

Première

Julija Sadaunykaitė
piano



'The human being is flesh and consciousness, body and soul; his heart is an abyss which can only be filled by that which is godly'.

Olivier Messiaen

Maurice Ravel (1875-1937)

Around 1900, Maurice Ravel joined a group of innovative young artists, poets, critics, and musicians known as *Les Apaches*. To pay tribute to his fellow artists, Ravel began composing *Miroirs* in 1904 and completed it the following year. *Miroirs* consists of five independent movements, each dedicated to a member of this French avant-garde group. *La Vallée des cloches* (*The Valley of Bells*) is the final movement of the cycle. Dedicated to the French pianist and composer Maurice Delage, this miniature evokes a serene landscape where the syncopated, gentle tolling of bells resonates through an idyllic valley.

Olivier Messiaen (1908-1992)

Olivier Messiaen composed his remarkable cycle *Vingt Regards sur l'Enfant-Jésus* (*Twenty Contemplations on the Infant Jesus*) during the turbulent years of World War II. Reflecting his deep religious faith, the composer contemplates various aspects of human existence in this work. Throughout the cycle, Messiaen employs recurring musical themes – such as the ‘Theme of God’, ‘Theme of Mystical Love’, ‘Theme of the Star and of the Cross’, and ‘Theme of Chords’ - to express profound ideas. *Première communion de la Vierge* (*The Virgin's First Communion*) is the eleventh piece in the cycle. Its slow, mystical opening, interwoven with elements of birdsong, develops into a resonant *Magnificat* – both sections based on the ‘Theme of God’.

Robert Schumann (1810-1856)

Robert Schumann's creativity and imagination produced some of the most heartfelt music ever written for the piano, often reflecting the complex relationship between his life and his art. His *Piano Sonata No. 1 in F # minor*, Op. 11, was composed between 1833 and 1835 and originally published anonymously as *Pianoforte Sonata, dedicated to Clara by Florestan and Eusebius*. Schumann later told Clara, his future wife, that the sonata was 'a solitary outcry for you from my heart... in which your theme appears in every possible shape'. The work is notable for its unconventional form. The second movement, *Aria*, is based on his earlier Lied setting *An Anna*.

Carl Vine (b. 1954)

Australian composer Carl Vine wrote his *Piano Sonata No. 1* in 1990. According to the first printed edition, the work was composed for the Sydney Dance Company. True to its origins in physical expression, the sonata is characterized by energetic rhythms, unusual harmonic shifts, abrupt tempo changes, dynamic contrasts, and rich textures – all of which allow performers to fully explore their technical and emotional range. The sonata consists of two movements – a structure favored by Baroque and early Classical composers – though it is modeled on Elliott Carter's *Piano Sonata* of 1946.

Julija Sadaunykaitė is a Lithuanian classical pianist, celebrated for her expressive depth and refined artistry. A Grand Prix laureate of the Malta Valletta International Piano Competition, she holds master's degrees from Vytautas Magnus University as well as the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, and completed advanced postgraduate studies at the Royal Danish Academy of Music. Julija has performed extensively throughout Europe, the United States, and China, appearing at major festivals and concert halls while collaborating with renowned soloists as well as chamber musicians. The release of *Première* marks Julija's debut on disc, offering listeners an intimate glimpse into her musical world.

My heartfelt thanks to Changhan Li, Donaldas Račys, and Marianna Shirinyan, whose patience, generosity, and guidance have been a source of inspiration in bringing *Première* to life.

Julija

www.julijasada.com

Maurice Ravel

1. Miroirs No. 5: La vallée des cloches

Olivier Messiaen

2. Vingt Regards sur l'Enfant-Jésus XI:
Première communion de la Vierge

Robert Schumann

- Sonata No. 1 in F sharp minor, Op. 11:
3. I Un poco adagio - Allegro vivace
 4. II Aria: Senza passione, ma espressivo
 5. III Scherzo: Allegrissimo - Intermezzo:
Lento. Alla burla, ma pomposo
 6. IV Finale: Allegro un poco maestoso

Carl Vine

- Sonata No. 1:
7. I -
 8. II Leggiero e legato

Total time: 62'43''

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