**MUSIC REPORT.**

Violin Sonata by Frank [for violin and piano], from the Romance category and Variations on a Theme of Paganini by Witold Lutosławski [for two pianos] from the contemporary category stood out. The artists formulated soothing and appealing sounds with a balanced pitch and rhythm. The violin and piano combination gives distinctive and beguiling melodies that ease the mind. On the other hand, playing two pianos when formulating musical sounds might seem to be chaotic, especially for someone who may be new to the sound, but Variations on a Theme of Paganini melody gives a different perspective.

César Franck was a Belgian-French composer and organist, who was born in 1822 and died in 1890. He specialized in composing Romantic sounds, which were inspired by his desire to improve French music so that it can sound better than the German’s. His father was a Walloon, and his mother was German. He married Félicité Saillot, an actress, in 1848.

Witold Lutosławski, a mathematician and pianist from Warsaw, was born in 1913 and expired in 1994. He was famously known for his intriguing music composition. During World War I, his music career was briefly frustrated by the communist government at that time, a change that made him take a different direction to earn a living until the issue was solved.

Violin Sonata is a frequently performed and most-loved composition due to its “songlike melodies”. It was originally composed/written for a Belgian Violinist, Eugène Ysaÿe, in 1886 for his wedding ceremony in that same year. Unlike Franck’s other works, Violin Sonata has four movements, which include, “Allegretto ben moderato”, “Allegro”, “Recitativo-fantasia”, and “Allegretto Poco Mosso”.

Composed in 1941, Variations on a Theme of Paganini [for two pianos] was the only surviving composition by Lutosławski after World War II. This variations composition originated from the Paganini theme sound played by Paganini himself using a violin. Lutosławski took the honor to translate the violinist passages to two pianos.

Music is entertaining and soothing. When an artist composes a melodic sound they tend to feature in the two aspects among many others, which include competition and sampling original sounds and make needed changes to create a different melodic sound but still with some features from the original sound. For instance, Frank was devoted to improving the French Romantic melodic sounds so that they can outdo the German sound. On the other hand, Lutosławski sampled Paganini’s violin sounds transferring Paganini’s violin passages to two pianos, which is a smart move that helps to improve musical sounds and maintain an artist’s legacy.

Though music-making might seem easy to produce and maintain, some factors may frustrate music-making and music lifespan. Events like wars can ‘kill’ music and frustrate music production. Only a few melodic sounds that appealed to the hearts of the fans and which were masterfully created may survive such events.

1. <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Cesar-Franck>.
2. <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Witold-Lutoslawski> and <https://polishmusic.usc.edu/research/composers/witold-lutoslawski/>.
3. <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Violin-Sonata-in-A-Major>.
4. <https://www.parlancechamberconcerts.org/parlance-program-notes/variations-on-a-theme-of-paganini/>.
5. <http://www.lutoslawski.org.pl/en/composition,7.html>.