Brady Coye

Music 101- 04

Junior Piano Recital: Carl Gibson

17 April 2015

The Junior Piano Recital featuring Carl Gibson was held in the Daniel Recital Hall on April 16, 2015. Three pieces were performed on the piano by the accomplished Furman music student. The music selection set a peaceful and elegant atmosphere, making it an unforgettable performance.

The performance had a variety of composers including Joseph Haydn, Franz Liszt, and Claude Debussy. The time period of the pieces range from early 18th to 20th century, so every composition performed sounded very unique. The first work, *Sonata in A-Flat Major, HOB XVI: 46 by* Joseph Haydn, had three movements. The first, *Allegro*, started with a vivace tempo that demonstrated the performers skill. This movement was fairly long and was unique because of its conjunct wide ranging melody. The classical and peaceful intro to the Sonata was fairly thin in texture allowing the audience to warm up for what was to come. The second movement, *Adagio*, had strong contrast and added a easily identifiable countermelody. The heterophonic texture was thick, however, each voice seemed repeat parts of the other so it wasn’t too overwhelming. The final movement, *Presto*, was definitely the most lively. It had a wide range in melody and scales going up and down which built energy. The performer played an impressive ending that released the tension built up over the entire Sonata.

The next work performed was *Liebestraum No. 3* composed by Franz Liszt. The short piece seemed to have three parts that were not very distinct. The first part featured a romantic dissonant melody with great flow in chord progression. The piece probably sounded romantic because of the soft open sounding piano (not sure how to describe heavy petal use). The second part had high variation and many cascading scales. This part was the longest, further depicting the romantic mood. The piece then returned to the original melody with some added complexity to give a sense of completion.

The final work was *Images, Book 1, IIO* composed by Claude Debussy. This piece seemed to be the most difficult to play because of its wide range. The three movements, *Reflets dans l’eau, Hommage a Rameau,* and *Mouvement* are each very distinct so an overall mood was difficult to pinpoint. The first movement, *Reflets dans l’eau*, had a soft dreamy melody with a moderato tempo. It featured graceful arpeggios that eventually transitioned into chords which made the melody memorable. The next movement, *Hommage a Rameau*, had a high variation from the first. The melody was more complex and thick and the mood changed significantly. The mood became much more serious angry sounding as the dynamics grew louder towards the middle. It ended similarly to the first movement, with a ritardando tempo concluding the movement. The final movement, *Mouvement*, was also high in melody variation. The vivace tempo changed the mood to lively and excited. The melody changed by adding complexity and a series of non-stop, disjunct notes. Towards the end, the original melody was repeated and elements all three movements were tied in.

My favorite piece was *Images, Book 1, IIO* composed by Claude Debussy. I enjoyed the three parts being distinct and found it interesting how each part was tied in at the end. I have experienced many of Debussy’s works at my house because he is my sisters favorite composer and she practices them often. When I heard this piece, it brought back wonderful memories of our family in France, which allowed me to connect with the piece on a deeper level.

My least favorite piece was *Liebestraum No. 3* composed by Franz Liszt. It was too short for me to connect with the romantic mood the composer was trying to convey. I found it fairly simplistic in nature which was slightly boring. I also didn’t particularly like the middle part because the thick texture made it seem almost unorganized.

Overall I enjoyed the concert. However, the second piece really interrupted the flow of the concert. I will definitely go to another piano concert if the works chosen are from the Classical or Baroque period. The performer, Carl Gibson, really made the pieces come to life so I would love to see him perform again.