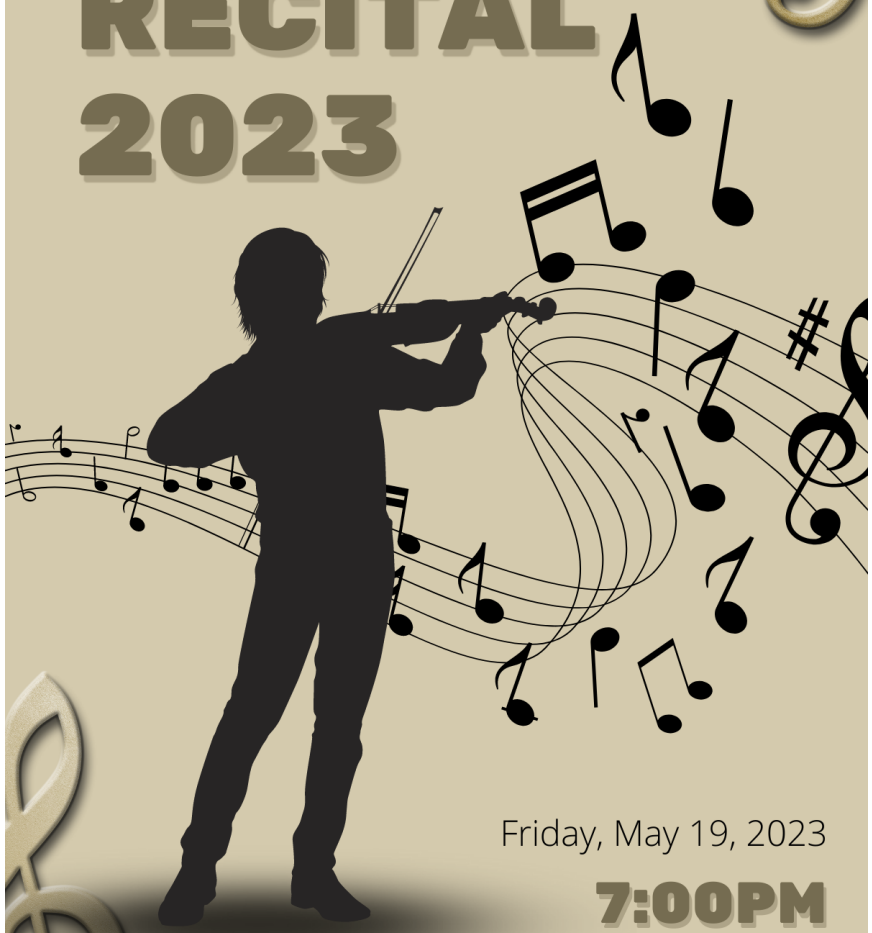
Dolce Music Academy at
Christ Church

SPRING RECITAL 2023



Friday, May 19, 2023

7:00PM

Christ Church, Sugar Land, Texas

THANK YOU

- to our accompanists, Hugh Callison, Darin Flake, DeAndre Johnson, Dan Legreid, and Diana Chiang Warner.
- to David Lee and Community Arts at Christ Church Sugar Land.
- to zoom.us.
- to all the parents, family members, and friends who support our students and make their wonderful musical endeavors possible!

Sharing the joy of making music!

Dolce Music Academy is proud to be a part of Community Arts at Christ Church Sugar Land

Please note: out of courtesy to the performers and audience members, we ask that you please observe the following:

Please turn off cell-phones during the performance.

No flash photos while performers are playing.

Please do not enter or exit the Choir Room while performers are playing, but parents are encouraged to exit immediately and quietly with crying babies or disruptive children.

No food or drink allowed during the recital. Please wait until the reception.

Smoking is not allowed.

Online audience members, please stay muted during the entire performance, but we would be happy to see your smiling faces with your video on.

Program

Minuet .....J. S. Bach
Natalie Johnson, violin
DeAndre Johnson, piano

Chorus from “Judas Maccabeus” .....G. F. Handel
Zehra Ekmen, violin
Diana Warner, piano

Allegro .....S. Suzuki
Sofia Abdulhameed, violin
Diana Warner, piano

Violin Concerto in E Minor.....F. Mendelssohn
II. Andante
McKenna Petersen, violin
Hugh Callison, piano

Long, Long Ago in A Major .....T. H. Bayly
William Smith, viola
Diana Warner, piano

Variations on Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star.....S. Suzuki
Harrison Po, violin
Diana Warner, piano

Chorus from “Judas Maccabeus” .....G. F. Handel
Dannara Eilerts, violin
Diana Warner, piano

Gavotte .....P. Martini
Cameron Flake, violin
Darin Flake, piano

Melodie from “Orpheus and Eurydice” .....Gluck/Kreisler
Rachel Lee, violin
Diana Warner, piano

Long, Long Ago in G Major .....T. H. Bayly
Luke Flake, violin
Darin Flake, piano

Tambourin .....A. Grétry
Sophia Cook, violin
Diana Warner, piano

Gavotte .....J. B. Lully
Russell Garbarino, violin
Diana Warner, piano

Variations on Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star.....S. Suzuki
Jessa Flake, violin
Darin Flake, piano

Chorus from “Judas Maccabeus” .....G. F. Handel
Layla Abdulhameed, violin
Diana Warner, piano

Bourrée .....G. F. Handel
Hannah Legreid, violin
Dan Legreid, piano

Concerto No. 2 .....F. Seitz
III. Allegro
Dallin Flake, violin
Darin Flake, piano

Please join us for a reception following the performance

“Where love is deep, much can be accomplished.”
-Shinichi Suzuki

Program Notes

Johann Sebastian Bach was born into a German family of musicians and lived between 1685 and 1750. He went on to father four other famous musicians. Bach's music was highly regarded during his lifetime but after he died it wasn't recognized as much until the late 1800's to now. Bach was an organist, teacher, director, composer, and instrument technician. He composed weekly pieces for the church he worked at along with playing the organ there. This classic minuet tune was originally found in "the notebook for Anna Magdalena Bach" but was arranged by Shinichi Suzuki for dancing too. Anna Magdalena was Bach's wife and was his inspiration to create "the notebook". It was created to help her learn more exciting pieces on the piano and the violin. Overall, Bach has made a lasting impact on classical music today and back then. *-Natalie Johnson*

Chorus from "Judas Maccabaeus" is an oratorio, meaning it is a large-scale musical piece performed with voices but without costumes, scenery, or action. The piece usually depicts a spiritual story. This is why the piece has great dynamic contrast and feels very majestic. The written work of an oratorio is typically based on scripture, and recitatives performed by various ensembles to pave the way for airs and choruses provide the narration required to go from scene to scene.
Handel was a Baroque composer born in 1685. He moved to Great Britain as a young man, where he composed one of the most famous and frequently performed oratorios of all time - The Messiah. Handel wrote Chorus from "Judas Maccabeus" as a compliment to the victorious Prince Willam Augustus, Duke of Cumberland upon his return from the Battle of Culloden. *-Zehra Ekmen*

Dr. Shinichi Suzuki was born in 1898 and lived 99 years. He grew up in Japan and his family owned a violin factory. He began to learn to play the violin as a teenager. Dr. Suzuki came up with a teaching method that taught young children to play the violin. Allegro is a piece Dr. Suzuki wrote for this method, it is in book one. The word "allegro" means fast and bright. *-Sofia Abdulhameed*

German composer Felix Mendelssohn was born on February 3, 1809, and died on November 4, 1847. Growing up, he was mostly involved in piano, though he was taught other things having to do with the arts such as landscape painting and literature. His family was Jewish but decided to convert to Christianity. His entire family was then baptized, and they took on the last name Bartholdy. Felix Mendelssohn got his start as a composer at a young age. He composed many works including five operas, 11 symphonies for string orchestra, concerti, sonatas, and fugues while in his boyhood. Mendelssohn is generally considered to be one of the first great romantic composers of the nineteenth century. Some of his famous works include "Overture to a Midsummer Night's Dream", two piano concerti, the "Italian" and "Scottish" symphonies, several pieces of chamber music, the oratorio "Elijah", and the Violin Concerto in E Minor. The Violin Concerto in E Minor was the last concerto Mendelssohn wrote in his lifetime and is to this day considered among the great concertos for violin. It follows the traditional fast, slow, fast structure of three movements that is the standard format of most concerti but was innovative in other aspects such as it's through-composed style of having all three movements connected melodically and harmonically and played attacca or without pause. It is also unusual in that the solo violin is introduced almost immediately, unlike its classical era predecessors. Mendelssohn first conceived the idea for the concerto in 1838 but took 6 years to complete it and it was not premiered until 1845. The second movement, Andante, begins with the bassoon holding over its note from the end of the first movement before moving up a step into the key of C major. The movement is written in ternary, three-part, form with a darker middle section in A minor where the violin plays both melody and accompaniment, followed by the return of the main theme in C major. *-McKenna Petersen*

Thomas Haynes Bayly was born in Bath, Somerset, United Kingdom on October 13, 1797. He married Helena Becher in 1826 and they had two children. T.H. Bayly wrote many popular poems, songs, plays and books during his life. He started writing stories when he was young. One of his books turned into a play when he was only eight years old. When he was older, he became a successful ballad writer. In 1833 he wrote "Long, Long Ago", but it wasn't published until 1843 after his death in 1839. T.H. Bayly originally named it "The Long Ago" but it was changed by the editor when it was published. "A song dealing with nostalgia", it was very popular in America in 1844. This is also where the melody came from for the WWII song "Don't Sit Under the Apple Tree". *-William Smith*

Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star is a popular composition by Mozart. Dr. Suzuki chose this as the first piece for his beginners to learn because it practices lots of skills like rhythm, bowing and string crossings. My favorite Twinkle variation is "Peanut Butter" because I like peanut butter! *-Harrison Po*

Chorus from Judas Maccabaeus is a section of the song "Judas Maccabaeus", and was composed by George Frideric Handel in 1746. The piece was set up to compliment the victorious Duke of Cumberland, Prince William Augustus, upon his return from the Battle of Culloden (16 April, 1746). Handel based the piece, which is an oratorio in three acts, off of a libretto written by Thomas Morell. *-Dannara Eilerts*

Padre Martini was born as Giovanni Battista in 1706 in Bologna, Italy. He was a Franciscan friar and a leading musician and composer of his era. When he was only nineteen years old, he was appointed as the chapel-master at the Basilica of San Francisco in his hometown of Bologna. As chapel-master, his compositions attracted further attention and he started to teach other musicians. One interesting thing about him is Leopold Mozart consulted with him about his talented son, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, who subsequently received instruction from Padre Martini. Most of his compositions remain unprinted; however, his Gavotte was published and has become one of his most well-known pieces and was originally written for the harpsichord/piano. -*Cameron Flake*

“Orfeo ed Eurdice”, which Kreisler’s “Melodie” is adapted from, is an opera composed by Christopher Willibald Gluck with a libretto by Ranieri de' Calzabigi. This piece is considered to be one of the first “reform operas” through Gluck’s efforts to simplify and humanize opera, emphasizing the emotional depth of the characters rather than elaborate plots and excessive ornamentation (as was typical of the baroque period). The opera centers around a musician and poet in Greek mythology, Orpheus, through his determination to bring his wife, Eurdice, back from the underworld. -*Rachel Lee*

Thomas Haynes Bayly was an English poet, songwriter, dramatist and writer. He was one of the most popular songwriters during his era. He played several instruments including the harmonica, banjo, and guitar, but not the violin. "Long, Long Ago" was composed by him in 1833. "Long, Long Ago" is one his most cherished compositions. This piece did not come to be known until after he had died and even though Bayly was from England, his music was very popular in the United States of America during the mid 1800’s. -*Luke Flake*

Andre Ernest Modeste Gretry was born on February 11, 1741 and passed away on September 24, 1813. He was born in what is now known as Belgium. He was a French composer who studied singing and violin. He studied composition in Rome. He is best known for his “opera comiques”. Opera comique combines “popular tunes with spoken sections.” A tambourin is a musical instrument a lot like a drum, but in this particular piece it represents a dance. The dance is named tambourin because the music “imitates the drum”. I like this piece very much! The shifting and the staccato make it fun to play. It challenges me to have clean shifts and solid pitch. -*Sophia Cook*

Italian-French composer Jean-Baptiste Lully was born on November 28, 1632 and died on March 22,1687. Lully is famous for his Baroque operas. He also composed in many other styles. Gavotte however, may not have been written by him, contrary to what it says above. His student, Marin Marais, may have written it. A gavotte is a moderately-paced style of French dance popular in the 1700’s. This piece was originally written for a viola da gamba, a stringed fretted instrument between the size of a cello and a violin. -*Russell Garbarino*

Shinichi Suzuki used Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star to help his students learn initial skills on the violin. It is the start of his method for teaching how to play musical instruments. Twinkle Twinkle Little Star's structure is an excellent piece that can be adapted to learn various different rhythms and simple skills. -*Jessa Flake*

G.F. Handel was born in Germany and died in England. He lived from February 23, 1685 - April 14, 1759. The most famous composition he wrote was the Messiah. He played the harpsichord, organ, and violin. He first wrote operas and later wrote oratorios. Chorus from Judas Maccabaeus is from an oratorio he wrote in 1746. An oratorio is a work for solo voices, chorus, and orchestra. -*Layla Abdulhameed*

George Frederick Handel was a German composer who lived from 1685-1759. At an early age he taught himself to play the harpsichord and pipe organ. He studied law but left it for music. His most famous piece was an oratorio called The Messiah. The word Bourrée means a traditional French Dance in fast double time resembling a Gavotte. In 1717 Bourrée was performed for King George 1 on a barge on the river Thames in London. -*Hannah Legreid*

Friedrich Seitz was born in Germany in 1848 and began studying music at a very young age. He was a very accomplished violinist who also composed pieces for the violin. He primarily wrote chamber music and eight student concertos but he also composed operas and pieces for individual instruments other than the violin. In addition to composing he taught at several music academies and was a concertmaster. His Concerto Number 2 has become one of his most well known compositions by virtue of two its movements being included in the Suzuki musical method. Movement number three of the 2nd Concerto has several virtuoso sections that allow the player to show both technical skill and musicality. -*Dallin Flake*