



EMBASSY OF
CHILE

Foreword

I am pleased to introduce the young and talented Chilean pianist, Michio Nishihara Toro in his third concert to be held at the Purcell Room, Royal Festival Hall, organised to welcome the recently elected President Dr Michelle Bachelet (2006-2010).

Michio Nishihara Toro played for the first time at the Purcell Room in 1998 under the patronage of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Chilean Embassy and the Latin American and Caribbean Cultural Society.

The programme begins with Bach-Busoni “Ich ruf’ zu dir, Herr”, and “Nun komm’ der Heiden Heiland” a transcription of a work by Bach (1685-1750) made by Ferruccio Busoni (1866-1924), one of the greatest transcribers of Bach’s choral music. It continues with Johannes Brahms (1833-1879) “Rhapsody in B minor, Op. 79 No. 1 in B minor” and “Rhapsody in G minor, Op. 79 No. 2 in G minor”, both written in a formal and structured style like a miniature sonata. The first part of the concert ends with one of the most notable of Brahms’s transcriptions from the harpsichord to the piano, “Variations on a theme by Handel, Op. 24”, the audience will enjoy listening to this piece.

The second part of the programme commences with Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827), “Sonata No. 8 in C minor, Op. 13, ‘Pathétique’”, one of the most emblematic pieces written when the composer was 27 years old. It continues with Alexander Scriabin (1872-1915), “Poeme in F sharp, Op. 32

No. 1”, a work of modern harmonies with a strong influence from the classical romantic era.

Our concert then moves into more modern times with one of 20th century’s most talented English composers, Sir Malcolm Arnold (b. 1921). His piece “Day Dreams” was one of his first compositions written at the beginning of his career in 1938. The concert ends with Frédéric Chopin (1810-1849), “Etudes, Op. 10 No. 12, C minor ‘Revolutionary’”, “Nocturne in B flat minor, Op. 9 No. 1” and “Scherzo, No. 2, B flat minor, Op. 31”, these three pieces represent the composer’s substantial work whilst living in Paris.

I hope the British public enjoys Nishihara’s concert, which in a way symbolises the melting pot that is my country: a Chilean pianist with Japanese ancestors, playing the music of European composers to pay tribute to the first woman elected president in a South American country

Mariano Fernández
The Ambassador



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