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Music – MKEY 121
Dr. K. Bondurant

The Albek Trio Report

As a student enrolled in the MKEY 121 music class at the College of the Bahamas, I was cordially invited by my lecturer, Dr. K. Bondurant, to attend a concert hosted by Nassau's Music Society. The concert, which was scheduled for March 31st, 2007, was held at the St. Andrews Episcopal Church Kirk. Considering that this was my first time attending any of the Music Society's concerts, I had no preconceived expectations. Unfortunately, due to prior obligations I arrived late; however, I was still able to catch quite a bit of the program. Upon entering the building, I saw a few familiar faces, but I hurried to find a seat because I did not want to be a distraction. As I took my seat and looked up at the stage, I watched as the violinist arose from her seat and introduced the next piece called "*Trio No. 1 Op. 8 (1923)*". The pianist and a cellist were already seated in their positions. After her introduction, she took her seat again and they began to play. I observed comprehensively, yet focused primarily on the pianist, given that that is the instrument I aspire to perfect. In my opinion, this piece set the stage; it told me that this trio is completely of the elite array of musicians around the world. They were not only musicians, but true artists that thoroughly painted the pictures of all performed pieces.

Throughout the next two pieces "*Aus meiner Heimat*" and "*Trio No. 2 in mi min. Op. 67 (1944)*" I sat in awe. It was perfection. The violinist who seemed to carry the leading role was simply exceptional. Her expressions forced her audience to feel the story she told. Her fingers moved with grace and agility, passion and precision. The cellist meanwhile

definitely held his ground. He seemed to be of a reserved and quiet persona, but was very expressive through his music. He, like the violinist not only effectively delivered the messages of the movements, but conveyed the moods and created the desired atmospheres that each piece required. Finally, to complete this awesome Albek Trio was the pianist. In local Bahamian colloquialism “she’s simply off the chains!” In my opinion she was the cement that held the blocks together, in that, the piano filled all the gaps and tied both the violin and cello together. Her fingers were like lightning and her communication skills with the others were excellent.

Together they were flawless. For more than half of their performances I was hypnotized. Being so locked into their music, I completely blocked out any movement going on around me. At some points, I even envisioned the score in which they read and anticipated the various dynamics. There were no guessing games or doubts in my mind when it came down to differentiating the dynamics. For example, when the time came for the violinist and cellist to pluck the strings and play cheerfully, I would see the terms *allegro* or *allargretto*. Then, there were other times when they played gracefully, solemnly, and more in *andante* and *grave* style.

All in all, the entire concert was fascinating, educating and motivating. I managed to gain more knowledge about pitch difference both string instruments. I did not know that the cello could go as high as the violin and the violin as low as a cello. I even found myself getting confused as to which was playing. Being knowledgeable about their pitches will definitely be beneficial to me when the time to comes to compose a piece that involves

those particular instruments. In addition I have learnt how necessary and critical good communication is. I paid close attention to how they silently spoke to one another using eye contact or body movements as signals. I found that to be very interesting. I also realized how extremely important it is to know my instrument. Who knows, maybe one of them made a mistake, but may have known their instrument well enough to recover smoothly. It is one thing to be a fluent reader but knowing the instrument tells the true story of how well you can read. In addition to being educated I was also greatly motivated by Fiona Albek, *the pianist*. I focused so much on her that I wanted to get up and sit beside her as she played. She is awesome. Her fingers ran with rhythm and accuracy all night. She amalgamated both clefs playing each note correctly and lured me in using her expressions and body language. Having the opportunity to actually experience such levels of perfection served as motivation for me. Now I have new standards, goals and a deeper appreciation for music.