



Tanya Végváry, composition

Toccatà in Black and White (2023)

Tanya Végváry
(b. 1969)

Jadine Young, piano

Érzések (Feelings) (2020-2023)

Szabadság (Freedom)
Várakozás (Expectant)
Kreativitás (Creative)
Baljóslat (Sinister)
Szerelembe Esés (Falling in Love)
Ihlet (Inspiration)
Félelem (Fear)
Szomorúság (Sadness)
Kíváncsiság (Curiosity)
Zavartság (Confusion)
Áldás (Bliss)
Fáradtság (Tired)

Tanya Végváry, piano

Whispers of an Empty Castle (2023)

Anne Plescia, violin | Tanya Végváry, piano

Chorale and Fantasy (2018, rev. 2023)

Tanya Végváry, piano

Theme and Variations for Woodwind Quintet (2024)

Sac State Student Woodwind Quintet

Kiele Miata, flute | Ethan Pham-Aguilar, oboe
Briana Maracle, clarinet | Christian Orr, horn
Victor Nuño-Robles, bassoon

*This recital is presented in partial fulfillment of the
requirements for the degree of Master of Music in Composition.
Tanya Végváry is a student of Dr. Shuying Li.*

PROGRAM NOTES

Tanya Végváry – May 10, 2024

Toccata in Black and White is a fun exploration of polytonality, with a playful juxtaposition of black and white keys between the hands and use of the octatonic scale.

Érzések is the Hungarian word for feelings, or moods. I composed these twelve mood pieces over the course of about two years, starting during the Covid pandemic. Each piece is a brief snapshot of a particular feeling. It was a discovery and a challenge to access the place in my body where I felt each feeling, and then to describe that feeling in sound at the piano. The Hungarian words for feelings inspired me because they have multidimensional meaning and nuance not found in their English counterparts. In Hungarian the word for a group of musical pieces is *dal csokor*, which literally translated means “song bouquet”. Since a bouquet of flowers usually has twelve, I decided this set of pieces should also contain twelve feelings.

My original inspiration for *Whispers of an Empty Castle* was to explore the joy and fun of playing instruments together. A strong and playful beat and a pop music feeling makes playing together so gratifying. I wanted to write a piece that would provide this atmosphere while at the same time convey a mood of congeniality between the two instruments. As the composition evolved, however, it became more serious than playful. Darker tones dominated the landscape and the original inspiration shifted. I often find that a piece of music has a life of its own, and this one was certainly in that category.

Chorale and Fantasy is an exploration of sound layering and tiered voices on the piano. I wanted to see how many voices I could stack upon each other while maintaining the integrity of the musical line and the clarity from the listener’s perspective. Listen carefully for a right-hand trill that runs through the entire Fantasy section, and the inclusion of non-diatonic tones. I revised this piece after being introduced to some non-traditional modes and scales, which inspired me to re-write some of the layering notes in the melodic lines.

Theme and Variations for Woodwind Quintet begins with a simple tonal melody and traditional four-part harmony with counterpoint. The theme features the French horn, which is one of my favorite instruments. Each variation gradually departs from tonality, resulting in the 6th and final variation comprising almost entirely aleatoric elements. While composing this work I delighted in exploring the coloristic opportunities and variety available in the woodwind quintet palette, including many extended techniques for winds like flutter tonguing and slap tonguing. Expanding my style with avant-garde mannerisms and textures also allows the performers a more co-creative space to express themselves.

Tanya Végváry began studying piano at the age of four under the tutelage of her father. She started formal lessons at age six. As a young pianist Tanya won many awards, honors, scholarships, and prestigious performance opportunities. At the California State University she was awarded a talent based scholarship each semester, the Senior Achievement Award, winner of the annual Concerto Competition, and the Pi Kappa Lambda national honor. She graduated Summa cum Laude with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Humanities with an emphasis on religious studies, and a second Bachelors of Music degree in Piano Performance.

Tanya’s professional performances include the Royal Albert Hall in London, National Gallery of Art in Washington D.C., Hungarian Embassy in D.C. and the Hungarian Consulate in Los Angeles. Her many

prizes include Concerto Competition Winner - Prokofiev's 1st Piano Concerto, Reno Pops Orchestra Concerto Competition Winner - Grieg Piano Concerto, two-time First Prize Winner Grand Prize Virtuoso Competition, and American Protege competition winner. Tanya's original compositions have won prizes, including the AnArt Artistry competition 1st place Prize. Tanya has been invited to perform at Carnegie Hall, The Philips Collection, and Philharmonie de Paris. Her published works include two full length CD's and several singles.

Reviews of Ms. Végváry's performances and compositions have been tremendous. "...Plescia's original compositions show a wide range of influences and a taste for pushing musical boundaries. Her set of variations (Theme and Variations for Violin and Piano) are everywhere full of color, and she's not shy about taking risks and being provocative. It came across as music that makes you *think and feel*, and if that isn't the point of original music, I don't know what is." (Edward Ortiz, *Sacramento Bee*). And in another review, "Tanya Vegvary received a standing ovation for her moving performance." (Steffi Broski, *East Sacramento News*). Plescia's original piece titled "Geary Street" was described as "a musical trip through rush hour traffic, but punctuated by moments of clarity and serenity." (Chris Macias, *Sacramento Bee*). "Ms. Vegvary brings a passion and fire to the piano literature that would thrill Beethoven. She takes those little notes on the page and breathes life into them, literally teasing out the flesh and blood that has gone into each composition, peeling back the layers of heart and emotion in each work until it is revealed stark and luminescent. She is fearless and devoted to the work, whether it is her own brilliant composition (I heard three at her concert) or works of previous masters." (Jim Caroompas, *Martinez News Gazette*).

Tanya Végváry is a member of the Music Teachers Association of California and has taught piano and composition for many years. Tanya is the founder and owner of the Sacramento Piano Conservatory - School of Music and is director of the annual Cupcakes and Composers event. The school prides itself on offering the highest level of musical instruction and performance opportunities to students young and old. Tanya's students have participated and placed highly in competition and recital for both composition and piano performance.

Ms. Végváry holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Humanities, and a Bachelor of Music degree in Piano Performance from California State University, Sacramento. She is currently a student of Dr. Shuying Li and is completing her master's degree in music theory and composition, graduating in December 2024.