

Lecture-Recital (Supported by PowerPoint) Program for

University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Tuesday, September 5, 2017

**Part 1: Lecture**

**From Public Stage to Private Parlor: An Introduction to Rarely Performed Piano Works from Rossini’s "Years of Silence”**

Rossini, who was born just a year after the death of Mozart, lived to witness the innovations of Berlioz and Wagner *–* a world so ideologically different from the *ancien régime.* He had decided to abandon the theatre prior to the première of *Guillaume Tell,* at the height of his career, in 1829. Except for the *Soirées Musicales* (1835), the *Stabat Mater* (1841), and a few functional compositions, Rossini wrote practically nothing for nearly twenty-six years. Most importantly, he stopped producing operas. Much has been speculated about his withdrawal from public life; little attention has been devoted to the large body of keyboard compositions written during that period. Rossini maintained an over-protective attitude toward these pieces. He did not allow their publication and had them performed at his Parisian salon starting in 1858. Today, the mysterious fate of the *Péchés de vieillesse –* Sins of Old Age as Rossini affectionately entitled them *–* still prevails in the concert halls, since these compositions are rarely performed. This lecture-recital will focus on selected Rossini’s *Péchés*, supported by a Power Point presentation, and will highlight the most important elements in the shape of Italian music according to Rossini: *“melodia semplice e varietà di ritmo”* (simple melody and variety of rhythm). It will also reveal the composer’s attempt to combine the two main trends in keyboard compositions of his time: intimate or sensitive and virtuoso. The lecture will be interspersed with the playing of a several examples and will end with a performance of six compositions.

**Part 2: Performance**

Selections from Péchés de vieillesse (Sins of Old Age) Gioachino Rossini (1792–1868)

From Quelques riens pour album (Some Trifles for an Album):

No. 1 – Allegretto

No. 2 – Allegretto moderato

No. 5 – Allegretto moderato

No. 12 – Allegretto moderato: Danse sibérienne (Siberian Dance)

 No. 11 – Andantino mosso

From Album de château (Castle Album):

Un rêve (A Dream)