

# ANG LI, piano

## ARTISTIC VISION

For my debut recital for Virtuosi Concerts, I've chosen to include some of my favourite musical works from the classical and romantic periods. "Dreams of Transcendence" encompasses a broad range of



emotions and musical styles.

Mozart composed his *Fantasia in C minor* in 1785 at age 29. This composition is very dark, full of drama and subtle tonal shifts, and profoundly influenced Beethoven's "Pathétique" Sonata. The Fantasia serves as an introduction to his *Sonata in C minor (KV 475b)*, although it is often performed separately from the Sonata. The rich modulations lead this work from C minor to B minor, D major, to B-flat major, and eventually give way to a section of continuous modulation. Mozart's Fantasia in C minor is one of his dark compositions written in a minor key, suggesting that this piece was probably a very personal work.

Rachmaninoff was one of the finest pianists of his day and, as a composer, the last great representative of Russian Late Romanticism.

These *Études-Tableaux, Op. 33, Nos. 8, 2, 9* written in 1911, are "picture pieces". *No. 8* is a melancholy work with the melody alternating between the two hands. *No. 2* is very songful and has beautiful melodies accompanied by fast, watery notes in the left hand. *No. 9* is a dissonant piece whose prevalent pattern is left hand leaps. Since the composer did not reveal what each piece suggests, we are free to imagine for ourselves what these pieces conjure.

*Après une Lecture de Dante: Fantasia quasi Sonata* by Liszt was inspired by the reading of Dante Alighieri's most famous epic poem "The Divine Comedy". It is a sonata in one movement with two main subjects. The first is a chromatic theme in D minor that symbolizes the wailing of souls in Hell. The second is a beatific chorale in F-sharp major representing the joy of those in Heaven. This was one of Liszt's more formidable compositions and showed off his great skills as a virtuoso pianist. Composed in 1849, it was first published in 1856 as part of the second volume of "Years of Pilgrimage".

Schubert wrote *Piano Sonata in B-flat major, D.960*, his last, in September 1828, only two months before his death. Consisting of four tender and melodic movements, it stands as the pinnacle of Schubert's large-scale keyboard works. "Molto moderato" (first movement) fluctuates between several different keys; "Andante sostenuto" (second movement) in C-sharp minor is tonally remote from the rest of the work; "Scherzo-Allegro vivace con delicatezza" (third movement) is a bubbly interlude; and Allegro ma non troppo - Presto (fourth movement) starts with an empty octave as the beginning of the main theme. Although the work is filled with sweetness, there is throughout a sense of tragedy beneath the surface. (Ang Li)