

The background of the entire page is a light gray musical score. It features various musical notations such as treble clefs, notes, rests, and dynamic markings like 'pp' (pianissimo). The notation is arranged in a way that it appears to be a page from a music book, with some staves partially visible on the left and right edges.

CALIFORNIA POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY
SAN LUIS OBISPO

Megan Fong

'The Power of the Piano: Chopin's Préludes
and Their Innovations'

A Senior Lecture-Recital in Partial Fulfillment
of the Requirements for a Bachelor of Arts in Music

May 4, 2019

Saturday at 3 p.m.

Davidson Music Center

Room 218

Sponsored by Cal Poly's Music Department and College of Liberal Arts

Program

Senior Lecture-Recital
Megan Fong, Piano

'The Power of the Piano: Chopin's Préludes and Their Innovations'

Préludes, Op. 28 Fryderyk Chopin
(1810-1849)

No. 6 – B Minor, “Cello Prelude”
Lento assai

No. 13 – F-Sharp Major
Lento



No. 7 – A Major
Andantino



No. 1 – C Major
Agitato

No. 2 – A Minor
Lento

No. 3 – G Major
Vivace

No. 4 – E Minor
Largo



No. 15 – D-Flat Major, “Raindrop”
Sostenuto

Program Note

Fryderyk Chopin was one of the most influential pianists of the Romantic period. With the capabilities offered by a new generation of pianos, Chopin showcased various innovative keyboard techniques within his Op. 28 *Préludes*. (An opus is a set of works that are grouped together because of their genre.) The Op. 28 *Préludes* completely redefined the genre and elevated it to a new standard.

Chopin's background had a lot to do with the composer that he would become. He was born in Poland in 1810 and enjoyed a very rich musical life in his early years. Chopin had parents of different origins: his father was French and his mother was Polish. His dual nationalities influenced him to create music that was a mixture of the two. The *Préludes* contain musical ideas that the French are known to use, but also express a lot of Polish character. For example, French music was often organized, carefully structured, and intellectually pleasing and lyrical. Polish music, however, had lots of heart, or fire, or even sadness.

As my lecture will demonstrate, Chopin also intermixed other aspects within the Op. 28 *Préludes*. They were published in 1839 as a complete set, rather than one by one as each of the twenty-four was completed. Instead of being crafted as mere exercises, they are in truth concert pieces.

Chopin's legacy will endure as a composer who had a strong influence on the musicians who followed him. As he told performers of these pieces, "Put all your soul into it, and play the way you feel!"

Acknowledgments

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