

# Performance from Serbian pianist's heart

## ■ Review

Lunchtime concert  
Marama Hall  
Wednesday, Sept 8



ELIZABETH BOUMAN

Wednesday's concert at Marama Hall yesterday featured a recital by international Serbian pianist Sonja Radojkovic.

After briefly introducing *Dances*, by Van Mokranjac, Radojkovic performed these beautiful cameos based on folk tunes from her country of origin plaintive, lyrical, mostly in minor mode and delivered from the heart.

A "must" in every concert pianist's repertoire is *Piano Sonata No. 21 in C major, op.53 "Waldstein"* (1844), composed by Beethoven, inspired by the acquisition of his new Erard piano with increased resonance and extended treble compass, which he exploited to the fullest.

Yesterday's performance by Radojkovic certainly capitalised on the attributes of Marama's fine Steinway, with a radical Russian-styled *Waldstein*. Heavily pedalled with garulous colour and contrast (which may likely have received approval from the composer), but with flamboyancy, which verged on ragged and rushed. *Allegro con brio* became gaspingly *prestissamemente*, albeit with impressive technical proficiency and passion. A portion was omitted and there were many small blemishes.

The remainder of the programme featured music of Chopin, who wrote almost exclusively for the pianoforte, mostly in smaller forms.

*Piano Sonata no.3 in B Flat minor op 35*, the second of his three sonatas takes both performer and listener through the many moods and colours symptomatic with the "poet of the piano".

There were glimpses of the expected lyricism and romance of Chopin, but I felt generally the licence for rubato associated with this great composer was liberally over-indulged, with torrential scalic passages and heavily weighted harmonies.

The famous third movement *Marche Funebre* appeared grandiose rather than grave. *Fantasie-Impromptu* and *Waltz (C Sharp minor)* both received radical interpretations from this passionate performer, with her individualistic portrayal of great masters.