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Senior Recital: Connor Mulhern, piano and composition

Connor Mulhern

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Senior Recital

Connor Mulhern,
piano and composition

Saturday, 19 April 2014
1:30 PM
Martel Recital Hall
Skinner Hall of Music
Acknowledgments

I came to Vassar four years ago with an interest in piano performance and music composition. I was very impressed by the vibrant musical performing arts scene and by the amount of time and effort students spent preparing for each concert. Though I was involved in this scene to a certain degree, I will admit that most of my time here was spent studying. More than anything, I wanted to refine my knowledge of the mechanics behind music and to come away with a stronger understanding of its history. I love music so deeply, and therefore considered this time of my life a foundation period, one in which my studies would be taken very seriously. Bearing this in mind, I would like to thank several people.

First, I would like to thank my piano teacher Anna Polonsky. Her four years of helpful advice and her keen intuition have made me a stronger and more thoughtful pianist. I would then like to pay a special tribute to Professor Richard Wilson for giving me a profound understanding of harmony and counterpoint and, in turn, heightening my awareness of my aesthetic preferences as a composer. Additionally, while I wrote my string quartet, he gave me clear and helpful editing advice. I am very thankful for everything he has taught me and promise to take my class notes with me in the future. I would also like to extend my sincere gratitude to Professors Brian Mann, Kathryn Libin, and Michael Pisani for lending me each of their outlooks on music history and, in turn, helping me cultivate my own perspective. Mention must be made of all my professors outside the music department; I thank each of them for giving me communication skills and cultural knowledge that are so essential for any living, breathing artist.

I then thank Amy Kawa, Jane Podell, Michael Pisani, and other members of the music department for making this recital possible. My sincere gratitude goes to Marka Young, Rachel Handman, Valentina Charlap-Evans, and Susan Seligman for performing my string quartet today and for giving me my first experience working with professional musicians. My thanks goes to all my friends both in and outside of Vassar for making me laugh, for being there in both the good times and the bad, for reminding me not to take myself too seriously, and—most importantly—for cheering me on. I look back fondly on all of our wild shenanigans and hope for more fun memories. Last but certainly not least, I would like to thank my family. I love you all so much and am grateful for your love, for your support, for your encouragement, for your unyielding generosity, for pushing me to be the best person I can possibly be, and for making sacrifices for my education and wellbeing. I am eternally indebted to you.

Today is an important day in that I consider it both an ending and a beginning. It marks the end of my life as a Vassar student and the beginning of my life as a pianist and composer. Yet all the aforementioned people played an important part in helping me make this transition. I am excited to show everyone my work and look forward to showcasing my future creations.

Program

Moment Musical, Op. 94, No. 6  
Franz Schubert  
(1797–1828)

Nocturne No. 2 in C Minor  
John Field  
(1782–1837)

Waltz in A♭ Major, Op. 64, No. 3  
Frédéric Chopin  
(1810–1849)

Three Intermezzi for Piano, Op. 117  
Johannes Brahms  
(1833-1897)

Homage à Rameau from Images  
Claude Debussy  
(1862-1918)

INTERMISSION

String Quartet in One Movement (2014)  
Connor Mulhern  
(b. 1991)

Performed by members of the Hudson Valley Philharmonic:
Marka Young, violin
Rachel Handman, violin
Valentina Charlap-Evans, viola
Susan Seligman, cello

Building Safety: Please be aware of the fire exits at the front and rear of the Recital Hall. In the event of an emergency, Vassar College fire watch personnel will direct you.