The EWU Department of Music presents

Nicole Johnston
Senior Clarinet Recital

Assisted by Greg Presley, Joshua Lindberg, and Rory McDonald

Sunday June 5th, 2016
1:00 p.m.
Music Building Recital Hall

Presented in partial fulfillment of the requirements for
Bachelor in Music Performance, Clarinet

Studio of Professor Daniel Cotter
Program

Sonata
Allegretto
Allegro animato
Lento
Molto allegro

Camille Saint-Saëns (1835-1921)

Nicole Johnston, clarinet
Greg Presley, piano

Trio in A minor
Allegro
Adagio

Johannes Brahms (1833 – 1897)

Nicole Johnston, clarinet
Rory McDonald, cello
Joshua Lindberg, piano

Concerto for Clarinet

Aaron Copland (1900-1990)

Nicole Johnston, clarinet
Greg Presley, piano
Program Notes

The Sonata for Clarinet and Piano, Op. 167 in E flat major was written by Camille Saint-Saëns during the last year of his life in 1921. This piece is in four movements which reflects the Romantic sonata tradition. The Allegretto first movement is written in 12/8 and has a feeling of ocean waves as the piano’s eighth note line goes up and down. The clarinet line plays over these waves with plenty of passion and emotion, slowly growing over time. The Allegro Animato second movement gives a break to this passion, with a bouncy and cute melody. The drama returns in with the Lento third movement. With a 3/2 meter and melodies comprised mostly of half notes and quarter notes, it creates a daunting feeling. The last movement, Molto Allegro, has a much happier feeling with the clarinets spinning virtuosic lines over the pianos simple accompaniment. In the end, the piece returns to the same melody as the first movement, ending with the passion it started with.

Johannes Brahms wrote the Trio in A minor in the summer of 1891. The piece is a four movement work composed for A clarinet, cello, and piano. It is known for being a very popular piece in the standard repertoire of chamber music. The first movement is very bold and fierce, commanding attention right away. Even as the melodies become more lyrical and warm, the tension does not subside. The second movement is softer and more somber than the first. The whispering melodies give a contrast to the bold ones in the first movement. Even though it is more somber, the second movement still commands attention. It has a hopeful feeling, wishing to be noticed until it softly ends.

Benny Goodman commissioned Aaron Copland for a Clarinet Concerto in 1947. The work was finished for the jazz clarinetist in 1948 but, premiered in 1950. There are many stories about how the original manuscript was edited. Overall, the piece was a little too difficult, and things had to be changed so Goodman could perform it. Some clarinetists have performed the original composition; which is mostly different by a significantly higher amount of blaring altissimo notes. The piece itself alludes to Copland’s style and America of the time and is in three parts without any pause. The parts are Slowly and expressively, Cadenza (freely), and Rather fast. It starts very soft and open, giving the clarinetist time to be emotional. The somber feeling turns into the cadenza, where the piece starts to speed up and take on characteristics of jazz. Copland uses tempo and meter changes to give the piece many different melodies and characteristics. The piece ends with a dramatic theme and a glissando in the style of Gershwin’s Rhapsody in Blue.
Upcoming Events at EWU

Claire Arensmeyer Oboe Recital – June 6th 7:00 PM

Andrew Suave Junior Saxophone Recital – June 7th 4:00 PM

Justin Peterson Graduate Trumpet Recital – June 9th 5:00 PM

Special Thanks to:
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