



Eminent Czech Pianist

Jan Novotny

PROGRAMME

Sonata Op. 28 'Pastoral' &

Sonata Op. 57 'Appassionata' (Beethoven)

Two Impromptus Op. 7 (Vorisek) Sonatine (Ravel)

Three Polkas de Salon and

Three Czech Dances (Smetana)

St. Vincent's School (Gulati) Hall

Sun. 27th March 1977 - 7 p.m.

Adm : Rs. 7, 5, 3.50, 2

PMS. Members Rs 5 3 50, 2

Booking opens on Wednesday, 23rd March at Apollo Music House, 6 to 8 p.m.

PLEASE

Be in your seats on time. Late comers will not

be admitted while the concert is in progress.

No enquiries or booking on telephone.

No provisional booking, refund or exchange of tickets.

Presented by

The Poona Music Society

JAN NOVOTNY, born 1935, is one of the most remarkable interpretative artists of the younger generation of Czech pianists. He has devoted himself to piano playing since early childhood, and already at the age of fourteen, was accepted into Professor A. Rossler's piano class at the Prague Conservatoire of Music. During his third year at this institution he won the title of laureate in the Open Competition. A year later, he had a solo concert, and together with the orchestra played the Mozart A major Piano Concerto. He completed his studies at the Conservatoire with a recital in which he played the complete Second Set of Czech Dances by Bedrich Smetana, which consists of ten immensely difficult compositions, both technically and from the point of view of interpretation and in addition to this imposing Smetana cycle, he also gave a performance of Robert Schumann's even more famous work, Carnaval, Opus 9. Finally, together with the Conservatoire orchestra, he gave a performance of Grieg's Piano Concerto in A minor, Opus 16, at a graduate's concert.

Immediately following graduation at the Conservatoire, Novotny was accepted for university level study at the Music Faculty of the Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts, where he worked for four years under the tutorship of the leading Czech pianist and pedagogue, Prof. A. Rauch. Jan Novotny won outstanding success in 1957 when - against the tough competition of young pianists from both home and abroad - he won the Second Prize in the B. Smetana Competition organized in connection with the Prague Spring Music Festival. He has also competed successfully in several other international piano competitions, including Robert Schumann Competition in Berlin, E. Busoni Competition in Bolzano.

Since completion of his studies he is attached to the teaching staff at the Prague Conservatoire. He is constantly in demand for concerts as soloist and also to cooperate with chamber music groups both at home and abroad, and has toured Italy, France, Sweden, Brazil, India and countries in the Far East, but the main focus of his playing is on solo concert work.

Mr. Jan Novotny records for various recording companies including Supraphon Records and has on the two hundredth birth anniversary of Beethoven recorded his complete Piano Sonatas. He has also recorded complete cycle of Smetana's Czech Dances.

Mr. Novotny has done a great deal to revive and revitalize the Piano works of Bedrich Smetana, the founder of modern Czech music and one of the crowning figures of the revival movement in Czech national culture in the 19th century, and also to encourage their acceptance by the young artistic generation. He is a member of the jury of the regular Smetana Competitions held in Hradec Kralove.



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Patrons are respectfully reminded that in an auditorium possessing the sensitive properties of the St. Vincent's School Hall the unstifled coughing of only one or two people can mar the enjoyment of the whole audience.

PROGRAMME

SONATA IN D MAJOR OP 28 "Pastoral"

Beethoven

Allegro — Andante — Allegro vivace — Allegro, ma non troppo

This sonata composed in 1801 and published by the Bureau des Arts et d'Industrie in Vienna on 14th August 1802 is dedicated to Joseph Edler von Sonnenfels. No heated display is evidenced in the four sonatas written during this period of 1801 and this sonata Op. 28 is the calmest and hence nicknamed 'Pastoral' by its later Hamburg publisher Cranz.

There is a feeling of Nature in this work, melodies blossom forth as if from some dewy summer morning. Its first movement is the most broadly developed Beethoven had written. The second movement **Andante** was a favourite movement of Beethoven and often played by him. It brings a simple, romance-like melody in figurative development and is significantly the first slow movement without pathos. The third movement, the whole of the scherzo, is a very unusual movement by Beethoven, a simple octave motif while its trio has two parts repeated in different combinations with different harmonies. The finale, a rondo with a humorous bass like a bear dance and a folk-tune like melody. Its second subsidiary theme seems to open up distant horizons. It must have been this movement that may have prompted Cranz to confer the title 'Pastoral' to this sonata.

SONATA IN F MINOR, OP. 57 "Appassionata"

Beethoven

Allegro assai — Andante con motto — Allegro ma non troppo.

This is one of the noblest of Beethoven's 32 piano sonatas equally loved by pianists and audience. Composed in 1804 it shows Beethoven at the height of his creative powers. Romain Rolland writes :

" He wishes to create, he does create, like the great Greek sculptors and the masters of Gothic a new canon of perfect numbers and proportions, a new classical order. He writes the Appassionata. No other of his sonatas shows in the same degree the union of unrestrained passion and rigid logic. The work — body and spirit — is an indestructible tissue. It was two years before he completed it and three before he gave it to the world.

The moving drama, for him who tries to penetrate to the problem of creation - that vital problem that, without consulting us, nature is every moment resolving so simply, in us and in others — is to see the price at which the miraculous conquests of genius are bought. The genius invariably pays for them with his life, his health, the peace of his days. For the peace and the order that, in his art, he imposes on elements he has evoked are won by an effort of the will so inhuman, so enormous, that when he returns to the life of every day he is a broken man. Beethoven has succeeded in constructing in music the

imperishable monument of an epoch of humanity, the type of classic art in which is fixed for ever the harmony of one of the great hours of the spirit, the perfect equilibrium of the inner forces, the full consonance of the thought with the matter employed and subdued. The Appassionata is worthy to take its place between a fresco of the Sistine and a tragedy by Corneille. After this composition he forsakes the piano sonatas for five or six years."

This sonata is dedicated to Count Franz von Brunswick

INTERVAL

TWO IMPROMPTUS OP. 7

Vorisek

Jan Hugo Vorisek, Czech composer born 1791 in a small Czech town spent most years of his small span of life in Vienna. He has been one of the most important Czech composers forming a bridge between neoclassicism and romanticism. He could be said to be a link between Beethoven and Schubert and his Impromptus are on the same pattern as those of Schubert, Vorisek died in 1825.

SONATINE

Ravel

Modere - Mouvt de Menuet - Anime

Ravel, one of the France's greatest composers, besides writing several orchestral works, ballet, opera has also written brilliantly for the piano evoking exquisite tone colors and bringing poetic imagination. Henri Gil-Marchex says for his piano music "It is to be played with the heart, but also with clear intelligence".

SONATINE an early work of Ravel composed in 1905 is a masterpiece and one of Ravel's greatest work for the piano in a pure classical sonata form. This Sonatine is in three movements, the first slow, **Modere**, written for a competition organised by a periodical and eventually cancelled; the second, a **Menuet**, "a rose-coloured vision of the eighteenth century wandering through Montparnasse and Montmartre framed in gilt mirrors of the richest baroque" —Guido Pannain; the third a brilliant **Anime**. "Here" wrote Guido Pannain. "he has attained to the ideal balance between the form which hampers him like a foregone conclusion, and his own individualistic melodic expression. In the actual musical quality of the Sonatine the same Ravel as elsewhere can be seen; but the true miracle of the miniature jewel lies in the perfection of the ensemble, that harmony between the parts and the whole which is at once the cross and the reward of all artistic creation."

THREE POLKAS DE SALON

Smetana

THREE CZECH DANCES

Bedrich Smetana (1824-1884) could be held as Czechoslovakia's, first international composer. His compositions are technically perfect and musically inspiring. His Three Polkas de Salon, composed in 1841 are his masterpieces whereas his Cycle of ten Czech Dances have very touching slow parts, although simple, they form intelligent listening with rich counterpoint and extremely difficult piano technique.

Smetana could be ranked as Czechoslovakia's most important international composer and to commemorate him the Prague Spring Music Festival has been inaugurated since 1946. It is held from every 12th day of May, the day he died.