

I thoroughly enjoyed WEKA's presentation of 2 Broadwood Early Pianos in the sizable Early Instrument collection belonging to my long-time friend, Curtis Berak. His highly informative talk was filled with the history, and evolution of early keyboard building practices during the age of Romanticism. I especially enjoyed his rather amusing retelling of how he acquired the 1813 Broadwood. I enjoyed looking at all the 19th, 18th and 17th century portraits of Hurdy gurdy players in the background of this presentation! I eagerly look forward to more concerts on Curtis's wonderful collection!

I am a big fan of Sonia Lee's masterful keyboard playing, and this WEKA presentation gave me the opportunity to hear her play 19th century romantic music on an authentic keyboard of the period, favored by Beethoven himself, the Broadwood piano! Sonia, played with subtle translucent brushstrokes of color, that she layered with the sadness and melancholy timbre of the instrument. She brought out of the instrument, the strains of the composer's melody, layered with longing, sounding like weeping from a faraway place, a haunted reverie, heard through the veils of time. Sonia played and played like a stoic lass waiting for her fellow who will never return from the Sea, her tears splashing on the keys like the ocean waves crashing upon the rocks. Whilst watching and listening to Sonia play, I wept.

Ka Wai Yu's playing of his 5-string cello was deeply moving to me. He played it with such reverence, sensitivity, and nurturing. He seemed to put aside his own ego to allow his beloved friend to softly regale us with her songs of woe, loneliness, and sorrow. Ka Wai was so patient, and kind with her and gently brought her out of her shell. His relationship with his instrument was so intimate and beautiful that I was breathless bearing witness to such a profound union. Ka Wai does not insinuate himself upon the cello nor does he try to control the music with his own vision. He becomes one with the instrument and they dance and sing together, expressing their oneness with the music itself. It was a profoundly beautiful trinity.

I eagerly look forward to more!

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