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PRESENT

THE CHIGIANO SEXTET

RAYMOND COLLEGE GREAT HALL SUNDAY EVENING, 7:00 O'CLOCK JANUARY 7, 1968

UNIVERSITY OF THE PACIFIC

PROGRAM NOTES By Warren van Bronkhorst

Verklärte Nacht (Transfigured Night) was written about 1899 and published in 1905 as Schoenberg's Opus 4. This sextet employs the technique and form of the orchestral tone poem within the scope of the chamber music idiom. It is a masterpiece of dramatic expression and emotional variety in a rich, eloquent and subjective texture. In its string orchestra version it has become Schoenberg's best-known composition. It is a rare opportunity, however, to hear a performance in its original form for six players.

Unlike most other successful chamber music literature Verklärte Nacht is programmatic music. It is based on a poem by Richard Dehmel, Weib und Welt, which tells of a man and woman in love. Wandering in a park in the cold moonlight, the woman tells her companion of her guilt: she has been married to a man she has not loved; and though she has been unhappy in this marriage, she has remained faithful to her marital vows. Now with child by this unloved husband, she has fallen in love with the man now walking at her side, and she fears that he will condemn her. But his love, in harmony with the splendor and radiance of nature, is great enough to overlook the tragedy and make the unborn child his own. Schoenberg was extraordinarily successful in his efforts to portray nature and to express the human emotions of the poem through the medium of chamber music.

The two string sextets of Brahms are both very successful and beautiful works. The Sextet in G Major, Opus 36, was written at Lichtenthal in the winter of 1864-65, the winter in which Brahms' mother died and in which he began *Ein deutsches Requiem*. Although the work is essentially filled with sunshine, it has its moments of sadness and deep emotion.

The opening Allegro non troppo, in sonata-allegro form, is pastoral in character. A five-note motive spelling out the name Agathe occurs several times and has been interpreted by several authors as a musical reference to Agathe von Siebold with whom Brahms had been seriously in love. In the lyrical Scherzo, Brahms sustains the pastoral mood of the first movement. Its opening, a slightly Hungarian melody in duple rhythm, is contrasted by the gay but legato waltz of the Trio. The Poco Adagio, although in variation-form, is not the familiar theme and variations where each section recalls the first theme. Here the music, although set in divisions, moves continuously with each new section generally drawing its inspiration from what has immediately preceded it. A lighter and less serious movement in sonata-allegro form brings the sextet to a close. It possesses an abundance of what Joachim called "sound-charm" and provides a relief to the greater concentration required by the preceding movements.

ROCCARDO BRENGOLA, Violin TITO RICCARDI, Viola

GIOVANNI GUGLIELMO, Violin ADRIANO VENDRAMELLI, Cello

MARIO BENVENUTI, Viola ALAIN MEUNIER, Cello

VERKLÄRTE NACHT (for 6 string instruments), OPUS 4 . . . Schoenberg

INTERMISSION

SEXTET IN G MAJOR, OPUS 36 Brahms

Allegro non troppo

Scherzo

Poco Adagio

Poco Allegro

(Students admitted free of charge)

Mariedi Anders Artists Management Inc./535 El Camino Del Mar/San Francisco, Calif.

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