

PROGRAMME

Friedrich Kuhlau

Sonatina Op. 20,
No 1 in C major

Allegro

Ludwig Van Beethoven

Fur Elise
Bagetelle No 25, in A Minor

By : **POON YUKAI JAVIER**

Sonatina Op. 20, No 1 in C major
Allegro

FRIEDRICH KUHLAU (1786 – 1832)

Friedrich Daniel Rudolf Kuhlau was a German-born Danish composer during the Classical and Romantic periods. Kuhlau was known primarily as a concert pianist and composer of Danish opera, but was responsible for introducing many of Beethoven's works, which he greatly admired, to Copenhagen audiences.

Born on 11th September 1786 in the North German town of Uelzen, near Hannover, Germany to a poor family, his parents still managed to pay for piano lessons. At 7, he lost his right eye when he slipped on ice and fell.

Some of his famous dramatic works includes Roverborg (‘The Robbers’ Castle’) and Elverhoj. He also wrote music for performances of William Shakespeare’s play. Alongside his dramatic works, Kuhlau wrote several compositions for flute and a large number of works for piano. His short pieces, particularly, sonatinas, for piano, enjoyed great popularity both in Denmark and abroad. His most recorded and played works are several piano sonatinas and numerous works for flute. It is because of these flute works that he was nicknamed ‘the Beethoven of the flute’ during his lifetime.

Kuhlau lost both parents in 1830, and the following year his house burned down, the composer suffering a resultant chest ailment that afflicted him until his death.

The Sonatina Op.2 No 1 in C Major was composed during the Romantic period. It has 3 movements, Allegro, Andante and Rondo. The first movement has a lot of ascending and descending scales, as well as broken chords and rapid Alberti bass. It consists of two themes, the first theme is in the tonic key of C Major and the second theme is in the dominant G Major.

Für Elise_
Bagatelle No 25, in A Minor

LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN (1770-1827)

Ludwig van Beethoven was born on December 17, 1770 in Bonn, Germany. He was born into a musical family and was the eldest surviving child of Johann and Maria van Beethoven. Beethoven's father, Johann wanted little Beethoven to be as much of a prodigy as Mozart had been, and to make lots of money, would force Beethoven to get up in the middle of the night to practice piano.

Although Beethoven was not a child prodigy, his musical talents developed impressively by the age of 16. He was already an accomplished pianist and organist and had composed quite a few works. However, by the age of 30, Beethoven's hearing weakened and was going deaf. Because of his deafness, Beethoven had to phase out his public appearances as a pianist but continued to conduct his own orchestral compositions.

Beethoven's music acted as a bridge between the Classical Era which he was born, and the exciting, bustling drama of the Romantic Era. Some of his famous works include Eroica (Symphony No.3) and the Ninth Symphony.

Beethoven had 'an eye for ladies'. He was always falling madly in love, and propose to several women; but it never worked out. Beethoven died on March 26, 1827 in Vienna, Austria. After his death, he left behind a love letter he had written which has become famous as the letter to 'the Immortal Beloved'. It was a wonderfully passionate letter to a woman whom he adored. Up to now, no one knows who this lady is.

Für Elise, whose actual name is Bagatelle No 25 in A Minor, translates to For Elise in English. This piece is believed to be composed by Beethoven for a lady named Elise whom he fondly adores. Bagatelles are short pieces of music, usually played by the piano.

This piece was composed in the time signature of 3/8. The melodies don't necessarily start on the downbeat of the measure. Instead, it starts on the upbeat, creating a continuous flow of the phrases and a lot of freedom from the 3/8 time signature. Für Elise is written in rondo form: A-B-A-C-A.