BRAHMS: EXPERIENCE AND EXPRESSION IN MUSIC

Nicky Jamison
Gianna Patchett
1862-1865

• Composition of Cello Sonata No. 1, in E minor
• Rejection for position as conductor of the Philharmonic Society in Hamburg
  • Subsequent move to Vienna
• Parents’ separation in 1864
• Mother’s death in 1865
“How seldom does one like us find a fixed abode, how I would have liked to find it in my native city. Now, here, where so much beauty delights me, I nevertheless feel and would always feel that I am a stranger and can find no peace.”
1894

- Death of friends and family, including his sister
- Declaration of retirement
  - Returns to composing after hearing clarinetist, Richard Muhler
CELO SONATA NO. 1, E MINOR

• First Movement
  • Sonata Form
  • Themes in the low register evoke a sense of longing

• Second Movement
  • Minuet and Trio

• Third Movement
  • Fugue/Sonata Form
  • Brahms described Vienna as “too hectic”

• Both the first and the third movement borrow themes from Bach, creating the idea of looking back to the past
VIOLA SONATA NO. 1, E-FLAT MAJOR

• First Movement
  • Sonata Form

• Second Movement
  • Scherzo and Trio

• Third Movement
  • Theme and Variations

• Transcription for the Viola creates a “melancholy” tone