

A CULTURAL GEM OF



THE WESTERN SUBURBS

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2020



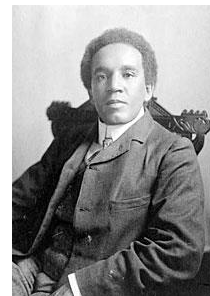
SAMUEL COLERIDGE-TAYLOR “Valse” from *Four Noveletten* Op. 53

WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART Piano Concerto No. 14 in E-flat Major, K. 449

SAMUEL COLERIDGE-TAYLOR “Allegro Moderato” from *Four Noveletten* Op. 52

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor (1875-1912)

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor was born in England in 1875 to a black physician from Sierra Leone and a white English woman. Samuel was brought up by his mother and learned violin from his grandfather, well enough to be accepted at the Royal College of Music at age 15. He switched to composition and studied with Charles Villiers Stanford there. Coleridge-Taylor soon rose to prominence among the musical elite in England, and included conducting among his skills. In 1899, he became interested in his American roots (his father’s lineage included slaves that sided with the British in the American Revolutionary war) and started incorporating African-American folksongs into his music. In 1904, he toured the US and was received at the White House by President Theodore Roosevelt. It was also in 1904 that he wrote the *Four Novelletten* for string orchestra, a title taken from Robert Schumann’s piano pieces. These are light and lyrical works in the traditional European style, and recall Tchaikovsky’s ballet music.



Ran Dank, piano

Technically dazzling and intellectually probing artistry exemplify Ran Dank's pianism and musicality—captivating audiences and critics alike.

Notable performances during Mr. Dank's 2019/2020 season include appearances at the National Gallery in DC, the Hawaii Concert Society, Purdue Convocations, Gina Bachauer Concert Series, two consecutive recitals at the Pro Musica series in San Miguel de Allende in Mexico, and a collaboration with Jayce Ogren and the Westchester Philharmonic. In addition, he returns to the Chanel Chamber Music Festival in Tokyo and to the Portland Symphony for a performance of Saint Saens' 2nd Piano Concerto under the baton of Eckart Preu.



Ran's recent performances have included recitals at the San Francisco Performances Series, Gilmore, Ravinia, Carnegie Hall's Zankel and Weill Halls, Steinway Hall, Gardner Museum, Kennedy Center, Town Hall, Yale School of Music, Philips Collection, Morgan Library, Pro Musica in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, Portland Ovation, and have garnered critical acclaim from the New York Times and The Washington Post. Mr. Dank has performed as a soloist with the orchestras of Cleveland, Sydney, St. Luke's, Portland, Eugene, Toledo, Hawaii, Kansas City, Vermont, Charleston, Jerusalem, Valencia, Phoenix, Hilton Head, among others, working under the batons such as Michael Stern, Jahja Ling, Michael Christie, Kirill Karabits, Jun Märkl, Pinchas Zukerman, Jorge Mester, Jaime Laredo, and Ken-David Masur. His chamber music festival appearances have included Santa Fe, Seattle, Chanel in Tokyo, Great Lakes, Bridgehampton, Cooperstown, Mänttä, Bowdoin, Maverick, Skaneateles, and Montreal, and he has collaborated with luminaries of the field such as Paul Watkins, Augustin Hadelich, Eugene Drucker, Jaime Laredo, Sharon Robinson, James Ehnes, and The Orion, Shanghai, Takács, and Dover String Quartets. Mr. Dank's recent performance of the monumental set of variations "The People United Will Never Be Defeated!" at the University of Chicago has been selected as one of the top ten performances of 2017 by the Chicago Classical Review.

Mr. Dank is an ardent advocate for contemporary music, and has performed in recent seasons Kevin Puts' piano concerto "Night," the Tobias Picker concerto, "Keys to the City," Frederic Rzewski's "The People United Will Never Be Defeated," William Bolcom's Pulitzer-winning set of "Twelve New Etudes," and has given, alongside pianist and wife, Soyeon Kate Lee, the world premieres of Frederic Rzewski's "Four Hands," and Alexander Goehr's "Seven Impromptus." This season Mr. Dank and Soyeon Kate Lee will feature the world premiere of multiple grammy-nominated pianist and composer's Marc-André Hamelin's "Tango" for piano four-hands.

Ran Dank and Soyeon Kate Lee have established a series of concerts, Music by the Glass, held in a New York SoHo art gallery, where the audience of young professionals listen, mix and mingle with performing artists who play solo pieces and chamber works accompanied by treats sweet and savory, paired with wines by the glass.

Ran Dank is the recipient of numerous honors, including the Naumburg Piano Competition and the Sydney International Piano Competition, and First Prize winner of the Hilton Head International Piano Competition.

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BEQUESTS

The Elmhurst Symphony Association would like to acknowledge gifts received in honor of Fred Luscombe, Fred Hodge, Peter Nutini and Velta Liepins.

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