28 NOVEMBER 2018
WED, 6PM
CONSERVATORY CONCERT HALL

Junior Recital Series

CELLO: LIU LINGYU

LOCATELLI
Cello sonata in D (arr. Piatti)
I. Allegro
II. Adagio
III. Minuetto

DEBUSSY
Cello sonata in D minor
I. Prologue: Lent, sostenuto e molto risoluto
II. Sérénade: Modérément animé
III. Final: Animé, léger et nerveux

LIU LINGYU (B.MUS3), cello
LIU JIA, piano
Cello sonata in D, Op. 6 | Pietro Locatelli (arr. Piatti)

Locatelli was one of the leading Italian violinists and composers in the first half of the eighteenth century. At one time, he was known as the "Paganini of the eighteenth century" due to his 12 concertos and 24 caprices for violin. Although he was known primarily as a virtuoso violinist in the early part of his life, his abilities as a composer were far more important.

Stylistically, Locatelli worked within the conservative forms of the composers of the Roman school (Corelli, for example), but incorporated many of the more progressive elements of the Venetian school (Vivaldi, above all). He wrote mostly sonatas and concertos for strings. In general, though, his style was a consolidation of existing trends, yet still original in the beauty and resourcefulness of its harmonies. Very little is known about Locatelli's early life and training other than studying with Giuseppe Valentini, Corelli's rival in Rome back in 1712.

In 1729, Locatelli moved permanently to Amsterdam, where he devoted his attention to teaching and composing with an occasional concert tour. He was also involved in importing Roman violin strings and in publishing. By his death in 1764, Locatelli had been successful enough to leave behind a considerable estate, as well as a compositional legacy that remained fairly current until the beginning of the next century.

Pietro Antonio Locatelli published his Twelve sonatas, Op. 6 in 1737, with dedication to Carlo Cavalini. Originally meant for violin and piano, a number of arrangements have become popular. While most of his works consists of four movements, this piece has three movements. This particular arrangement for cello and piano by Alfredo Carlo Piatti draws from no. 6 (Allegro and minuetto movements) and no. 12 (adagio movement).
Sonata for Cello and Piano in D minor | Claude Debussy

The Cello Sonata is a late work by the French composer Claude Debussy. It was the first of a planned series of ‘Six sonates pour divers instruments’, however Debussy only completed two others, the sonata for violin and the sonata for flute, viola and harp. The sonata for cello and piano was written in 1915, and is notable for its brevity, most performances not exceeding 11 minutes. It is a staple of the modern cello repertoire and is commonly regarded as one of the finest masterpieces written for the instrument.

The two final movements are joined by an attacca. Instead of sonata form, Debussy structures the piece in the style of the eighteenth-century monothematic sonata, and was particularly influenced by the music of François Couperin. The piece makes use of modes and whole-tone and pentatonic scales, as is typical of Debussy's style. It also utilises many types of extended cello technique, including left-hand pizzicato, spiccato and flautando bowing, false harmonics and portamenti. Not surprisingly, the piece is considered technically demanding.

Programme Notes by Liu Lingyu