**Program Notes**

Domenico Scarlatti – Sonata in D Minor, K. 1

Domenico Scarlatti was an Italian composer noted particularly for his 555 keyboard sonatas, which substantially expanded the technical and musical possibilities of the harpsichord. He was the son of the famous composer of vocal music, Alessandro Scarlatti, and was born in the same year as J.S. Bach and G.F. Handel. The fullest surviving record of Scarlatti’s life and character is to be found in the series of harpsichord sonatas that began with the publication of his “*Esercizi per gravicembalo”* (*Exercises*) in 1738, which contained 30 sonatas, of which, the one being played tonight is the first of.

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart – Sonata in F major, K. 332, I. Allegro, II. Adagio

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was a prolific and influential composer of the Classical period who wrote over 800 works in his short life. Mozart is widely regarded as being one of the greatest composers in the history of Western music. The Piano Sonata No. 12 in F major, K. 332 by Mozart was published in 1784 along with the Piano Sonata No. 10 in C major, K. 330, and Piano Sonata No. 11, K. 331.

Frederic Chopin – Waltz in A minor, Op. 34, No. 2

Etude in F minor, Op. 10, No. 9

Frédéric François Chopin was a Polish composer and virtuoso pianist of the Romantic period, who wrote primarily for solo piano. He has maintained worldwide renown as a leading musician of his era, one whose "poetic genius was based on a professional technique that was without equal in his generation". His piano pieces are technically demanding and expanded the limits of the instrument, while his own performances were noted for their nuance and sensitivity. Chopin's music and his status as one of music's earliest celebrities have made him a leading symbol of the Romantic era. The waltz being performed today is a sorrowful, slow piece in A minor. Although it was the first to be written out of the three, the waltz was the second to be published. The Fryderyk Chopin Institute believes this piece was composed in 1831. The etude to be performed is in F minor and is a technical study composed by Frédéric Chopin in 1829. This étude is part of the twelve studies which belong to Op. 10. It is widely regarded as a good left hand étude because it promotes flexibility in the wrists and fingers.

Bèla Bartók – Allegro Barbaro

Béla Viktor János Bartók was a Hungarian composer, pianist, and ethnomusicologist. He is considered one of the most important composers of the 20th century. Through his collection and analytical study of folk music, he became one of the founders of ethnomusicology. Ethnomusicology can be described as an investigation of music in its cultural contexts. *Allegro barbaro* is a short, dance-like piece that was composed in 1911 and is one of Béla Bartók's most famous and frequently performed solo piano pieces. The title is a jab at Bartók's critics who called him a 'barbarian'. The melody of *Allegro barbaro* is largely pentatonic, while the underlying harmonies are chromatic.