This performance presentation will contain a short overview of Chopin's life, a survey of Chopin's études, and a discussion of the circumstances surrounding the composition of his C minor étude. A complete performance of the C minor, Op. 10, No. 12, "Revolutionary" étude will conclude my presentation.

Chopin's Revolutionary Étude is the last étude in a set of twelve. He wrote a total of 30 études, 24 preludes, 19 nocturnes, 3 impromptus, 60 mazurkas and various other small piano works.

Frederic Chopin (1810-1849) is a composer from the Romantic period. While Polish by birth, he spent most of his life in Paris. He began his career as a pianist, but only performed publicly for a short time. Chopin was an avid teacher and was an important leader in redefining the étude. Prior to Chopin, études were purely a technical exercise. Chopin crafted his études in a way that would be technically challenging and still artistically nourishing for the student. Chopin's C minor "Revolutionary" étude was written after he heard of Poland's failed resistance against the Russians in 1831. At the time Chopin was residing in Stuttgart in route to France. This performance presentation will give the audience an opportunity to further understand and enjoy the historic études of Chopin.