

SONOKLECT '96-'97

A Concert Series of Twentieth-Century Music

Terry Vosbein, Director

Heather Millette

clarinet

Aki Kawano

piano

WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY
KELLER THEATRE • 8:00 P.M. • 3 DECEMBER 1996

PROGRAM

Concerto for Clarinet (1948)

Aaron Copland

1900-1990

V mlhách (1912)

Andante

Molto Adagio

Andante

Presto

Leos Janáček

1854-1928

— INTERMISSION —

Four Pieces for Clarinet and Piano, Op. 5 (1913)

Mässig

Sehr Langsam

Sehr rasch

Langsam

Alban Berg

1885-1935

Wings (1981)

Joan Tower

b. 1938

Scherzo for Clarinet and Piano (1996)

World Premiere Performance

Terry Vosbein

b. 1957

PROGRAM NOTES

Aaron Copland

Concerto for Clarinet

Aaron Copland's *Clarinet Concerto* was commissioned in 1947 by clarinetist Benny Goodman, who premiered the work in 1950 on an *NBC Symphony of the Air* radio broadcast. Copland's decision to use jazz materials was inspired by Goodman's playing. The *Concerto* has an unusual form: two movements, slow and fast, joined by a lengthy cadenza. The first movement highlights the composer's diatonic lyricism, while the second, said Copland, is "an unconscious fusion of elements obviously related to North and South American popular music."

Leos Janáček

V mlhách (In the Mist)

In the Mist was composed as a sequel to the earlier cycle, *Over an Overgrown Path* (written 1901-08). It was written during a period when Janáček was facing difficulties in both his professional and personal life. According to his biographer, J. Vogel, the pieces are the reflections of Janáček's state of mind at that time: he was in a mist in which nothing could be seen clearly. The primary characteristic of this composition is the relationship between spoken language and his musical idiom. The piece was premiered in 1914 by Marie Dvorakova, a teacher at his Organ School.

Alban Berg

Four Pieces for Clarinet and Piano, Op. 5

Alban Berg's *Four Pieces for Clarinet and Piano* are the composer's attempt at the "small form" utilized by his colleague, Anton Webern. The *Pieces* are dedicated to Berg's teacher of six years, Arnold Schoenberg. The *Pieces* use an extended tonality, which anticipates the 12-tone style, while retaining elements of the German romantic and humanistic tradition.

Joan Tower

Wings

Wings was written for Joan Tower's friend and colleague, Laura Flax. Flax premiered the work in Merkin Hall in New York City on December 14, 1981. In the words of the composer, "The image of the piece is one of a large bird—perhaps a falcon—at times flying very high gliding along the thermal currents, barely moving. At other moments, the bird goes into elaborate flight patterns that loop around, diving downwards, gaining tremendous speeds."

Terry Vosbein

Scherzo for Clarinet and Piano

This one-movement work is developed entirely from the opening figures in the first four measures. The duo of clarinet and piano moves through numerous shifts in character, from long flowing legato melodies to rhythmically driving strains. The texture is mostly contrapuntal, frequently imitative counterpoint, with several canons appearing throughout the work. Of course, there is a cadenza, full of wide-ranging swoops of up to three octaves. And what would a cadenza be without a few trills, before the piano rejoins for the fiery conclusion? This work was composed for tonight's performers after hearing them in recital last spring and tonight is its first performance.

— Notes by the composer



HEATHER MILLETTE



Heather Millette was born in 1972 in Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin. She received a Bachelor's degree in clarinet performance from the Oberlin Conservatory, where she studied with Lawrence McDonald. She is currently enrolled in the Master of Music program at the Cleveland Institute of Music, where she studies with Theodore Johnson.

Ms. Millette is active playing clarinet and bass clarinet in orchestras, wind ensembles and contemporary music ensembles in the Cleveland area. She spent the last two summers playing in the pit orchestra for the College Light Opera Company in Falmouth, Massachusetts.

AKI KAWANO



Aki Kawano was born in Ube, Japan, and began piano studies at the age of seven. She studied with the same teacher for nearly 12 years in Japan before moving to the United States to continue her education. She was a student of Frank Wiens at the University of the Pacific in Stockton, California, where she received a Bachelor of Music degree. While attending the University, she was selected outstanding pianist of the year. She was finalist in the Conservatory's Commencement Concerto Competition which led to a performance with the Symphony Orchestra at Commencement.

In addition to solo piano studies, she has enjoyed collaborating with other players and has studied accompanying with Audrey Andrist. Ms. Kawano is currently pursuing a Master of Music degree at the Cleveland Institute of Music as a student of Vivian Weilerstein.

1996-97 SONOKLECT Schedule

28 September

The Music of Monk and Duke

2 November

The Cambiata String Quartet

3 December

Heather Millette

Clarinetist

25 January

Los Tres Musicos

Piano Trio

15 March

The Verdehr Trio

and Composer *Donald Erb*

10 May

Christine Schadeberg

Vocalist

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As many of you know, Sonoklect was the creation of Margaret Brouwer, former music professor at Washington and Lee University. She founded the festival and directed it from its inception. Margaret is now the head of the composition department at the prestigious Cleveland Institute of Music, where she is replacing the retiring Donald Erb. It is W&L's loss and Cleveland's great gain.

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