



Western Music

Don Wright Faculty of Music

STUDENT RECITAL

March 24, 2021
8 p.m., von Kuster Hall
Megaria Halim, *piano*

Quatre Instants
Douleur
Pafum de l'instant
Attente
Résonances

Kaija Saariaho
(b. 1952)

Andrea Nolan, *soprano*

- Intermission -

Metaphysical Poem*
(*Sonata for violin and piano*)

Djuro Zivkovic
(b. 1975)

Frangel Lopez Ceseña, *violin*

* *North American premiere*

This recital is presented in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Doctor of Musical Arts in Performance degree.



Western Music

Don Wright Faculty of Music

STUDENT RECITAL

Two collaborations with different instruments, two vastly different sound worlds, but connected by the shared theme of human experiences, one in the quest of the metaphysical realm and one on the earthly passions of love. Each composer uses the palette of sounds in very different ways, and as the commonly used parameters of pitch and harmony become more obscure here, the less clearly theorized element of timbre shows its rich potentiality for musical communication.

Kaija Saariaho is a Paris-based Helsinki native. Composed in 2002 originally for soprano and piano, later arranged for soprano and orchestra in 2003, the *Quatre Instants* are each associated with a different facet of love. One of the main parameters in Saariaho's works is timbre. The method with which Saariaho writes for voice "from whispers to singing in the high register", is also rooted to her system with sounds defined by their sound colour. Saariaho writes in her program note: "Trying to extract the colours I had in my mind from the piano, and at the same time adapting its vast and expressive scale to the diminutive vocal lines, reminded me of the work of a jeweller, who, with the help of a loop, creates rich, microscopic details."

Djuro Zivkovic is a Serbian-Swedish composer. His prime inspiration and artistic incentive has always sprung from his faith and the Byzantine music he experienced in his childhood Serbia. In a time when more and more people seek spiritual proximity in their lives, Djuro Zivkovic attempts to create an immersive, ritualized and stylized production where the audience is offered a profound and abstract space to reflect on the subject matter of mysterium, ecstasy and transcendence. The name is "Metaphysical" and it is a story of soul wandering through various landscapes, both noetic and physical. With many layers, it starts from reflection and despair, then it meditates on/through a "bell-like" landscape, then sings a folk tune, passes through tumult, and finally reaches the stage of apotheosis through prayer.

As a collaborative pianist, based currently in London Ontario, I have always been excited about experimenting and stretching the limits of what I can express musically together with other musicians. I am also intrigued by the numerous ways in which sounds can be used in music to communicate a wide variety of meanings. Having graduated with a MMus and currently pursuing my DMA in collaborative piano at the University of Western Ontario, my teachers and mentors have supported me greatly in my learning and endeavours. They've given me opportunities to explore both traditional and contemporary works, as well as solo and chamber repertoires. As a pianist in Trio Moyon, my fellow musician friends and I also seek to explore different chamber music works and share our passion with the world.

Thank you to everyone who has taken time from your busy schedule to share today's recital with me and thank you to Prof. Angela Park and Prof. John Hess for your support and guidance.

Quatre Instants by Kaija Saariaho
Text by Amin Maalouf

Douleur

Je ne voulais pas croiser son regard
Le remords me brûle
Mes yeux se sont tournés vers lui
Mes yeux ne m'ont pas obéi

Je ne voulais pas croiser son chemin
Le remords me brûle
Mes pas m'ont conduite vers lui
Mes pas ne m'ont pas obéi

Cette nuit-là, je m'en souviens,
La lune était pleine
Ma porte s'est ouverte à lui
Puis, doucement, refermée

Je ne voulais pas que ses brasa m'enlacent
Le remords me brûle
Mon corps a dérivé vers lui
Mon corps ne m'a pas obéi

J'aurais tellement voulu le garder
Le remords me brûle
Un jour de plus, une autre nuit
Il ne m'a pas obéi

Cette nuit-là, je m'en souviens,
La lune était pleine

Torment

I didn't want to face his eyes
Remorse, remorse devours me!
My own eyes turned towards him
My eyes did not obey me

I didn't want to meet his steps
Remorse, remorse devours me!
My own steps carried me towards him
My steps did not obey me

That night, as I remember it
The moon was full
My door opened to let him in
And then, smoothly, it closed

I didn't want him to embrace me,
Remorse, remorse devours me!
My own body drifted towards him
My body did not obey me

I wanted so much to keep him
Remorse, remorse devours me!
Another day, another night,
But he did not obey me

That night, as I remember it
The moon was full

Parfum de l'instant

Tu es après de moi
Mais je ferme les yeux
Pour t'imaginer

Nos lèvres se frôlent
Nos doigts s'emmêlent
Nos corps se découvrent
Mais je ferme les yeux
Pour rêver de toi

Tu es le parfum de l'instant
Tu es la peau du rêve
Et déjà la matière du souvenir

Attente

Je suis la barque qui dérive
Mon amant est sur l'autre rive
Et la mer est si vaste

Je suis la barque qui dérive
Mon amant est sur l'autre rive
Et le vent est tombé

J'ai déployé toutes les voiles
Pour que le vent me pousse

J'ai déployé toutes les voiles
Pour que l'amant me voie

Perfume of the instant

You're so close to me
But I close my eyes
To imagine you

Our lips are united
Our fingers, entwined
Our bodies, unveiled
But I close my eyes
To dream about you

You're the perfume of my instant
You're the skin of my dream
And already the essence of my
memories

Longing

I am the boat adrift
My lover is beyond the rift
And the sea is so vast

I am the boat adrift
My lover is beyond the rift
And the wind has died down

I have spread all my sails
For the wind to drive me

I have spread all my sails
For my lover to see me

Résonances

Ma porte s'est ouverte à lui
Puis, doucement, refermée

J'ai déployé toutes les voiles
Pour que l'amant me voie

j'aurais tellement voulu te garder
Nos doigts s'emmêlent
Nos corps se découvrent

Tu es le parfum de l'instant
Tu es la peau du rêve

J'aurais tellement voulu te garder
Nos corps se découvrent
Mais je ferme les yeux

J'aurais tellement voulu te garder
Le remords me brûle
Mais je ferme les yeux

Je suis la barque qui dérive
Mon amant est sur l'autre rive
Et le vent est tombé

Echoes

My door opened to let him in
And then, smoothly, it closed

I have spread all my sails
For my lover to see me

I wanted so much to keep you
Our fingers, entwined
Our bodies, unveiled

You're the perfume of my instant
You're the skin of my dream

I wanted so much to keep you
Our bodies, unveiled
But I close my eyes

I wanted so much to keep you
Remorse, remorse devours me!
But I close my eyes

I am the boat adrift
My lover is beyond the rift
And the wind has died down