

DOLCI BY THE BAY, CONCERT NO. 7

Ted Rust, oboe — Viva Knight, piano

April 5, 2013

War and Peace: Andriessen's Ballade and de Bréville's Sonatine

Ballade (1952)

Hendrik Andriessen (1892-1981)

Three generations of the Andriessen family contributed richly to Dutch music throughout the 20th century. Hendrik composed *Ballade* after the German occupation of his country (1940-1945), during which he was imprisoned, his music suppressed, and hundreds of thousands of Dutch citizens, including two-thirds of the Dutch Jewish population, were murdered. This *Ballade*, like those of Chopin, is a dark narrative with shifting moods. Its melodies are set to disorienting bitonal harmonies. It tells a story without words: a lamentation reminiscent of Jewish liturgical music, marching troops, aircraft engines, falling bombs, a return of lamentation, and a funeral march.



Sonatine (1927)

Pierre Onfroy de Bréville (1861-1949)

Allègre — Très calme — Vite

Composer Pierre Onfroy de Bréville was an aristocratic but personally modest organist and composer who taught composition at the Paris Conservatory and was admired by his contemporaries for the originality and elegance of his music. He refused to align himself with any movement, yet mastered all the musical innovations of his period. This *Sonatine* opens with a movement marked *Allègre* (meaning light and cheerful, but not necessarily fast.) Its jaunty tapestry of interwoven colors and textures suggest Georges Seurat's pointillist holiday park scene, the *Isle de la Grande Jatte*. Amidst the urban bustle are lyrical moments of calm reflection in which the listener may slow down and enjoy the scene. The second movement is a two-minute meditation marked *Très calme*. The final movement, *Vite* (quickly) is a burst of pure kinetic exuberance.



Pierre de Bréville (left) with French violinist Jacques Thibaud
photo from the Bibliothèque nationale de France

Next Week — Brahms Songs and a Dvorák Sonatina