

# The Tuesday Musicales of Detroit

## Eighth Concert

### Brahms & Chopin at Their Best

Tuesday, March 20, 2018, 7:30 P.M.

Steinway Gallery

2700 E. West Maple Rd., Commerce Township, Michigan

## Program

Four Ballades

Frédéric Chopin (1810 – 1849)

No. 1 in G minor, Op. 23

No. 2 in F Major, Op. 38

No. 3 in A-flat Major, Op. 47

No. 4 in F Minor, Op. 52

Dizhou Zhao, piano

## INTERMISSION

Piano and Violin Sonata No. 3 in D Minor, Op. 108

Johannes Brahms (1833 – 1897)

1. Allegro

2. Adagio

3. Un poco presto e con sentimento

4. Presto agitato

Greg Staples, violin  
Dizhou Zhao, piano

## *About Chopin and the Ballades...*

Frédéric Chopin's four ballades are one-movement pieces for solo piano, composed between 1831 and 1842.

The term *ballade* was used by Chopin in the sense of a balletic interlude or dance-piece, equivalent to the old Italian *ballata*, but the term may also have connotations of the medieval heroic ballad, a narrative minstrel-song, often of a fantastical character. There are dramatic and dance-like elements in Chopin's use of the genre, and he may be said to be a pioneer of the *ballade* as an abstract musical form.

The "ballade form" created by Chopin for his four ballades is a distinct variant of sonata form with specific discrepancies, such as the mirror reprise (presenting the two expositional themes in reverse order during the recapitulation). The *ballades* have directly influenced composers such as Franz Liszt and Johannes Brahms who, after Chopin, wrote *ballades* of their own.

Aside from sharing the title, the four *ballades* are entities distinct from each other. According to composer and music critic Louis Ehlert, "Each [ballade] differs entirely from the others, and they have but one thing in common – their romantic working out and the nobility of their motifs."

*Notes adapted from Wikipedia*

