



SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Presents

Karah Cruse, violin
Edward Newman, piano

Friday, April 21, 2023

5:30 pm

PepsiCo Recital Hall

Program

Sonata in G minor for Violin and Piano

Allegro Vivo

Intermède

Finale

Claude Debussy

(1862-1918)

Sonata No. 21 in E minor, K. 304

Allegro

Tempo di Menuetto

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

(1756-1791)

Pause

Violin Sonata No. 3 in C minor, Op. 45

Allegro molto ed appassionato

Allegretto espressivo alla Romanza

Allegro animato

Edvard Grieg

(1843-1907)

This recital is given in partial fulfillment of the requirements for a Bachelors of Music in Violin Performance. Ms. Cruse is a student of Dr. Elisabeth Adkins.

The use of recording equipment or taking photographs is prohibited.

Please silence all electronic devices including watches, pagers, and phones.

Program Notes

Sonata in G minor for Violin and Piano

Claude Debussy

Claude Debussy's *Sonata in G minor for Violin and Piano* was composed as part of a set of six sonatas for chamber instruments, of which only the first three were completed before his death. This piece was composed in 1917 when Debussy was suffering with terminal cancer and Europe was in the midst of the First World War. Debussy was deeply depressed by the war and this Violin Sonata took much longer to complete. In his own words, "I only wrote this sonata to be rid of the thing," he wrote, "spurred on by my dear publisher. This sonata will be interesting from a documentary point of view and as an example of what may be produced by a sick man in a time of war." This sonata provides an astonishing range of emotions within a relatively short amount of time and expresses the overall somber mood of the piece.

Sonata No. 21 in E minor, K. 304

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart wrote over 35 sonatas for keyboard and violin, including some that were left unfinished. Only one is in a minor key, the *Sonata No. 21 in E minor, K. 304*, written in 1778 in Paris. The minor tonality and emotion within this two-movement sonata is often considered to be Mozart's musical response to the death of his mother in 1778. The sonata's dramatic unison opening leads to a harmonization of the same melody. The second movement is labeled "Tempo di Menuetto," however it functions more like a rondo. Though Mozart was only 22 when he composed this piece, it is often regarded among one of his finest chamber works. It is intensely expressive and emotional unlike any of Mozart's other works.

Violin Sonata No. 3 in C minor, Op. 45

Edvard Grieg

Edvard Grieg composed a total of three violin sonatas and completed the first two in just a few weeks. Twenty years passed before Grieg wrote his final *Violin Sonata No. 3 in C minor, Op. 45* in 1887. The C minor sonata remains the most popular of his three sonatas, and was composed while Grieg was in Trolldhaugen, Norway. Though it took much longer to complete, Grieg regarded his final violin sonata to be among his finest works and it is the last chamber piece he composed. In comparison to Grieg's two previous folk inspired violin sonatas, Sonata No. 3 expresses a more somber and mysterious tone which reaches beyond many of his earlier works. This sonata includes memorable themes and maintains a sense of drama throughout the piece.