



*Feel the Beauty and Passion of this Rich Musical Fantasy for
Clarinet, Double Bass & Piano*

Matthew Hanna, CLARINET ▪ **Keith Freeburg**, DOUBLE BASS ▪ **Christopher Tavernier**, PIANO

Featured works by Giovanni Bottesini, the Paganini of the double bass. Bottesini was widely acclaimed and his virtuosic skill in the bass paralleled that of Paganini himself on the violin. Because of the contributions of Bottesini (along with those of Sperger and Dragonetti) to bass technique, many have come to view the double bass as a diverse and versatile instrument. Most notably there are many virtuoso bass players who draw inspiration from the early renaissance of the double bass.

Giovanni Bottesini (1821-1889) was the first and most famous super-virtuoso on the double bass. In spite of having a full career as a bass soloist, he was also a prolific composer (he wrote 12 operas, a symphony, many duos, quartets and quintets, and a vast number of solo pieces for his instrument). He also became a noted conductor, first of all by conducting his own operas, then those of other composers. His reputation was such that Verdi chose him to conduct the first performance of his opera "Aida," in Cairo, Egypt in 1871.

Other notable composers in this program are Ariel Ramirez, André Messager, Maurice Jeanjean, Alexander Scriabin, Claude Debussy, Sergei Prokofiev, and Frederic Chopin.

Program

Giovanni Bottesini: Gran Duo (*Clarinet, Double Bass & Piano*)
Ariel Ramirez: Alfonsina y el Mar (*Clarinet & Double Bass*)
Frederic Chopin: Etude Op. 10, No. 1 (*Piano*)
Frederic Chopin: Ballade, No. 1 (*Piano*)
Claude Debussy: Première rhapsodie (*Clarinet & Piano*)
André Messager: Solo de concours (*Clarinet & Piano*)

Brief Intermission

Giovanni Bottesini: Grande Allegro, Alla Mendelssohn (*Double Bass & Piano*)
Sergei Prokofiev: Pieces from Romeo and Juliet Op.75, No.1, 4, & 6 (*Piano*)
Maurice Jeanjean: "Guisganderie" (*Clarinet & Piano*)
Alexander Scriabin: Etude in E-Flat minor, Op. 8, No. 12 (*Piano*)