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Enhanced by the Dance: A Guide to an Informed Interpretation of Piano Literature Inspired by Nineteenth-century Social Dances

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THE CEDARVILLE UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF
MUSIC AND WORSHIP

PRESENTS THE

SENIOR PROJECT
PRESENTATION
OF
ALICIA WILLIAMS

ENHANCED BY THE DANCE—A GUIDE TO AN
INFORMED INTERPRETATION OF PIANO
LITERATURE INSPIRED BY
NINETEENTH-CENTURY SOCIAL DANCES

MONDAY, APRIL 29, 2019
3:30 P.M.

RECITAL HALL
BOLTHOUSE CENTER FOR MUSIC
DIXON MINISTRY CENTER

ABSTRACT

The social dances of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries consisted mainly of French court dances. Spread through the influence of King Louis XIV of France, the highly technical aristocratic dances reigned. The French Revolution, however, effectively extinguished all but the minuet when simpler dances took their place.

The social dances of the nineteenth century concentrated on pleasurable experience. While the minuet and other French court dances involved no more than the touching of the hands, the new couple dances allowed dancers to be in a close embrace. Participatory group dances were likewise revolutionary in that a person's place or rank could change within the dance. Nationalistic dances that originated among peasants were tailored for a cosmopolitan audience in ballrooms throughout Europe and beyond.

Since much of standard piano repertoire was inspired by the social dances of the nineteenth century, we should discover what the composer wished to describe musically. Studying the history, musical style, and character of these dances will help to promote a greater understanding, appreciation, and interpretation of the music.

Alicia has been advised in this presentation by
Sandra Yang and Connie Anderson.

This project is presented in partial fulfillment
of the Bachelor of Arts in music degree.

*No flash photography, please.
Please turn off all cell phones.*

