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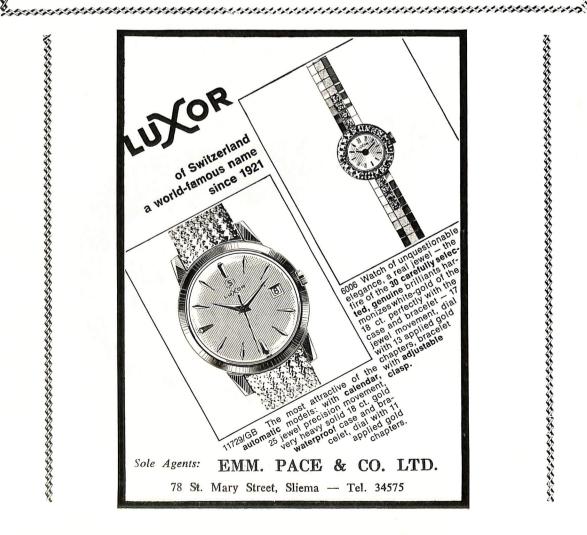
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GAYLE SMITH

WINNER OF THE SOVIET DIPLOMA OF HONOUR 1970 INTERNATIONAL TCHAIKOVSKY COMPETITION MOSCOW

Piano accompanist

PETER O'HAGAN

MONDAY, 7th DECEMBER, 1970

PROGRAMME

SONATA NO. 3 IN G MINOR:

BACH

vivace — adagio — allegro

This Sonata was written during the period Bach spent in Cothen, 1717-23. Unlike the 1st and 2nd which each have four movements, it no longer adheres to the Sonada de Chiesa four-movement form established by Bach's Italian predecessors. The first movement is a quick "Vivace" in 4/4 time with frequent juxtaposition and transference of voices between the two instruments. An intensity of spirit which is unflagging throughout the first movement gives way to an introspective and peaceful, "adagio", in sharp contrast to the final "allegro" with two clearly defined subjects, the first, of a sharp, brisk character, and the second, marked "Cantabile".

SONATA IN C MAJOR, Op. 102, No. 1:

BEETHOVEN

andante — allegro vivace — adagio — allegro vivace.

The fourth and penultimate Sonata of Beethoven's Sonatas for Piano and Cello is typical of his late period. The introductory Andante leads into a vibrant, strong and sonorous Allegro, in the related minor Key. The writing here becomes less melodious and the fragments are alternated in the two voices. The Adagio, in deep and soulful wandering passages, ponders pessimistically into a moment of melancholy, totally unexpected. Equally a surprise is the immediate return of the theme of the opening bars of the Sonata, slightly varied. An inversion of this first subject C-B-A-G- is quickened and becomes the principal subject for the final movement, the Allegro vivace. Here again there is no break between the movements (the same type of transition as from the 1st movement Introduction (Andante) into the Allegro vivace). The final movement is a return to a gay and jovial mood with many colourful modulations ending in a very decisive C major, the original key.

- INTERVAL -

SONATA IN C. Op. 65 (1961):

BRITTEN.

dialogo — scherzo-pizzicato — elegia — marcia — moto perpetuo.

This Sonata nearly takes on the form of a Suite, but retains equality in the importance of both voices. The Dialogo is a sort of game, as the two instruments frequently urge each other onwards: "Lusingando" is the marking employed. The Scherzo is entirely pizzicato with no arco throughout. Rapid alternation of the motives leads to a very busy conversational section which winds up by a return to the opening. The solemn Elegia starts in the distance, building to an enormous climax as a sort of plea for life, always aware of death's ultimatum, lurking under the surface. The mood subsides to a quiet mournful acceptance, ending with a cadence which is decidedly neither major nor minor, a simple unison of A. The Marcia, employs continual changes of matter as a sort of comic relief to the Elegia. Ponticello and themes bouncing back and forth end in a humourous section of cello harmonics and broken piano chords. The Moto Perpetuo is totally irregular and unschematic in its rhythmic patterns. Two middle sections, 1st stated in piano, and later taken up with the cello principally, loosen the rigidity of the incessant percussive quality of the movement, which give way to a forthright blast of the principal subject and machine-gun punctuations relentlessly to the final coup.

VALSE SENTIMENTALE

TCHAIKOWSKY

Tchaikowsky wrote several works for cello and orchestra, the most famous of which the "Variations on a Rococo Theme, still a favourite among cellists and audiences. This piece, however, is an arrangment of a piano piece from his opus 51, written in 1882 at the same time as the Trio in A minor, and only two years after his Serenade for strings and 1812 Overture. It contains many characteristic features of Tchaikowsky's style.

LARGO FROM THE SONATA IN G MINOR, Op. 65

CHOPIN

Although we normally associate Chopin with the piano, there are a few compositions of his which experiment with other mediums, and it would seem natural for a composer with such a gift for melody to turn to the cello on the odd occasion for inspiration. The G minor Sonata dates from 1845-6, and is among the composer's last works. It was written just after the break-up of his love affair with novelist, George Sand, and marks the end of a period of intense musical activity. Indeed after this date, Chopin practically ceased from composition altogether, and in many ways this work must count as one of his most personal musical expressions.

HUNGARIAN RHAPSODY, Op. 68

POPPER

The Hungarian Rhapsody is a collection of Folk themes taken from competitors as well as eclectically from countryside motives, festive as well as nostalgic.



GAYLE SMITH

Gayle Smith was born in Los Angeles in 1943. She received her first musical instruction at the age of three from her mother, and gave her first concert recital when she was seven. As a child she studied the cello with William Van den Burg in Los Angeles, Pablo Casals in Puerto Rico, and later with Gregor Piatigorsky at the Institute for Special Musical Studies at the University of Southern California.

In 1960 she received the Young Musicians Foundation's Harmony Award, presented by the late Bruno Walter at her debut concert with orchestra. She was immediately engaged as soloist with several American orchestras and perfermed on radio and television.

In 1965, after studying aesthetics and philosophy for two years at the University of California at Los Angeles, she was chosen to serve on the University's first "Colloquum for the Fine Arts." She graduated a year later with the Bachelor of Arts degree in the History of Art.

In 1966 she came to Europe and studied in Germany, then in Switzerland with Peter Grummer before making her residence in London. After one year of study at the Royal Acedemy of Music, with Douglas Cameron, she received three cello prizes and the Recital Diploma with highest honours and distinction. She then made her first extended concert tour of five European countries as soloist with the London Chamber Music Group, began to give concerts in Scandinavia, and continued study with William Pleeth.

In June of 1970 she won the Soviet Diploma of Honour at the International Tchaikovsky Competition in Moscow. Tass, the Soviet news agency, hailed her performance with the Moscow Philharmonic Orchestra in the final round as one of "great artistry, deep sensitivity, technical confidence and outstanding personality." A month later, the Yorkshire Post described her as, "a revolutionary and forward-looking cellist."

As a result of her European successes, Gayle Smith will continue to make concert tours in Europe and America, give a series of concerts in England with a repertoire mainly from early and twentieth century composers, and make return visits to the Soviet Union and Scandinavia.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

M.A.D.C. — "Boston Story" — 10th to 13th December

M.T.M.C. — Viol'n recital - Teiko Maehashi — 21st December

M.T.M.C. — Commemoration Concert — 26th and 27th December

ARIEL PLAYERS — Pantomine "Aladdin" — 31st December, 2nd and 3rd January 1971



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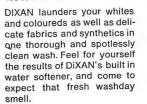
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