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Wonmi Kim

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Pianist Wonmi Kim put on an outstanding display of both artistry and technique in a performance at the Kennedy Center's Terrace Theater on Saturday under the auspices of the Korean Concert Society. Her tastes run to the big romantic repertoire, music by Schumann, Chopin, Liszt and Balakirev that she delivered with splendid articulation and a balanced poise that somehow escaped seeming careful or premeditated.

A 1986 winner of the Third International Liszt Competition, Kim not surprisingly made her strongest impression with a pair of pieces by the composer. She played the "Feux Follets," from the "Transcendental Etudes," with an exquisitely light but full-bodied touch, and "Il Lamento," which had more weight but moved with the same sense of purpose and direction.

In the Schumann "Humoreske" she found a satisfying balance between self-absorption and artistic distance, listening carefully to what she was doing but maintaining her momentum. The program also included fine readings of the Chopin "Polonaise Fantaisie," Balakirev's showy "Islamey (Oriental Fantasy)" and, to start things off, some romantic recastings by Leopold Godowsky of dances by Rameau that left the music barely recognizable but that were really quite wonderful.