

## Let us enjoy the music of life,

For all its high and low keys.



As I am typing this text, my computer is still playing Schubert's impromptu No.2.

The piece is played by one of the greatest piano virtuosi of our time. It is a technically demanding composition but in the capable hands of the master, who navigates through it with ease and negotiates all the hard passes with passion and panache, the sound bytes transform into melodic expression of artistry, and transcends into a timeless and universal sentiment that imbue pleasure and evokes emotion. The performance is flawless, recorded flawlessly and remains flawless no matter how often played.

The circumstances would not be the same had I attended a live concert by the same artists, as, although one or more of my favourite pieces of music would be performed under far more advanced acoustics than my modest home speakers, but there would also be downsides to the whole exercise of attending a live concert, as compared to making the music available at home and by pressing a button on my CD player.

There is travelling back and forth to the concert hall, and then there is price of the ticket and other usual peripheral costs of the long evening in the city such as parking and dinner not to mention the possibility of inclement weather.

There is also no guarantee that the performance would match that of the CD version which was recorded under stringent studio conditions to yield perfect performance, whereas, under the pressure of live performance, the possibility of a note or two being missed or played wrongly can not be ruled out.

So, what is the rationale for still opting for the latter rather than sinking into my comfortable couch at my convenience and listening to my recorded favourite music, free of charge and stripped from all the inconveniences and possibility of a mishap during the performance?

The answer lies with the *character of each individual*, some of us are more of an observer

than participant, we prefer a package to be delivered to us complete and fully guaranteed, in that, we deprive ourselves from the pleasure and opportunity of engaging in the action, lest the uncertainties and potential perils. Understandably we remain conservative in our thoughts, limited in our vision, originality and creativity, and inarticulate in expression thereof, exposing ourselves to be exploited as followers, if not subservient to the most immediate and aggressively touted ideology available.

To the contrary, others view life as an open field of opportunities, with infinite possibilities both to advance and progress, as well as retreat and regress, a journey of discovery with many bends to navigate, depths to plumb, hills to scale and thorns to step on, and through it all experience the pain and pleasure first hand, be there as the reality of life prevails itself, be there to witness and engage, and be there to learn from each and every fragment of the experience of living as it unfolds before us, as, we choose to understand rather than accept, and turn our backs to the blind pursuit of a path charted by often less than well meaning leaders.

So, although the CD will give us a packaged product we seek within our comfort zone and without a glitch, just like pre-packed set of rules and ideologies forced upon us, often by strange, unqualified, dishonest and self righteous leaders, let us dispel the myth, rise above our primal prejudices, take control and channel our strengths and abilities to understand, engage and enjoy the music of life for what it is and while we can, with all its ups and downs, fast and slow passages, high and low keys.

*Let us indulge in all variation of the music of life, negotiate its path and enjoy while doing it, have presence and even play a tune, just like the engaged and in charge virtuoso pianist who both pleasures and pleases, and whose passionate union of mastery with a masterpiece brings us to our feet and into the concert halls to synergies with like minded people and witness the manifestation of the ultimate human accomplishment, and experience, feel and touch flow of life first hand with all its unpredictability and spontaneity, a true Impromptu like Schubert's number two.*