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MUSI 2733 – DL4

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Concert Report 2

This concert was by Dr, Jeremy Samoleky, a Professor of Piano and the Head of Keyboard studies at Auburn. Because of this he gave a little background on each of piece of music which helped me see what the composer was going for before I heard the music which really helped in picking out themes as well as rhythms. He played mostly classical songs with two of by Bach and the other by Beethoven. He also played more recent songs with one even being from 2001.

One of the songs “Through the Temple Gates” was composed in 2001 which was surprising as I had not expected to hear a song that recent. It was written by Marjan Mozetich a Canadian composer. It has a repeating two chord structure that Dr. Samoleky compared to current day pop music. Mozetich is know for doing this as he repeatedly experiemented with tonality in earlier years. The most likely influenced his style when he transitioned his music to explore spiritual and meditative themes. The song that

The song in general is extremely repetitive with the same parts being played repeatedly. The song starts with repeating crescendo and decrescendo as if to build up suspense. These chords played here are almost ever present throughout the song except in a few places. Next somber sounding notes are added slowly with the music gradually getting louder. These notes are played in such a way that each “phrase” only consists of notes that are increasing in pitch. This contrasts with the next movement where the phrases lose this rule and we hear the phrase having a note with a lower pitch. After this there is a section where it sounds like in between notes there is an alternation between chords. During this part the chords that ever-present stop. After this there is decrescendo after which the notes are high pitched. Finally after returning to a normal dynamic the song ends on a decrescendo.

Overall I felt relaxed except for the one part where there was a clear contrast to me. The beginning felt like the song was inviting me in then seemed hypnotic and peaceful with all the decrescendos in it. However Dr.Samoleky mentioned a eastern influence on the song but I could barely tell. Overall, this was my favorite piece.

The last song that Dr. Samoleky played was called Chaconne in D minor it has a It has a repeating four bar chord progression. It was written by Bach after his wife had died in childbirth after one of his concert tours This already sets the stage for a sad melody about lost as Bach wrote it to be a tombeau, French for a tombstone for his first wife whom he must have been devastated to have her taken from him suddenly. The piece was organically written for violin but was later transposed for piano by Ferruccio Busoni who according to Dr. Samoleky made use of every emotion that a grand piano could emit.

. Immediately the song starts with a slow, sad, mourning tune. This makes it immediately clear why this song was written to display the feelings of lost loved ones. The next part sounds like music that would fit in a flash back about an important main character that has recently died. This bittersweet feeling continues until the music speeds up and the music goes up in pitches instead of down like it was previously. After the music still has the somber feeling but in a completely different way that is hard to describe but the music is much brighter in a sense. The music then slows down and returns to the completely somber feeling it had in the beginning. This part even has parts that make it seem like the composer is crying with tear drops hitting the table. After this is a faster part that could make it seem like the Bach may be running from the truth that his loved ones are dead and after the music slows one with lower notes maybe to symbolize that he must accept that they are indeed dead. After this a much slower and softer section that could reminded me of a funeral maybe to symbolize that he should move on. The song ends on a strong send to his loved ones

This song was filled with strong emotions that honestly, I do not feel that I could ever do it justice and as Dr. Samoleky I feel Mr. Busoni did a wonderful job in transposing the music to express all the emotions in this somber song.

Overall I enjoyed the first concert better since this concert had a much darker theme to it and the first one I went to was much more upbeat and jazzy. However I did enjoy listening to the two different pianists play and it made me regret that I gave up on the piano at a young age a tiny bit.