Chen, Szu Hua
Viola Senior Recital
with Liu Jia, Pianist

April 20, 2019 1 pm
Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music
Concert Hall

J.S. Bach
Cello Suite No.3 in G major, BWV 1009

Intermission

Béla Bartók
Viola Concerto
Chen Szu-Hua
Viola Recital

Liu Jia, piano

JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH
Cello Suite No.3 in C Major, BWV 1009
I. Prelude
II. Allemande
III. Courante
IV. Sarabande
V. Bourée
VI. Gigue

INTERMISSION (10 minutes)

BÉLA BARTÓK
Viola Concerto
I. Moderato
II. Adagio religioso
III. Allegro vivace
About The Performer

*Chen Sze-Hua* started playing the Viola when she was 8 years old. Over the years, Sze-Hua has taken part in masterclasses held by Wang, Shao-Wu, Ms Asdis Valdimarsdottir, Prof. Silverthorne, Jensen Lam, Chen Che-Yen, Shen Xi-di, Matthew Daline, Huang Hung-Wei, Nobuko Imai, Kazuhide Isomura, Maxim Rysanov, Su-Zhen, Wang Chang-hai, Huang Hsin-yun, Takacs Quartet, London Haydn Quartet, Juilliard Quartet. Sze-Hua was also a part of the Taipei Symphony Orchestra (2011) and the National Taiwan Symphony Orchestra (2013). Adding to that, Sze-Hua attended the Eastern Music Camp for Strings in China in 2012, PyeongChang Music Festival & School in 2016 and 2018 and had the opportunity to attend the SOA & NDR chamber at Shanghai in 2018. She is currently studying under the tutelage of Assoc. Prof. Zhang Manchin, and is using the Garimberti, F 1942 From Chimei Museum.

Programme Notes

Johann Sebastian Bach, Cello Suite No.3 in C major BWV 1009

Bach composed the Cello Suite during 1717-1723, when he served in Köthen. There are six suites in the Cello suite and each of them are structured in Prelude, Allemande, Courante, Sarabande, minuets or bourrées or gavottes, and end with gigue, a typical Baroque dance suite form.

The title of the six cello suite *Suites à Violoncello Solo senza Basso* (Suites for cello solo without bass) was given by Anna Magdalena Bach, who was Bach’s wife and regularly worked as a copyist, transcribing her husband's music.

These suites for solo cello are extraordinary and considered as one of Bach’s greatest composition in achievement of contrapuntal and polyphonic music in a unaccompanied musical line. Cellist Pablo Casals revived and recorded the complete cello suite in the early 20th century. Before that, the work were rarely performed in public due to the works’ technical requirement and the difficulty in interpretation. The cello suites have been performed and recorded by many well known cellists and been transcribed for multiple kinds of instruments.
Béla Bartók, Viola Concerto

The viola concerto was the last piece composed by Bartók’s in 1945. This concerto was commissioned by William Primrose, a great violist who asked Bartók to write a challenging piece for him. Unfortunately, Bartók dead after he finished the viola solo part and left the orchestral part. Tibor Serly, Bartók’s student, wrote the instrumentation by the manuscript and complete this concerto and was premiered in 1949. This was the first and most common version of Béla Bartók viola concerto.

The viola concerto presents the typical Bartók style in his late years. First movement is in a Moderato sonata form. The sorrowful and grim emotion permeate the entire movement. The intervals of the theme colours this movement with pain. The second movement is marked Adagio religioso, a ternary form. The stately melody at the first theme makes the huge contraction with the second theme which is vow-like melody. The third section borrows the theme from the first movement and connects to the third movement. The ethnic dance style with energy of the third movement enrichs this concerto. Marked as Allegro vivace, the finale is a rondo form as A-B-A-C-B-A.