



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, SACRAMENTO
SCHOOL OF MUSIC
SENIOR RECITAL

Kevin Le, clarinet

John Cozza, piano

Solo de Concours

André Messager (1853-1929)

Clarinet Concerto No. 2 in E-flat Major, Op. 74

Carl Maria von Weber (1786-1826)

- I. Allegro
- II. Romanze: Andante con moto
- III. Alla Polacca

INTERMISSION

Suite for Clarinet, Violin, and Piano, Op. 157b

Darius Milhaud (1892-1974)

- I. Overture
- II. Divertissement
- IV. Introduction et Final

with Ryan Datar, violin and Teresa Lee, piano

Capriccio for Solo Clarinet in A

Heinrich Sutermeister (1910-1995)

Rock'n March

Hiroyuki Fujikake (b. 1949)

arr. by Kevin Le

with Natassjah Diaz, Mia Kawakami, clarinets
and Briana Maracle, bass clarinet

*This recital is presented in partial fulfillment of the
requirements for the degree of Bachelor of Music in Clarinet.
Kevin Le is a student of Sandra McPherson.*



FRIDAY, 7:00 P.M.
OCTOBER 11, 2024
CAPISTRANO HALL 151

PROGRAM NOTES

Solo de Concours by André Messager

André Messager was revered as the last major figure of French operetta. In 1899, he composed the *Solo de Concours* for the Paris Conservatory's annual clarinet competition. As part of tradition, the two prior competition solos were dedicated to the conservatory's clarinet professor, Cyrille Rose. For unknown reasons, Messager omits a dedication.

This piece is inspired by Messager's background in opera. The regal and joyous opening is reminiscent of a French overture. The next section is tender and expressive—Messager utilizes the rich, low range of the clarinet. Similarly to the de capo aria of an opera, the cadenza is in the middle of the piece. After using the opening melody in the minor key as a transition, the clarinet takes off with energetic runs. It ends with grand B-flat major chords in the clarinet and piano.

Clarinet Concerto No. 2 in E-flat Major, op. 74 by Carl Maria von Weber

Carl Maria von Weber wrote this concerto, among other solos, for his friend and clarinet virtuoso Heinrich Baermann in 1811. Because the articulations and ornamentations are sparse, Baermann frequently added his own. His son, Carl Baermann, published editions of Weber's works that included Heinrich Baermann's interpretation. These editions became more popular than Weber's original manuscript.

The first movement is jovial and bold, whereas the second movement is melancholic. Weber uses his favorite dance rhythm in the final movement—the Polonaise. Music critic John Warrack claims that the finale is "scintillating enough to dazzle any audience and burn the fingers of most clarinetists."

Suite for Clarinet, Violin, and Piano, op. 157b by Darius Milhaud

Inspired by both jazz and Brazilian music, Darius Milhaud was a French composer of the twentieth century. He composed incidental music for Jean Anouilh's play *Le Voyageur sans bagage* and later adapted the music for this trio. It was dedicated to his wife and cousin, Madeleine Milhaud, who was cast in the premiere of the play.

The bouncy *Ouverture* uses a *tresillo* rhythm throughout—a nod to the Brazilian music Milhaud was exposed to. The *Divertissement* begins with a charming duet between the violin and clarinet. This material reappears in both hands of the piano, accompanied by the violin and clarinet. The dark and stormy *Introduction* of the fourth movement is followed by a comical and melodramatic *Finale*.

Capriccio for solo Clarinet in A by Heinrich Sutermeister

Heinrich Sutermeister was a Swiss composer most known for his operas. He was commissioned to write the *Capriccio* for the 1947 Geneva International Music Competition. Being a competition solo, this piece showcases a clarinetists' musicianship through its wide range of dynamics and rapid changes in meter and mood. According to Sutermeister, it should be performed "with much humor and in an improvisatory manner." Two contrasting themes are used throughout; one is whimsical and spunky, while the other is calm with a sense of apprehension.

Rock'n March by Hiroyuki Fujikake

Described as "a man of great charm and humor," Hiroyuki "Hiro" Fujikake is a Japanese composer, conductor, producer, and synthesizer player. He collaborated with flutist Sir James Galway to produce two CDs. One of them, *The Enchanted Forest*, entered the *Billboard Top 10* of the Classical Crossover section for five consecutive months. As a synthesizer player, Fujikake plays in a computer-assisted synthesizer orchestra called *Solo Orchestra*. Originally written for wind band, *Rock'n March* was composed for the 1991 All Japan Band Competition. It is a peppy and fun piece that I have arranged for clarinet quartet.