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Vivian Zhao

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Study of Performing and Visual Arts Through Form and Sound

by

Vivian Zhao

Elena Cholakova
Adviser

Music

Elena Cholakova
Adviser

Paul Lennard
Committee Member

Bethany Mamola
Committee Member

2024

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Elena Cholakova

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An abstract of
a thesis submitted to the Faculty of Emory College of Arts and Sciences
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Abstract

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This 60-minute program is a curated recital that characterizes the boundless creativity and potential of writing for the piano when pushing beyond purely musical expression. The repertoire showcased represents different performing and visual art mediums translated to music. *Réminiscences de Boccanegra*, S.438 by Franz Liszt is a paraphrase of the 1881 *Simon Boccanegra* opera by Giuseppe Verdi. This work has both verbatim and transformed melodies from the original opera while also enjoying the Lisztian bravado associated with his solo piano pieces. Carl Vine composed the Piano Sonata No. 1 under the inspiration of contemporary dance, in which the meticulous rhythmic propulsion guides the listener through diverse soundscapes. *Pictures at an Exhibition* by Modest Mussorgsky is a visual canvas brought to life by sound. It takes the listener into the composer's journey, strolling through a gallery full of paintings done by his dear friend Viktor Hartmann. The work is eclectic by nature, portraying the joy of children playing in gardens, the solemnness of isolation, the terror of the chase by the witch Baba-Yaga, and the grandeur of a great adventure. Art forms in all mediums can inspire one another, creating a diverse landscape in which composers, artists, and performers can create in collaboration.

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Honors Recital Program (separate PDF produced by the Schwartz Center for Performing Arts)