Around the World in 80 minutes…

This entertaining and educational presentation tells the story of a young boy who travels the world trying to find a common language, musically illustrated with repertoire for cello and piano ranging from the 1600s up till today!

- This unique program is accessible to all - young and old, regular concert-goers or musical novices.

- It can be presented in any venue (with piano), from intimate or private rooms to large concert halls, on any occasion from school events to festivals.

- A flexible production based on cello and piano + storyteller, however it can be performed with speaker, with dancers, or with actors.

- Currently available in French, Danish and English, but can be translated into any language on request.

In collaboration with

April Su // Cadenza Artists // www.cadenzaartists.com // april@cadenzaartists.com
Around the World in 80 minutes...

An entertaining and educational concert presentation for cello, piano and storyteller, written by Jacob Shaw and based on an original idea by Jacob Shaw and Anne-Charlotte Rémond.

The title might sound vaguely familiar to you – it is very similar to the title of the novel by Jules Verne, “Around the World in 80 Days”. However, our story is very different – it is not the story of Phileas Fogg, but the story of Johannes, a young boy.

Johannes is extremely passionate about languages and cultures. He is passionate about how people from different cultures communicate with each other, passionate about learning as many languages as possible and eager to travel the world and understand other cultures.

In an old café, he overhears a man talking about a universal language which is used all over the world – a language that could be understood by everyone, regardless of nationality, race or religion. Of course, Johannes, when he overhears this, wants to leave on a voyage straight away. He wants to fulfill his dream of travelling and meeting the people that have different cultures, to learn new ways, new scenery. And of course, to find this universal language that fascinates him so much.

The story is a musical voyage – narrated by a storyteller, it tells of Johannes as he meets new friends – such as Manuel in Spain, who shows him a passionate man and woman having a tense argument: the music provided to this scene is the song “Polo” from Manuel de Falla “7 Spanish Songs”, played by cello and piano. From country to country, meeting new “friends”, who are of course well-known composers, and show a national characteristic, such as fiery passion in Spain. This teaches the audience not only cultural characteristics but also where each composer comes from, and a famous piece of music of theirs.

Johannes travels from Spain (Manuel de Falla) to France, (Gabriel Fauré), and the Czech Republic (Bohuslav Martinu), and more European countries, before his journey takes him across Russia, the Middle East, and further - as far as Japan, with a beautiful folk song, or Argentina and Astor Piazzolla. The composers range from the 16th century right up until modern day. All of the pieces of music are between 3 and 7 minutes, so the concentration is upheld by any audience, and the animated description of the story is vivid and lively.

Of course, as you can imagine, by the end of the journey, Johannes discovers that although cultures are very different, there is a common factor binding them together, a common language spoken in every single culture in the world, a universal art form that needs no words and no pictures: MUSIC!!
An adaptation of “Around the World in 80 minutes” at Dulwich College International can be an exciting and successful production, incorporating dance, drama and music.

THE CONCEPT: Involvement of pupils of all ages

- For each musical piece, a class could present their own small project to accompany the music, some incorporating dance, others a small theater scene, etc. An art class could help to design some decorations or costumes.
- Some schools may even want to present their own pieces to play (for example Chinese percussion, African drumming, etc.). “Around the World in 80 minutes” is fully adaptive.
- The age range of participating pupils could cover everything from the youngest students right up to IB age.

INTERPRETATION THROUGHOUT THE SCHOOLS: A different concept on the same model

- The music for each school would remain the same - but we can easily imagine that every school and every participating class would have their own unique take on the music.

QUICK AND SIMPLE TO PUT TOGETHER: The key is preparation.

- The production is very simple and time efficient to put together - as Duo Shaw-Magnussen would provide audio recordings of each piece and either a script to be interpreted beforehand so each school could prepare.
- It is essential that each class would be 100% ready for the arrival of the musicians, and each group certain of their activities, so the “live” music would be added on in at the final dress rehearsal the day before the production or even on the performance day.

GUARANTEED SUCCESS FOR PARTICIPANTS AND AUDIENCE

With the involvement of pupils of Dulwich College International, performing together in a partnership with 2 of the most respected up-and-coming young musicians worldwide in Duo Shaw-Magnussen, together with a production that fits in perfectly with the school motto - Detur Pons Mundo - “Around the World in 80 minutes” at Dulwich College International has all the signs to become a success for everyone involved.

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