

THE BELHAVEN UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC
Dr. Stephen W. Sachs, Chair

presents

Brooke Kressin
Senior Piano Recital
assisted by Rachel Walczak

Thursday, May 7, 2015 • 7:30 p.m.
Belhaven University Center for the Arts • Concert Hall

*There will be a reception after the program. Please come and greet the performers.
Please refrain from the use of all flash and still photography during the concert.
Please turn off all cell phones and electronics.*

PROGRAM

French Suite No 4, BWV815

J.S. Bach • 1685 - 1750

Allemande
Courante
Sarabande
Gavotte
Menuet
Air
Gigue

Brooke Kressin, Piano

I Got Rhythm Impromptu Variations

George & Ira Gershwin • 1898 - 1937 & 1896 - 1983

Transcribed by George Stone • b. 1965

Brooke Kressin, Primo; Rachel Walczak, Secondo

INTERMISSION

Impromptu No. 2, Op. 90 in E-flat Major

Franz Schubert • 1797 - 1828

Sonata No. 7 for Piano in B-flat Major

Sergei Prokofiev • 1891 - 1953

Allegro inquieto
Andante caloroso
Precipitato

Brooke Kressin, Piano

PROGRAM NOTES

French Suite No. 4 in E-Flat Major

J.S. Bach wrote a series of six French suites in the years of 1722-1725 as a wedding gift to his wife, Anna Magdalena. Written for educational purposes, Bach wrote out each suite as Anna progressed in the harpsichord. The French suites were known to have charming melodies, suited for the royal French court. J.S. Bach seems to have had a victory over love, marrying his sweet wife, Anna Magdalena, and depicting his emotions of grace, beauty, and charm in his collection of dances within the suite.

The Allemande is the first dance in the suite, and is commonly known as a couple dance and

as you listen you can hear the conversation occurring between the male and female voices, the movements complementing one another, and hearts beating simultaneously. The Courante is a courtroom dance, one of the most important dances in Louis XIV's courts, written in a stately, triple meter. The Sarabande, a ballroom dance, is unique in that the second beat is emphasized. A French folkdance, the Gavotte is written in 2/2 time, indicating when the feet would move. Much like the Courante, the Minuet is another, yet much shorter, court dance, stately and elegant in nature. The Air is a song typically sung, very melodic in nature, and

the lines are always moving and flowing between the left hand and right hand. Lastly, the Gigue is a British folk dance and is fast and joyful. The character of love is heard throughout the entire suite: hearts unified, laughter heard, and minds combined.

I Got Rhythm (Impromptu Variations)

Written for the Musical, "Girl Crazy", in 1930, "I Got Rhythm" became one of America's popular melodies. The chord progression became a set standard in the jazz world, and throughout the year many other jazz musicians improvised upon the set progression, including George Gershwin himself. In 1934 George Gershwin composed "I Got Rhythm Variations" and dedicated it to the lyricist, Ira Gershwin. Gregory Stone has transcribed Gershwin's famous song into a piano duet, characterizing different variations of the famous song. Playing this duet with Rachel Walczak has been particularly special to me as she is one of my dearest friends. This piece symbolizes a great victory for both of us as we graduate alongside each other.

Impromptu No. 2, Op. 90, in E-flat Major

Impromptu No. 2, Op. 90 begins with fast-paced, triplet scales that come across as charming, elegant and lively. As the piece progresses and moves into the B section, the mood becomes seemingly darker and intense. The emotions of the heart move from blissful love, to that of longing which then erupts into a passionate desire of the heart. In life there is joy, as well as passion, and this

piece is a victory over the varying emotions of life.

Sonata No. 7 for Piano in B-flat Major

Prokofiev wrote Sonata No. 7 between 1939 and 1942 in the midst of World War II. Sonata No. 7 is the second of the three War Sonatas that Prokofiev wrote under the Stalinist regime. It depicts the present time of war with its driving rhythm, scattering melody lines, and abstract harmonies. Sviatoslav Richter said this about this sonata: "With this work we are brutally plunged into the anxiously threatening atmosphere of a world that has lost its balance. Chaos and uncertainty reign. We see murderous forces ahead. But this does not mean that what we lived by before thereby ceases to exist. We continue to feel and love. Now the full range of human emotions bursts forth. Together with our fellow men and women, we raise a voice in protest and share common grief. We sweep everything before us, borne along by the will for victory."

Allegro inquieto is the opening of war, full of anguish, gunshots, ghostlike melodies, and the haunting repetition of soldiers marching.

Andante caloroso is a drama of the tragedy of war and the chaos and confusion of the depravity of human souls, processed through the memories of sweet, lyrical melodies.

Precipitato is the victory movement, with its powerful harmonies, fast tempos, and crashing chords. The war is over, victory is won, and Christ has broken down the gates of sin and death and given newness of life.

DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC MISSION STATEMENT

The Music Department seeks to produce transformational leaders in the musical arts who will have profound influence in homes, churches, private studios, educational institutions, and on the concert stage. While developing the God-bestowed musical talents of music majors, minors, and elective students, we seek to provide an integrative understanding of the musical arts from a Christian world and life view in order to equip students to influence the world of ideas. The music major degree program is designed to prepare students for graduate study while equipping them for vocational roles in performance, church music, and education. The Belhaven University Music Department exists to multiply Christian leaders who demonstrate unquestionable excellence in the musical arts and apply timeless truths in every aspect of their artistic discipline.

The Music Department would like to thank our many community partners for their support of Christian Arts Education at Belhaven University through their advertising in "Arts Ablaze 2014-2015." It is through these and other wonderful relationships in the greater Jackson community that makes many of our concerts possible at Belhaven. We praise God for our friends and are truly thankful for their generosity. Please mention The Arts at Belhaven University when you visit our community partners.

For a complete listing of Music Department scheduled spring semester programs, please visit our website at <http://www.belhaven.edu/music/recitals.htm>. A complete listing of major Belhaven University arts events may be found at <http://www.belhaven.edu/arts/schedule.htm>.

Thank you to those working behind the scenes to make today's program a success: music faculty supervisor, Dr. Sachs; student workers – house manager, Anne Hilleke; usher, Beth Walczak; stage manager, Thorburn McGee; recording / sound/ lighting, Thaddeus Morris; videographer, Dorothy Claire Glover; page turner, Beth Walczak; reception host, Julie Wolfe.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, May 9, 6:00pm, Concert Hall

Alesia Sterling Senior Voice Recital

Saturday, May 9, 8:00pm, Concert Hall

Rachel Walczak Senior Piano Recital

DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC, FACULTY AND STAFF

Dr. Stephen Sachs, pianist, chair • Dr. Paxton Girtmon, director of bands, woodwind specialist • Dr. Andrew Sauerwein, composer, theorist • Dr. Christopher Shelt, coordinator of vocal activities, director of choral ensembles and Singing Christmas Tree • Song Xie, violinist, director of string ensembles • Nancy Bateman, cello adjunct • Dennis Bonds, jazz guitar adjunct • Richard Brown, string bass adjunct • Sybil Cheesman, flute adjunct • Dr. Dennis Cranford, music theory adjunct • Carol Durham, organ adjunct • Sarah Elias, piano and music theory adjunct • Doug Eltzroth, worship arts adjunct • Gena Everitt, vocal adjunct • Dr. Rebecca Geihlsler, vocal and music history adjunct • Kenneth Graves, clarinet adjunct • Christina Hrivnak, vocal adjunct • Andrew Lewis, jazz and music theory adjunct • Amanda Mangrum, harp adjunct • Randy Mapes, double reed adjunct • Dr. Marlynn Martin, music education adjunct • Maggie McLinden, staff accompanist • Dr. Tanja Miric, classical guitar adjunct • Christopher Phillips, vocal/choral & worship arts adjunct • Dr. Owen Rockwell, percussion adjunct, director of percussion ensembles • Carolyn Sachs, piano adjunct • Dr. Carla Stovall, low brass adjunct • Lloyd Turner, trumpet adjunct • Grace Anna Randall, administrative assistant

DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC, MUSIC MAJORS

Lauren Barger • Daniel Bravo • Gabriella Castro • Jessica Charitos • Clay Coward • Stephen Craig • Roland Dixon • Sidney Durham • Trailand Eltzroth • John Farrar • Levi Scott Foreman • Rachel Gari • Dorothy Claire Glover • Byron Hammond • Eric Hartzog • Anne Hilleke • Andrew Horton • Madeline Jolley • Lydia Jones • Zakary Joyner • Joy Kenyon • Brooke Kressin • Miranda Kunk • Cierra Lee • Jordan Locke • Rachael McCartney • Thorburn McGee • William Murphy • Justin Nipper • Billy Overton • Victor Piantanida • Constance Prince • Grace Anna Randall • Brandon Randle • Katherine Ray • Charity Ross • Alexandra Sahli • Jessica Schmidt • Faith Schumacher • Taylor Scrivner • Michael Shofner • Susan Smallwood • Brandon Smith • Cory Smith • Alesia Sterling • Tripp Stewart • Mariah Taylor • Alexia Valente • Elizabeth Walczak • Rachel Walczak • Hannah Wilson • Ellen Wise • Julie Wolfe • Jessica Ziegelbauer

