

dedicated to Stravinsky, is a brilliant scherzo that employs an enigmatic and decidedly Stravinskian harmonic language, and also harkens back to the brilliant use of the keyboard by *Les clavecinistes*, the group of baroque harpsichord composers who wrote virtuosic music and founded a French national style of keyboard playing.

ABOUT THE ORPHEUS DUO

Pianists Mark Uranker and Althea Waites have combined their talents and performing experience to form the Orpheus Duo, now beginning its eighth season on the West Coast. Both artists have concertized extensively as soloists and chamber musicians throughout the United States, Europe and Asia, and have been critically acclaimed for their performances of new music as well as familiar works from the traditional duo-piano repertoire.

Recent concerts from the 2008-2009 season include Mr. Uranker's performance of Messiaen's *Oiseaux Exotiques*, with the Cole Conservatory New Music Ensemble, and Ms. Waites's appearance with the Los Angeles-based Southeast Symphony at Walt Disney Concert Hall.

Mr. Uranker and Ms. Waites are also on the Conservatory keyboard faculty, and are in demand for residencies, concerts and collaborative work throughout Southern California.

The Orpheus Duo can be heard on a Cambria CD which was released in 2004, performing Lloyd Rodgers' *Etcetera Variations*, BWV 1087.



KEYBOARD STUDIES

For concert information please call 562.985.7000 or visit:
WWW.CSULB.EDU/COLECONSERVATORY

BOB COLE
CONSERVATORY
OF MUSIC
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LONG BEACH

THE BOB COLE CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC AT
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LONG BEACH AND THE COLLEGE OF THE ARTS PROUDLY PRESENT:



ORPHEUS DUO

ALTHEA WAITES & MARK URANKER
PIANO

SUNDAY, MARCH 18, 2012
4:00PM

GERALD R. DANIEL RECITAL HALL
PLEASE SILENCE ALL ELECTRONIC MOBILE DEVICES.

PROGRAM

MUZIO CLEMENTI Sonata in B-flat Major
(1752-1832)

1. Allegro di molto
2. Allegretto: Tempo di Menuetto

FRANZ SCHUBERT Fantasie in F Minor, D. 940
(1797-1828)

INTERMISSION

IGOR STRAVINSKY Sonata for Two Pianos (1943-44)
(1882-1971)

1. Moderato
2. Theme with Variations
3. Allegretto

CLAUDE DEBUSSY *En blanc et noir* (1915)
(1862-1918)

1. Avec emportement
2. Lent. Sombre.
3. Scherzando

PROGRAM NOTES

SONATA IN B-FLAT MAJOR Muzio Clementi enjoyed a varied career as a composer, pianist, music publisher, instrument builder, impresario, conductor, and theorist, and is recognized as a major figure in the history of music for the piano. He composed numerous works for piano, but spent most of his life writing sonatas and sonatinas which are studied and performed extensively.

The Sonata in B-flat Major is a spirited piece with both pianos sharing material that can be found in many works from the Classic period. Clementi uses the full range of the keyboard, and his writing is rich and colorful with dynamic contrasts and rhythmic precision.

FANTASIE IN F MINOR The F Minor Fantasie is a work of tremendous power and lyricism, and represents some of Schubert's finest writing for piano duet. Each movement is played without pause, and the thematic material of the opening movement reappears in the finale as a reminder of the reflective and poignant quality that Schubert depicts brilliantly. The ensemble challenges in the work are considerable, and are set off by dynamic contrasts in each movement. Although Schubert wrote numerous pieces for piano duet, this Fantasie stands alone as one of the best works for piano.

SONATA FOR TWO PIANOS The Sonata for Two Pianos was composed in 1944 and premiered by Richard Johnson and the great French teacher of composition, Nadia Boulanger. The sonata is in three movements and is an example of Stravinsky's extreme Neo-classic style. The work is in three movements. The first movement is a short four-voiced invention, light in character and features varied ostinato patterns. The second movement is a variation set on a chorale-like theme, reminiscent of Copland's open harmonies. The third movement, the shortest of the three, is sunny and bright.

EN BLANC ET NOIR Claude Debussy wrote *En blanc et noir* in the summer of 1915 during the disastrous and brutal onset of the First World War. The title refers not only to the colors of the piano keys, but also to the stark contrast in the character of the three movements. The first movement, a virtuosic outburst of passion for the pianists, is a series of joyous dance-like episodes, connected by the appearance of the opening motive. The second movement, marked Slow and Somber, is dedicated to Lt. Jacques Charlot, who lost his life on the battlefield. It is both an elegy for his compatriot and a depiction of war itself. The marching of troops, the calling of bugles, and quotations from the chorale, "Ein feste Burg" represent the horror and chaos of the Great War. The third movement,