

For the convenience of concertgoers
the Garden Café remains open until 6:00 pm.

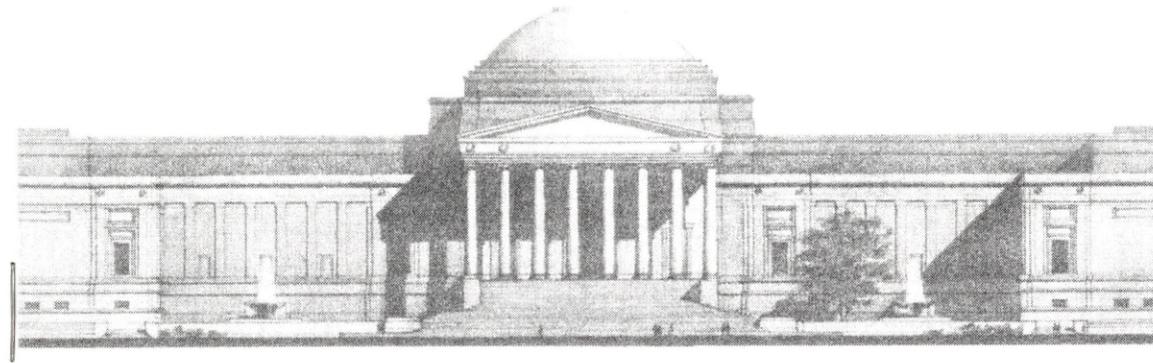
The use of cameras or recording equipment during the
performance is not allowed. Please be sure that cell phones,
pagers, and other electronic devices are turned off.

Please note that late entry or reentry of
the West Building after 6:30 pm is not permitted.

Music Department
National Gallery of Art
Sixth Street and Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, DC

Mailing address
2000B South Club Drive
Landover, MD 20785

www.nga.gov



The Sixty-eighth Season of
The William Nelson Cromwell and F. Lamot Belin
Concerts

National Gallery of Art
2,754th Concert

Jens Elvekjaer, pianist

December 6, 2009
Sunday Evening, 6:30 pm
West Building, West Garden Court

Admission free

Program

Joseph Haydn (1732–1809)

Sonata in E-flat Major, Hob. XVI:49 (1789–1790)

Allegro

Adagio e cantabile

Finale. Tempo di minuetto

Anton Webern (1883–1945)

Variations for Piano, op. 27 (1936)

Sehr mässig

Sehr schnell

Ruhig fliessend

Maurice Ravel (1875–1937)

From *Miroirs* (1904–1905)

Oiseaux tristes

Une Barque sur l'océan

INTERMISSION

Robert Schumann (1810–1856)

Carnaval, op. 9 (1834–1835)

Préambule

Pierrot

Arlequin

Valse noble

Eusebius

Florestan

Coquette

Réplique, Sphinxes

Papillons

ASCH-SCHA (Lettres dansantes)

Chiarina

Chopin

Estrella

Reconnaissance

Pantalon et Colombine

Valse allemande

Intermezzo: Paganini

Aveu

Promenade

Pause

Marche des Davidsbündler contres les Philistins

The Musician

A native of Copenhagen, Jens Elvekjaer has won top prizes in some of Europe's most prestigious international competitions, including the Brahms Piano Competition in Austria, the Ferrol Piano Competition in Spain, and the Scandinavian Piano Competition in Denmark. Denmark's first Steinway Artist, Elvekjaer represented his nation at the first Scandinavian Piano Festival and has performed widely across Asia, Europe, and North America in such venues as Vienna's Austrian National Library, Amsterdam's Beurs van Berlage, Tokyo's Musashino Hall, and Copenhagen's Tivoli Concert Hall as well as at the Bergen and Trondheim Festivals in Norway, the Casals Festival in Puerto Rico, the Korsholm and Kuhmo Festivals in Finland, and the Umeå Kammermusik Festival in Sweden.

A frequent guest soloist with the Danish National Orchestra and professional orchestras in Denmark, Elvekjaer has also performed with the Orchestra of Beurs van Berlage in The Netherlands, the Folkwang and Leipzig Chamber Orchestras in Germany, and l'Orchestre Syrnix in France. Elvekjaer's debut CD, *Carl Nielsen: Chamber Music*, was nominated best solo album by the 2007 Danish Music Awards, and was hailed in the Danish newspaper *Politiken* as "an extraordinary release . . . performances radiant with talent." Elvekjaer's recitals have been broadcast on Austrian Radio, the BBC, Danish Radio, Deutschland Radio Berlin, Hessischer Rundfunk, the Korean Broadcasting Systems, and National Public Radio.

An active chamber musician, Elvekjaer has worked with the Alban Berg Quartet and is the pianist of Trio con Brio Copenhagen, which received the Kalichstein-Laredo-Robinson International Trio Award as well as prizes at the Danish Radio Competition, the Premio Vittorio Gui in Florence, and the Trondheim Chamber Music Competition in Norway. In 2003 the trio won the prestigious Allianz Prize for Best Ensemble at Germany's Mecklenburg Festival.

Elvekjaer studied in Århus, Denmark; Cologne, Germany; and at the Hochschule für Musik in Vienna and the Mozarteum in Salzburg. His

teachers include Leonid Brumberg, Lazar Berman, John Damgaard, Karl-Heinz Kämmerling, and Ferenc Rados. Jens Elvekjaer appears at the National Gallery by arrangement with Lisa Sapinkopf Artists of Emeryville, California.

Program Notes

Though he is most widely known for his prolific output of string quartets and symphonies, Joseph Haydn composed more than fifty sonatas and other short pieces for keyboard instruments. Haydn was never a keyboard virtuoso, but he had a number of students for whom he composed piano sonatas. The wide range of ability among his students accounts for the disparate levels of sophistication and technical difficulty to be found among the surviving sonatas, most of which were written before 1770. Some of these works have been lost, because Haydn gave the manuscripts to his students without making copies. By the late 1780s Haydn's sonatas show clear evidence of having been written for the piano as opposed to the harpsichord. His exploitation of the ability of the relatively new piano to produce shaded dynamics grows with each of his late sonatas.

A few of Haydn's sonatas, however, were not composed for his students. The *Sonata in E-flat Major*, Hoboken XVI:49, was composed for Marianne von Genzinger, the wife of the Esterházy family physician. Haydn's relationship with Genzinger began in 1789, when she sent him a copy of a piano reduction she had made of a movement from one of his symphonies. A lengthy and intimate correspondence ensued, in which the composer poured out not only his feelings about music but also his personal frustrations from a long and unhappy marriage. This sonata shares a certain intimate style with other works dedicated to Genzinger, but it is quite Beethovenian in some respects. In general, Haydn's late keyboard sonatas are among his most forward-looking works, in which his influence on Beethoven is most visible.

Maurice Ravel's *Miroirs*, composed between 1904 and 1905, is a group of five reflections, written originally for piano, though Ravel later arranged several of them for orchestra. Each movement is dedicated to a different

person, who is presumably the inspiration for the movement and the person whose “image” is being reflected. *Oiseaux tristes* (Sad Birds) is dedicated to pianist Ricardo Viñes, who premiered *Miroirs* in 1906. *Une Barque sur l'océan* (A Boat on the Ocean) is dedicated to painter Paul Sordes. These challenging works push the envelope and represent Ravel's great contributions to piano technique.

Robert Schumann was a pioneer in the collection of short character pieces, often taken from literature or folk tales, that make up a longer, multi-movement work. *Carnaval*, quite possibly Schumann's most popular work, falls into this category. Its subtitle is “Scènes mignonnes sur quatre notes” (Little Scenes on Four Notes), and it involves a form of cryptography Schumann developed to proclaim his love for his then-fiancée, Ernestine von Fricken, who was from the town of Asch. The four letters in the town name also appear in the German word for the pre-lenten carnival—*Fasching*—as well as in Schumann's name (in reverse order). In the German language, the letters are the names of four notes: A, E-flat, C, and B-natural. A recurring motif of those four notes is incorporated into almost every movement.

The characters that inspired some of the movements in *Carnaval* include Schumann's friends, the *Commedia dell'arte* characters Pierrot and Arlequin, and even Schumann himself, represented by his two alter egos, Eusebius and Florestan. His fiancée is one of the characters (Estrelle), as is Clara Wieck, the teenage daughter of his teacher, who would eventually become his wife (Chiarina). Schumann honors Chopin and Paganini with their own movements, and in the final movement, all of these “good” characters are bound together as “Davidsbündler” (members of “the Society of David”). Schumann created this imaginary group as a musical confederacy against the “Philistines” of the day, who included some of the music critics who disparaged his compositions and articles on music.

Program notes by Danielle DeSwert Hahn

Upcoming Concerts at the National Gallery of Art

Tine Ting Helseth, trumpeter

Steffen Horn, pianist

Music by Chopin, Falla, Grieg, and other composers

December 13, 2009

Sunday Evening, 6:30 pm

West Building, West Garden Court

Presented in connection with

Norwegian Christmas at Union Station



National Gallery of Art Vocal Ensemble

Christmas Concert

Music by Johann Sebastian Bach and Michael Praetorius

December 20, 2009

Sunday Evening, 6:30 pm

West Building, West Garden Court