Brady Coye

Music 101- 04

Guest Artist Recital: William Preucil & William Ransom

3 March 2014

A guest artist recital featuring the distinguished visiting professor of violin William Preucil and the renowned pianist William Ransom was held in the Daniel recital hall for no charge on March 2, 2015. Three individual Sonatas were performed with a brief intermission following the second. The casual nature of the recital allowed for all types of listeners to experience some breathtaking classical music.

The program included three works including *Sonata in D Major for Piano and Violin, Op. 12, No. I* by Ludwig van Beethoven, *Sonata No. 3 in A Minor for Piano and Violin, Op. I05* by Robert Schumann, and *Sonata No. 3 in C Minor for Piano and Violin, Op. 45 by Edvard Grieg*. The first Beethoven work performed was comprised of three movements. The first, *Allegro con brio*, had a seemingly disjunctive mood at first while the piano was dominant. It eventually built into a co-existing repetitious melody where each instrument complimented the other. The next movement *Tema con variazioni: Andante con moto* featured contrast of the instruments, which set the audience up for the finale. *The Rondo: Allegro* had an exciting fast tempo with explosive accents and several cadences that built to several fake endings. It also had a noticeably similar harmony to the first movement.

The second Schumann work performed had three movements that expressed a overall dark mood. The first, *Mit leidenschaftlichem Ausdruck*, was passionate and medium tempo that warmed the listener up for the next movement. After a brief transition, *Allegretto* burst out with an fast tempo that exemplified a sorrowful mood. The last movement, *Lebhaft*, featured a dominant violin build which lightened the tone and sounded optimistic. It later transitioned to the original dark piano dominant mood to end the piece.

The last Grieg sonata performed after the intermission had by far the most complex mood of all the works. The energetic *Allegro molto ed appassionato* began with several piano cord progressions while that violin provided the some energetic depth. The sound contrasted into a solemn tone led by the piano which was both dramatic and intimate. The second movement, *Allegretto espressivo alla Romanza*, was unexpected because of the several variations in form. The envious sounding movement was expressed first by an ritardando that complimented the first movement then later an accelerando that built into the final movement. The *Allegro animato* had competing instrument parts that invoked a dance like sound. Overall, this piece was hard to understand.

The Beethoven work performed was my favorite piece because of the classical nature and the up-beat exciting melody. I felt that the work exemplified an opera or play that had several acts that contrasted the mood. The explosive harmonies and co-existing instrument parts were easy to follow yet rich in emotional depth. I enjoy Beethoven’s style over most musicians of his era so this piece was an obvious choice. I later listened to the same work as a recording and it did not have near the effect on me as it did live.

My least favorite work performed was the final Grieg sonata. As a novice to classical music, I didn’t fully understand what the composer was trying to portray. The form was almost so complex that I couldn’t keep up with what I was feeling. I left with a disjunct feeling of discontentment. This was most likely not the performers fault as I could tell that others enjoyed this over the two other works by the reaction at the end of the recital. I could not relate to the dance like sound so this work was seemed foreign and exotic.

Overall, I greatly enjoyed the works performed but the room the concert was held in hindered my experience. During the concert, I struggled to hear some of the higher notes the piano played because the violin overpowered them. I suspect that this is due to the bad acoustics of the brick and concrete room. I don’t think it would have helped if microphones amplified the instruments because it would have subtracted from the natural sound of William Preucil’s violin. I have attended several classical recitals when my family has traveled abroad and this concert was on par with my expectations. William Preucil is probably the most talented violinist I have had the pleasure to experience.