



Somerville Music Society

Friday Lunchtime Recital Series, 22 October 2010

Edward Small, piano

Programme

J. S. Bach: Prelude and Fugue No. 16 in G minor, from Book I of The Well-Tempered Clavier

Bach composed a set of preludes and fugues in every key to demonstrate the capabilities of the new 'equal tempered' tuning system. Here, a free-flowing prelude is followed by a fugue in 4 parts.

Beethoven: Piano Sonata No. 12 in A-flat major, Op. 26

- (i) Andante con variazioni
- (ii) Scherzo, allegro molto
- (iii) Maestoso andante, marcia funebre sulla morte d'un eroe
- (iv) Allegro

This sonata, composed 1800-1801, is unusual in Beethoven's output in that it starts with a slow movement, a feature more common in the music of Mozart and Haydn. Beethoven is adept at creating contrasting moods within the variations, ranging from a lively 2nd, a brooding minor key 3rd, and a humorous 4th. The fast scherzo is followed by a funeral march. Beethoven was fond of this form, making use of it most notably in the 'Eroica' and 7th symphonies. Beethoven later orchestrated this movement and it was performed for his own funeral procession. The last movement in rondo form is short but animated, with a restraint creating a fitting resolution to the funeral march.

Howells: 2 Pieces from Howell's Clavichord

- (i) Dyson's Delight
- (ii) Bliss's Ballet

Herbert Howells (1892-1983) composed this set for performance on either the clavichord or piano. Inspired by virginals music of the late 16th and early 17th centuries, they are also a tribute to Howell's close friends, sometimes including elements of their compositional styles. The first piece, Dyson's Delight, evokes the long melodic phrases found in Dyson's choral music, while the second is a pastiche of Bliss's ballet music.

Sergey Liapunov: 12 études d'exécution transcendante, Op 11

- (i) No. 6 Tempête
- (ii) No. 1 Berceuse
- (iii) No. 10 Lesghinka

Sergey Liapunov (1859-1924) was one of the leading Russian composers of his day, although his music is now largely forgotten. The 12 études d'exécution transcendante count as one of his best compositions. Dedicated to Franz Liszt, they are inspired by Liszt's own set of studies of the same name. They are equally technically challenging, but Liapunov's set have a contrasting Russian melodic flavour. One of the most effective of the group is 'Lesghinka', inspired by the rhythms of the traditional Georgian dance.

Biography

Edward Small (b.1981) was educated at Hanley Castle High School, Worcester, and later studied music at Somerville College, Oxford. While at Oxford, he completed a Masters researching music in the Civil War Court of Charles I. He later studied piano with noted British pianist Mark Bebbington.

In recent years he has performed as a soloist at venues including Blackheath Halls, London, Wells Cathedral, and Brandenburg Cathedral School. He has also been active as an accompanist.

Since graduation, Edward has combined performance activities with work as an archivist and researcher at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, and subsequently at the Royal Ballet School.

Next Recital

Friday, 12th November 2010, 1:15pm, Somerville College Chapel
Ruth Hopkins (soprano), Birmingham Conservatoire