

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

presents

Brooke Kressin
Junior Piano
Recital

Saturday, March 29, 2014 • 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 performer.
Please refrain from the use of all flash and still photography during the concert.
Please turn off all pagers and cell phones.*

PROGRAM

The Man I Love	George Gershwin • 1898 - 1937
Four Etudes, No. 3, Op. 7 III. Andantino	Igor Stravinsky • 1882 - 1971
Nocturne, Op. 71, No. 1	Frederic Chopin • 1810 - 1849
Prelude & Fugue in E-flat Minor, from Book 1	Johann Sebastian Bach • 1685 - 1750
Impromptu in G-flat Major, Op. 90, No. 3	Franz Schubert • 1797 - 1828
Sonata, Op. 83, No. 7 III. Precipitato	Sergei Prokofiev • 1891 - 1953

Brooke Kressin, Piano

PROGRAM NOTES

Life Is Worth Living- I believe that God has called his children to live a life filled with laughter and joy. Gershwin writes music in such a way that cannot help but bring a smile to your face and a warmth to your heart. "The Man I Love", holding the elements of jazz, was first called "The Girl I Love", originally meant to be sung by a male. His brother, Ira, wrote the lyrics and I truly think they were written with me in mind: "Someday he'll come along, the man I love; and he'll be big and strong, the man I love; and when he comes my way, I'll try to make him stay./ He'll look at me and smile; I'll understand; and in a little while, he'll take my hand; and though it seems absurd, I know we both won't say a word./ Maybe I will meet him Sunday, maybe Monday, maybe not. Still, I'm sure I'll meet him one day, maybe Tuesday will be my good news day./ He'll build a little home, just meant for two; from which I'll never roam, who would--would you? And so all else above, I'm

waiting for the man I love."

Creation- Stravinsky's Étude no. 3 op. 7 is gentle and effervescent, a picture in my mind of the mystery of the Creation story. An étude means "a study" and were written to be teaching pieces. Stravinsky's étude seems to teach pianists how to uncover hidden melody lines and play them artfully. The melody line is found in the left hand are the words that creation speaks to the great Creator, offering up praise for being made beautiful and good. The soft rolling of the right hand is like the glittering beginnings of life, continuously blossoming and growing. In this piece, I am reminded of the mystery and wonder held in Genesis 1, that through simple, but powerful words of God all that I know came into existence. Now, as I create sounds and make music out of them, I hope you can revel and be filled with wonder in

the mystery of this creation process.

Pilgrimage- Chopin Nocturne No. 1, op. 90 is very distinctive of Chopin-style, with the arpeggiated accompaniment in the bass and the songlike melody in the right hand. Chopin was inspired by the Italian arias and the "bel canto", or "beautiful", singing quality. It seems appropriate to describe this particular piece as displaying the Israelite nation's pilgrimage to their home, "flowing with milk and honey", because while the continuous bass pictures the mundaneness of everyday living, the melody line pictures the inner workings of the heart, that even through the struggle and trials there is great hope in one day arriving to a safe and peaceful home. The same holds true for me: I am on a journey to my heavenly home, and even though this life seems so burdensome and ordinary at times, hope rings out that one day I will be in a calm place, worshipping my Savior Jesus for all eternity.

The Cross of Christ - All of J.S. Bach's music was sacred and devotional to God and this Prelude and Fugue is no exception. The Well-Tempered Clavier was written for the purpose of study and discipline in piano skills. But even while they were written for the purpose of learning, Bach still conveyed his heart for God through his works. In this particular Prelude and Fugue the account of the death of Jesus can be heard. Nietzsche once commented on Bach's compositions, saying, "One who has completely forgotten Christianity truly hears it here as Gospel," and as I learned this piece I heard the last moments of Jesus through the steady reflective sounds. The prelude is chordal and steady: "The hour has come." The recurring subject form of the Fugue is Jesus asking, "Shall I not drink this cup?". In many ways the Prelude and Fugue is a kind of devotional for me, drawing me back to my Savior through the harmonic steadiness in the prelude, and the multiple fugal lines in the fugue. I hope, as you listen, that you too would be caught up in the image of the last days of Jesus, reflecting on the very reason why Jesus came to earth, laying

down his sinless, perfect life, so that his love and grace poured out on the Cross would save His world.

Peace Has Come - Schubert loved poetry and literature and his impromptus are beautiful examples of the popular 19th century genre, of making poems through sounds. Written in the key of G-flat major, Impromptu No. 3, Op. 90 displays Schubert's skillful use of long, lyrical melodic lines. I was doing a study on key signatures and each signature holds a particular meaning, or conveys a particular emotion, and composers of the Romantic Period, including Schubert, loved to write music with keys that would evoke different emotions in the listeners. This particular key means triumph through victory, an echo of the soul that has struggled, but has conquered. Throughout the score I wrote phrases and verses about the "Peace of God", and it is the everlasting, soul-satisfying peace, that is reflected all throughout. Life is filled with moments of struggles and trials, in which I cry out, "Hear my prayer, O Lord, and give ear to my cry; hold not your peace at my tears!" Things on earth are not the way they should be, we live in a fallen and broken state. But Jesus affirms, "For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed, but my steadfast love shall not depart from you." And soon, "There shall be weeping and crying no more." It is through the blood of Christ that his peace has been poured out upon my heart and it is "because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace"(Lk 1:78-79).

The War is Won - Sonata no. 7 is one of the three War Sonatas Prokofiev wrote after WWII. These war sonatas are rhythmic and dissonant, and the third movement of Sonata no. 7, is an exciting and dynamic rush of victory. Jesus has won the war; "Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?"(1 Cor. 15:54b-55). The sound of marching is clearly heard in the distinctive

rhythm. The cries for joy are displayed in the brief melodic lines splattered throughout. And finally, Christ defeats Satan once and for all in the final crashing symbols of the movement.

This piece is strong, dramatic, rhythmic, and beautiful, a unique battle song of victory over sin and death that empowers the soul.

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 2013-2014." 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, Julie Wolfe; ushers, Katie Rowan & Rachel Walczak; stage manager, Allie Sahli; recording/sound, Joy Kenyon; videographer & photographer, Rachael McCartney; reception assistants, Evangeline Wilds & Elizabeth Walczak.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, March 31, 7pm, Concert Hall
Thursday, April 3, 7:30pm, Concert Hall
Friday, April 4, 7:30pm, Concert Hall
Saturday, April 5, 3pm, Concert Hall
Saturday, April 5, 7:30pm, Concert Hall
Tuesday, April 8, 7:30pm, Concert Hall
Friday, April 11, 6:30pm, Concert Hall
Saturday, April 12, 2pm, Concert Hall
Saturday, April 12, 7:30pm, Concert Hall
Monday, April 14, 7:30pm, Concert Hall
Monday, April 21, 7:30pm, Concert Hall

Mrs. Gena Everitt Faculty Voice Recital
Mr. Owen Rockwell Faculty Percussion Recital
Alesia Sterling Junior Voice Recital
Instrumental Arts Concert
Brooke Edwards Senior Voice Recital
Dr. Rebecca Geihlsler Faculty Voice Recital
Tianna Rogers Senior Collaborative Piano Recital
Katie Rowan Senior Collaborative Piano Recital
Choral and Vocal Arts Concert
Best of Belhaven III
Jocelyn Zhu Senior Violin Recital