



VALPARAISO
UNIVERSITY

THE DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC PRESENTS

TWO PIANO RECITAL

Nicole Lee and Joseph Bogнар, *pianos*

Saturday, February 5, 2022, 5:00 p.m.
Duesenberg Recital Hall

PROGRAM

Malagueña (from *Suite Andaluía*)
Ernesto Lecuona
(1896-1963)
Grace Helen Nash, arr.

Tres romances argentinos (1951)
Las niñas (The girls)
Muchacho Jujeño (Jujeño boy)
Baile (Dance)
Carlos Guastavino
(1912 - 2000)

Libertango
Milonga del ángel
Michelangelo 70
Astor Piazzolla
(1921-1992)
Pablo Ziegler, arr.

INTERMISSION

Symphonic Dances from *West Side Story*
Prologue (Allegro moderato)
Scherzo (Vivace e leggiero)
Somewhere (Adagio)
Mambo (Meno presto)
Cha-cha (Andantino con grazia)
Meeting Scene (Meno mosso)
Cool Fugue (Allegretto)
Rumble (Molto allegro)
Finale (Adagio)
Leonard Bernstein
(1918 -1990)
John Musto, arr.

Paraphrase on Dizzy Gillespie's *Manteca*, op. 129
Nikolai Kapustin
(1937 -2020)

PROGRAM NOTES

Ernesto Lecuona was a Cuban composer who wrote over 400 songs, 80 theater works, 30 orchestral pieces, and 150 piano works, the most enduring of which is the “Malagueña.” Originally the last movement of the six movement *Suite Andaluía* (1933), it is often performed independently in any number of existing arrangements.

The Argentinian composer Carlos Guastavino is known for his smaller scale musical forms, excelling in the composition of songs as well as chamber and piano works. His style is romantic, inspired by Argentinian traditional dance rhythms and melodies, and eschews the atonal trends and experimentation that were prevalent at the time.

In 2021, the music world celebrated the centenary of the birth of Astor Piazzolla, the master of the tango. “Piazzolla’s distinctive brand of tango, later called ‘nuevo tango’, initially met with resistance. [It included] fugue, extreme chromaticism, dissonance, elements of jazz and, at times, expanded instrumentation.” (Oxford Music online) The *Libertango* draws its name from an amalgam of “libertad” (“liberty”) and “tango.” The slow and sentimental “Milonga del ángel” was written as incidental music to Albert Rodriguez’s play *Tango del ángel*, while the spirited “Michelangelo 70” was named after the popular nightclub in Buenos Aires where Piazzolla’s quintet was a regular fixture.

The *Symphonic Dances* were originally an orchestral treatment of a number of tunes from Bernstein’s celebrated *West Side Story*. John Musto’s arrangement translates the colorful score into a tour-de-force for two pianos, with an emphasis on the dance tunes from the musical.

Ukrainian-born pianist and composer Nikolai Kapustin composed prolifically for piano in a distinct jazz idiom. The tune “Manteca,” co-written by Dizzy Gillespie and Chano Pozo, effectively combines elements of bebop and Afro-Cuban music. In Kapustin’s reimagining of the work, the theme is clearly stated in both instruments before launching into three fully-composed jazz solos that explore both the lyrical and angular natures of the tune.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Joseph Bognar is the Frederick A. and Mazie N. Reddel Professor of Music at Valparaiso University, where he teaches piano, harpsichord, and music theory. He served on the faculties of the Maud Powell Music Festival, Lutheran Summer Music, and the Stamford International Music Festival. As a member of the Castillon Piano Trio, he has performed in the United Kingdom, receiving acclaim for “his superb technique ... one could only marvel at this talented performer.” (Evening Telegraph, U.K.) He earned the DMA in Performance and Literature from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and he continues to perform as a collaborative pianist in concerts, festivals, and conferences nationally and internationally.

Nicole Lee, a native of Vancouver, Canada, is a pianist acclaimed as both a soloist and a collaborative artist. As an active chamber musician, Lee continues to perform collaborative recitals with instrumentalists and especially enjoys presenting 4-hand piano repertoire with colleague Joseph Bognar. Lee holds B.M. and M.M. degrees in piano performance from the University of Southern California. She was selected as the outstanding graduate of the Keyboard Studies Department in both her graduate and undergraduate programs. She also holds performance and teacher’s diplomas from the Royal Conservatory of Music of Toronto and Licentiate and Fellowship diplomas from the Trinity College of London.

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