensemble I

Wednesday, March 5
Faculty Guest Artist: Francois Fowler, guitar

Friday, March 21
Guest Artist Series: American Brass Quintet

Monday, March 10
Faculty Recital: Helen Kim, violin

Monday, March 24
Symphony Orchestra

Wednesday, March 12
Faculty Jazz Parliament

Tuesday, March 25
Chorale and Philharmonic

Monday, March 17
Faculty Recital: Robert Henry, piano

Thursday, March 27
Wind Ensemble

We welcome all guests with special needs and offer the following services: easy access, companion seating locations, accessible restrooms, and assisted listening devices. Please contact a patron services representative at 770-423-6650 to request services.