Through Time and Space: The Piano Works of Judith Lang Zaimont

A Calendar Set (1972-1978)  
II. February  
VIII. August  
XII. December  

Jupiter’s Moons (2000)  
I. The Moons Swim in Orbit  
II. Europa  
III. Leda  
IV. Io  
V. Ganymede  
VI. Callisto  

Judith Lang Zaimont presents the  
Doctoral Lecture Recital of Stephanie Archer, piano  
Saturday, October 16, 2021  
2:00 p.m.  
Longmire Recital Hall  

NOTES

Judith Lang Zaimont is an American composer currently residing in Arizona. She began performing and composing as a young child and began studies at the Juilliard School at age 13. She is a graduate of Queens College, CUNY and Columbia University and has held faculty positions at Queens College, Peabody Conservatory – John Hopkins University, Adelphi University, and the University of Minnesota.

Zaimon’s compositions delight both the performer and the listener with imaginative titles and imagery. Works such as “Wizards: Three Magic Masters” or “Jupiter’s Moons” refer to mythological characters. “I Seek the Lord” and “Psalm 23” contain Biblical references. “Reflective Rag” and “Hesitation Rag” pay homage to the ragtime era.

“A Calendar Set” is a collection of twelve preludes – each representing one of the twelve months of the year. This work is Zaimont’s earliest extended work for solo piano. The composer describes each as a tone poem highlighting different technical or interpretive abilities. This work was the winner of the 2005 American Composers Invitational Competition, an event put on by Jabez Press involving 60 prominent American composers. Each prelude depicts the season, weather, or other moods that are prevalent in these months. Subtitles taken from poetry also add to the imagery conjured by these twelve character pieces. These preludes depict a variety of seasonal imagery including autumn winds in “September” and references to patriotic tunes in “July” or Christmas carols in “December.”

“Jupiter’s Moons” was commissioned by PianoFest 2000 – the “Focus on Piano Literature Symposium” at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. The five moons of Jupiter which entitle the individual pieces are “Europa,” “Leda,” “Io,” “Ganymede,” and “Callisto” all of which were mortals who interacted with the Greek god, Zeus, or as he is commonly known by his Roman name, Jupiter. These 5 pieces both embody imagery from mythological tales as well as the physical moons themselves. These five are preceded by “The Moons Swim in Orbit” containing swirling imagery of the cosmos. Since its debut, this piece has delighted performers and audiences with imaginative writing that encompasses both mythological and geophysical influences.
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Judith Lang Zaimont (b. 1945)

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