Music and Repertoire. Classical Music Discussion. Underrated Works By JS Bach. Welcome to Talk Classical - A community covering every aspect of classical music! You are currently viewing our boards as a guest which gives you limited access to view most discussions and access our other features.

Johann Sebastian Bach is without a doubt, my all time favorite composer. He just has the greatest melodies, harmonies and counterpoint in the history of all composing. But unfortunately, he has hundreds of overlooked pieces that spell out his genius just as much as his popular works such as the Goldberg Variations or Mass in B Minor. I can pretty much go forever talking about underrated compositions by him but I will just list a few I just recently discovered.

A Survey of the Unaccompanied Violin Repertoire, Centering on Works by J. S. Bach and Eugene Ysaÿe

Yu-Chi Wang, Doctor of Musical Arts

Unaccompanied works provide a great challenge for violinists. The violin was originally designed to be performed with the support of other instruments. In addition, composers have developed various advanced techniques to enrich their solo violin compositions, for example to create polyphonic effects or to showcase the instrument's capabilities or a performer's virtuosity. Thereby, these works have become known for their technical challenges. A violinist thus faces unusual demands and stresses when performing solo violin works alone on the concert stage and may also use these pieces for musically gratifying and rigorous personal study.

For this dissertation project, a selected series of unaccompanied violin works ranging from the Baroque period to the twentieth century have been performed in two recitals, recorded for archival purposes, and discussed in this written document. I have primarily chosen solo violin pieces written by the German composer J. S. Bach (1685-1750) and the Belgian composer Eugene Ysaÿe (1858-1931). I have also chosen to study works by Heinrich Biber (1644-1704) and Bright Sheng (b. 1955) as Biber exemplifies a predecessor of J. S. Bach's and Sheng serves as one of Eugene Ysaÿe's followers.

The first recital, performed on May 8, 2002 in the Ulrich Recital Hall at the University of Maryland, College Park, included Passacaglia in G Minor (1676) by Heinrich Biber; Partita No. 3 in E Major (1720) by J.S. Bach; and Sonata no. 2, op. 27 (1923) by Eugene Ysaÿe. The second recital, performed on May 11, 2003 in the Main Chapel of the Memorial Chapel at the University of Maryland, College Park, included Sonata in G Minor (1720) by J.S. Bach; Sonata no. 4, op. 27 (1923) by Eugene Ysaÿe; and The Stream Flows (1990) by Bright Sheng. The written portion of this project presents a history of the solo violin genre, an overview of each composer's life, and a discussion of connections and influences among the composers and their works through time. I also suggest fingerings, bowings, technical solutions, and musical interpretations of these pieces based upon my experiences in their study and performance.

A survey of the unaccompanied violin repertoire, centering on works by JS Bach and Eugene Ysaÿe

Wang, Yu-ChI

Date
2005-07-31

Author
Wang, Yu-ChI

Advisor
Fischbach, Gerald

Abstract
Unaccompanied works provide a great challenge for violinists. The violin was originally designed to be performed with the support of other instruments. In addition, composers have developed various advanced techniques to enrich their solo violin compositions, for example to create polyphonic effects or to showcase the instrument's capabilities or a performer's virtuosity. Thereby, these works have become known for their technical challenges. A violinist thus faces unusual demands and stresses when performing solo violin works alone on the concert stage and may also use these pieces for musically gratifying and rigorous personal study.

For this dissertation project, a selected series of unaccompanied violin works ranging from the Baroque period to the twentieth century have been performed in two recitals, recorded for archival purposes, and discussed in this written document. I have primarily chosen solo violin pieces written by the German composer J. S. Bach (1685-1750) and the Belgian composer Eugene Ysaÿe (1858-1931). I have also chosen to study works by Heinrich Biber (1644-1704) and Bright Sheng (b. 1955) as Biber exemplifies a predecessor of J. S. Bach's and Sheng serves as one of Eugene Ysaÿe's followers.

The first recital, performed on May 8, 2002 in the Ulrich Recital Hall at the University of Maryland, College Park, included Passacaglia in G Minor (1676) by Heinrich Biber; Partita No. 3 in E Major (1720) by J.S. Bach; and Sonata no. 2, op. 27 (1923) by Eugene Ysaÿe. The second recital, performed on May 11, 2003 in the Main Chapel of the Memorial Chapel at the University of Maryland, College Park, included Sonata in G Minor (1720) by J.S. Bach; Sonata no. 4, op. 27 (1923) by Eugene Ysaÿe; and The Stream Flows (1990) by Bright Sheng. The written portion of this project presents a history of the solo violin genre, an overview of each composer's life, and a discussion of connections and influences among the composers and their works through time. I also suggest fingerings, bowings, technical solutions, and musical interpretations of these pieces based upon my experiences in their study and performance.

URI
http://hdl.handle.net/1903/2912

Collections
Music Theses and Dissertations
UMD Theses and Dissertations

Please send us your comments.
Web Accessibility
Before Bach composed his unaccompanied violin works, a number of composers had already laid out templates for this kind of music. Studying these precursors of Bach's unaccompanied violin works may help us have a better understanding of the development of this genre. In the later half of the seventeenth century, four German composers started writing works for unaccompanied violin.