

Repertoire 1:

ETUDE OPUS 10. No. 5 (1830)

FREDERIC CHOPIN (1810-1849)

Born in Poland, Chopin brilliantly showcased the delight, agility and charming music of the Romantic Period. This was characterized by the rapid triplets figuration played by the right hand, accompanied by the left hand in staccato chords and octaves. Known as "Black Keys" as the entire work is played on the black keys for the right hand.

Lively staccato figurations marks the opening of this elegant piece with repetition for the following four bars. The main theme is played on the left hand accompanied with light and fast, yet steady flowing figurations played by the right hand. In the middle section of the work, pearly soft and delicate waves-like add shades of colours to this piece. The etude ends with a rapid octave passage in a fortissimo and staccato passage played by both hands.

I enjoy playing this virtuosic and beautiful piece! One can imagine himself or herself hopping over rocks along streambank whilst watching the water flowing gently, splashing on the rocks occasionally.

Repertoire 2:

TOCCATA (1928)

FRANCIS POULENC (1899-1963)

Born in Paris, Poulenc composed this work in a style contrary to impressionists. It is made up of three movements, all of which exploit the instrument to its full potential.

This is a very colourful and animated piece with a strong sonority in the opening. Sweet animated and playful music stirs up the beginning of the piece. Beautiful song-like melodies occur in the middle section of the piece with upward and downward movements. After a loud running downward passage, another beautiful melody with rich harmonies follows before the work ends with strong, fierce and fast passages.

I feel energetic playing this piece!

Clement Yap's biography

Currently eleven years of age, Clement started his piano at the age of six years old. In the following month of March, he attained his grade 5 distinction. At ten years old, he attained his grade 8 distinction and is currently preparing for his diploma exam. He is a student under the Gifted Education Programme (GEP). Last year, Clement won the First Prize award in category II piano in the North International Music Competition and was the overall 3rd Grand Prize recipient.

