

THE VOYAGE OF IMPRESSIONISM IN THREE VIOLIN RECITALS:
TO SEE THE WORLD IN DIFFERENT COLORS

BY

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Dissertation submitted to the Faculty of the Graduate School of the
University of Maryland, College Park, in partial fulfillment
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ABSTRACT

Title of Dissertation: The Voyage of Impressionism in Three Violin
Recitals: To See the World in Different Colors

Chun Hsin Jenny Wu, Doctor of Musical Arts, 2013

Dissertation directed by Professor Gerald Fischbach, School of Music

Impressionism serves as the transition between romantic and modern music. This dissertation examines the varying characteristics and colors of Impressionism in the works of late-romantic French composers, French Impressionistic composers, and composers with Impressionistic influence from countries other than France.

Violin Sonata in g minor, L. 140 (1917) is the last work composed by Claude Debussy. The impressionistic characters in this work includes the ambiguous yet innovative and variant sonority and form. As a work also written in 1917, Ottorino Respighi's Violin Sonata in b minor is deeply rooted in Italian Romanticism. Some of the Impressionistic characters can be found in the second movement where the harmonies are in parallel motion. César Franck, a forerunner of impressionism, heavily influenced Debussy with the use of cyclic form. The Violin Sonata in A major (1886) is rich in harmonic language.

Ernest Chausson's works mark the transition between Franck and Debussy. The *Poème* portrays a love story, *Song of Love Triumphant* by Turgenev. The work is a symphonic poem for violin and orchestra. The *Mythes*, Op. 30 (1915) by Karol Szymanowski is based on Greek mythology. Ravel's Sonata for Violin and Cello (1922), dedicated to Debussy, points to the future with a sophisticated harmonic language

extending into atonality, spare texture, and expanded palate of impressionistic colors and techniques.

Ernest Bloch's Violin Sonata No. 1 (1920) portrays the feeling of torment. Beneath the soaring cries of the violin, the harmonic sonority of Impressionism are present. Gabriel Fauré's Violin Sonata No. 1 in A major, op. 13 (1876) is the earliest work of this project. The scherzo movement became a prototype for future scherzo movements for Ravel and Debussy. Ravel's *Tzigane* (1924), at once a paragon of French impressionism, a delightful gypsy-style dance-fantasy, and a breathtaking virtuoso piece, is the perfect conclusion to my dissertation project.

The pieces discussed above were presented in three recitals. Compact disc recordings of these recitals are available in the Michelle Smith Performing Arts Library of the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center at the University of Maryland.

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Doctor of Musical Arts Recital
Dissertation Recital 1

Chun Hsin Jenny Wu, Violin
Alexei Ulitin, Piano
Jasmin Lee, Piano

December 6, 2012
8:00 PM

Homer Ulrich Recital Hall
Teacher: Doctor Gerald Fischbach

Violin Sonata in G minor, L. 140 (1917)

Claude Debussy
(1862–1918)

- I. Allegro vivo
- II. Intermède: Fantasque et léger
- III. Finale: Très animé

Violin Sonata in B minor (1917)

Ottorino Respighi
(1879–1936)

- I. Moderato
- II. Andante espressivo
- III. Passacalia: Allegro moderato ma energico

Alexei Ulitin, piano

Intermission

Sonata in A major for Violin and Piano (1886)

César Franck
(1822–1890)

- I. Allegretto ben moderato
- II. Allegro
- III. Ben moderato: Recitative-Fantasia
- IV. Allegretto poco mosso

Jasmin Lee, piano

Doctor of Musical Arts Recital
Dissertation Recital 2

Chun Hsin Jenny Wu, Violin
Hsiang-Ling Hsiao, Piano
Juwon Moon, Cello

February 24, 2013
5:00 PM
Homer Ulrich Recital Hall
Teacher: Doctor Gerald Fischbach

Poème, op. 25 (1896)

Ernest Chausson
(1855–1899)

Mythes, op. 30 (1915)

Karol Szymanowski
(1882–1937)

- I. La Fontaine d'Arethuse
- II. Narcisse
- III. Dryades et Pan.

Hsiang-Ling Hsiao, piano

Intermission

Sonate pour Violon et Violoncelle (1922)

Maurice Ravel
(1875–1937)

- I. Allegro
- II. Très vif
- III. Lent
- IV. Vif, avec entrain

Juwon Moon, cello

Doctor of Musical Arts Recital
Dissertation Recital 3

Chun Hsin Jenny Wu, Violin
Alexei Ulitin, Piano

April 12, 2013
8:00 PM

Homer Ulrich Recital Hall
Teacher: Doctor Gerald Fischbach

Violin Sonata No. 1 (1920)

Ernest Bloch
(1880–1959)

- I. Agitato
- II. Molto quieto
- III. Moderato

Intermission

Violin Sonata No. 1, Op. 13 (1876)

Gabriel Fauré
(1845–1924)

- I. Allegro molto
- II. Andante
- III. Allegro vivo
- IV. Allegro quasi presto

Tzigane (1924)

Maurice Ravel
(1875–1937)

Recital 1 CD – Track Listings

Claude Debussy (1862–1918)
Violin Sonata in G minor, L. 140

- [1] Allegro vivo
- [2] Intermède: Fantasque et léger
- [3] Finale: Très animé

Ottorino Respighi (1879–1936)
Violin Sonata in B minor

- [4] Moderato
- [5] Andante espressivo
- [6] Passacalia: Allegro moderato ma energico

Alexei Ulitin, piano

César Franck (1822–1890)
Sonata in A major for Violin and Piano

- [7] Allegretto ben moderato
- [8] Allegro
- [9] Ben moderato: Recitative-Fantasia
- [10] Allegretto poco mosso

Jasmin Lee, piano

Recital 2 CD -- Track Listings

Ernest Chausson (1855–1899)

[1] Poème, op. 25

Karol Szymanowski (1882–1937)

Mythes, op. 30

[2] La Fontaine d'Arethuse

[3] Narcisse

[4] Dryades et Pan.

Hsiang-Ling Hsaio, piano

Maurice Ravel (1875–1937)

Sonate pour Violon et Violoncelle

[5] Allegro

[6] Très vif

[7] Lent

[8] Vif, avec entrain

Juwon Moon, cello

Recital 3 CD – Track Listings

Ernest Bloch (1880–1959)
Violin Sonata No. 1

- [1] Agitato
- [2] Molto quieto
- [3] Moderato

Gabriel Fauré (1845–1924)
Violin Sonata No. 1, Op. 13

- [4] Allegro molto
- [5] Andante
- [6] Allegro vivo
- [7] Allegro quasi presto

Maurice Ravel (1875–1937)

- [8] Tzigane