CELLO JUNIOR RECITAL
LIU YUNBEI
PIANIST LIU JIA

RIMSKY-KORSAKOV
Serenade, Op. 37

POULENC
Cello Sonata

NOVEMBER 19, 2019  |  7:00 PM
YST CONSERVATORY CONCERT HALL
Liu Yunbei
Cello Recital

Liu Jia, piano

Programme

NIKOLAI RIMSKY-KORSAKOV
Serenade Op. 37

POULENC
Sonata for Cello and Piano

I. Allegro– Tempo di Marcia
II. Cavatine
III. Ballabile
IV. Finale
About The Performer

Yunbei started playing the cello at the age of five. She won the first prize of China Aegean Cello Competition at the age of nine. One year later, she was admitted to the Music Middle School Affiliated to Shanghai Conservatory of Music and studied under Prof Liu Dahai. In 2017, she participated in the world premiere of National Youth Orchestra of China with pianist Wang Yujia in Carnegie Hall, as the principal cellist. She is now a third-year student on full scholarship at the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music in National University of Singapore and studies under Prof Qin Li-Wei.

Programme Notes

The recital starts with Serenade Op. 37 by Russian composer Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakow. Rimsky-Korsakow is a member of the group of composers known as The Five and was known for making his own piano arrangements of excerpts from a range of his favorite operas and orchestral works. This attractive Serenade was composed for solo cello and orchestra in 1893, which happens to be the year of Tchaikovsky's death. He used an extremely beautiful and memorable melody in this piece, allowing the listeners to easily recognize it when it returns several times throughout the piece.

The second piece of the recital is Sonata for Cello and Piano by French composer Francis Poulenc. This is the only work which Poulenc composed for cello. It took him eight years to complete the piece. It was dedicated to the French cellist Pierre Fournier who had helped with the technical aspects of the cello part, as the composer was unfamiliar with the instrument. The sonata is in four movements. Each movement is in ternary form, with a contrasting middle section. This work uses a combination of new harmonic structures of the 20th century and classical composition methods to bring the cello playing skills to the forefront and give audience a new perspective. This sonata not only requires a high level of technical mastery and musical expression, but also combines cello playing with music history, theory, and detailed analysis of the work to grasp the connotation and style of the piece.

Programme notes by Liu Yunbei.