Concerto Grosso in G minor ‘Fatto per la Notte di Natale’, Op.6 No.8
Vivace
Allegro
Adagio
Vivace
Allegro
Largo (Pastorale ad Libitum)

Piano Concerto No.2 in G minor, Op.22
Andante Sostenuto
Allegro Scherzando
Presto

Soloist: Songlee Kim, piano
Maritsa Brookes Concerto Competition Winner 2022-23

Intermission

Symphony No.7 in A major, Op.92
Poco sostenuto - Vivace
Allegretto
Presto - Assai meno presto
Allegro con brio

Arcangelo Corelli
(1653-1713)

Camille Saint-Saëns
(1835-1921)

Ludwig van Beethoven
(1770-1827)
Concerto Grosso in G Minor, Op. 6, No. 8, “Christmas Concerto” is part of the twelve Concerti Grossi in Arcangelo Corelli’s Op. 6. Nobody knows the exact date of the composition for the Christmas Concerto, but the work was published in 1714, one year after Corelli died in 1713.

Concerto Grosso No. 8 of Op. 6 is Corelli’s most popular Concerto Grosso. He titled the work “Fatto per la notte di Natale,” which translates to “written for Christmas Eve.” There is a record from 1690 of Corelli receiving payment to perform the Christmas Concerto. The piece seems to have been very popular during his lifetime and was played at his funeral service.

The last movement of this Concerto Grosso is titled “Pastorale ad libitum,” which gives the option to the performers to finish the performance with the previous Allegro movement if needed. The Pastorale is meant to be performed in a church during the nighttime, although it is difficult to exclude one of the most beautiful movements of this work from our program.

The second piano concerto by Camille Saint-Saëns was composed in seventeen days and premiered on May 13, 1868. In the spring of that year, the great Russian pianist Anton Rubinstein came to Paris to perform a series of eight concerto performances with Saint-Saëns on the podium as the conductor. Rubinstein and Saint-Saëns were great friends and would often play and perform together since their meeting in 1858.

During the end of the concert series, Rubinstein asked Saint-Saëns if he could make his debut as a conductor in Paris while Saint-Saëns became the soloist. Only three weeks after their conversation, Rubinstein walked onto the podium conducting Saint-Saëns’ new piano concerto that he composed in seventeen days. The Piano Concerto No. 2 in G minor, Op. 22 remains one of Saint-Saëns’ most popular piano concertos to this day.

Ludwig van Beethoven’s Symphony No. 7 in A major, Op. 92, is a four-movement work that was completed in 1812. The symphony was premiered in Vienna on December 8, 1813, at a concert to benefit troops wounded in the Battle of Hanau. The Seventh Symphony is known for its boisterous, intense, energetic, and tuneful character.

The first movement, marked Poco sostenuto - Vivace, begins with a slow introduction that sets the stage for the lively and energetic main theme 1. The second movement, marked Allegretto, is a somber and melancholic dance in 2/4 time. The third movement, marked Presto - Assai meno presto, is a scherzo that features a driving rhythm and a playful melody. The final movement, marked Allegro con brio, is a rousing and triumphant finale that brings the symphony to a thrilling conclusion.

The Seventh Symphony is widely regarded as one of Beethoven’s greatest works, and it has been praised for its energy, inventiveness, and emotional depth. The composer himself spoke of it fondly as “one of my best works.” The symphony has been performed and recorded countless times, and it remains a beloved masterpiece of the classical repertoire.

Program notes by Tasman Tantasawat
WESTERN UNIVERSITY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Flutes
Katie Kirkpatrick*+
Jing Wang*+

Oboes
Biz Tucker*+
Sebastian Handley**+

Clarinets
Kevin Weiss*
Finn Inglis

Bassoons
Oskar Martinez*+
Benjamin Vandenberg

Horns
Ryan Duffy*
Jeffrey Goodwin*
Eric Phong

Trumpets
Paul Cross*
Alex Drozd

Timpani
William Kim

Percussions
Jacob Conrad

1st Violins
Vera Sherwood**
Menelaos Menelaou
Chia-Hsuan Chen
Julian Trippell+
Alex Matwijiw+
Helen Li
Helen Faucher
Jerry Ma
Chaoyang Dong
Mary Gonsalves
Jacqueline Huang+
Erin Van Dyke
Jing Tao
Khloe Wang

2nd Violins
Jillian Yang*+
Yanet Campbell*+
Sanaz Lordfard
Elinore Smallman+
Franck Su
Charlotte Usprich
Clara Martin
Agnes Grabcova
Maren Peddle
Kate Roberge
Cassidy Wieler
Tammy Tran
Lerissa Mowatt
Bret Tramplasue

Violas
Ludmilla Kranec*
Tasman Tantasawat
Zack Guo
Miriam Elsawi
Lexi White
Ashley Giles
Liam Martin
Maria Camila Lopez Lara
Meika Sonntag
Stella Shin

Celli
Eve Thompson*+
Nicholas Lago
Isaac Lee
Kara Lim
David Zhu

Basses
Iris Leck*
Jayden D’Costa
Jude Melanson
Adela Montgomery

**Concert master
*Principle
+ Corelli Soloists

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