Music at Bennington Presents . . .

Senior Concert

Sheila E. Lewandowski

MAY 19, 1997  8:00 P.M.

DEANNE CARRIAGE BARN
BENNINGTON COLLEGE
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All pieces in the first half of tonight's program are premiere performances.

Rebekah Pym, composer
   “Dark Street” text, James Tate
   “Of Emiliano Guzzmann” text, Michael Heffernan

Todd Tarantino, composer
   “the moon is hiding in her hair” text, E. E. Cummings
   “Stay, O’ Sweet” anonymous (Elizabethean)

Sheila Lewandowski, voice
   Amy Williams, piano

* Hong Ting, composer
   “Farewell” text, Li Bai (Tang Dynasty)
   “National Border” text, Su Huan (Song Dynasty)
   “Mad Bee”
   “Bamboo Sticks”
   “Haio”

Sheila Lewandowski, voice
   Guy Rauscher violin
   Hong Ting, gu-zheng
   Amy Williams, prepared piano

* 1996-97 John Hendrick Memorial Commission

- Intermission -
Program Notes

“Of Emiliano Guzman”
Based on the poem, “Naked War,”
by Michael Heffernan

The swarthy little statue
Of Emiliano Guzman
stood by the greensward
beckoning, beckoning

Fart, mad ducks, fart!
I manfully exhorted.
Then all about us rose
the reft applause of ducky angelus.

Walruses idled in the estuaries.

“Dark Street”
Based on the poem of the same
name by James Tate

So this is the dark street
where only an angel lives:
I never saw anything like it.
For the first time in a lifetime
I feel the burgeoning of wings
somewhere behind my frontal lobes.
So this is the dark street.
Did his lights come on,
or do I dream?
I never saw anything like it.

Even the trees’ languorous leaves
look easy to touch.
So this is the dark street.
Here he comes now:
good afternoon, Father—
your handshake is so pleasing.
Brush the shards from my shoulders,
what lives we have ahead of us!
So this is the dark street.
I never saw anything like it.

“Emiliano Guzman, mad duck, farts and dark
streets - I’m positive there is a relation. More
seriously though, it was a joy to write for you,
Sheila. Every blessing.” — Rebekah

“Stay, O Sweet”
Anonymous (Elizabethan)

Stay, O Sweet and do not rise,
Stay, O Sweet do not rise,
The light that shines comes from
thine eyes.
The day breaks not it is my heart.
Because that you and I must part.

Stay or else my joys will die.
Stay or else my joys will die and
perish in their infancy.

“Recently I have been working on realizations of
Schutz’s work. Indeed working with my own songs
presented some of the same problems as working with
those of Schutz. I have tried to keep the integrity of the
originals while at the same time revising them with
the ideas that strike me now, five to six years later, in
mind. I have tried to strike a happy medium between
the two. These songs have never seen the light of day. I
heartily thank Sheila for her time and perseverance
with them.” — Todd Tarantino

“the moon is hiding in her hair”
Based on the poem of the same
name by E. E. Cummings

the moon is hiding in
her hair.
The
lily
of heaven
full of all dreams,
draws down.

cover her briefness in singing
clothe her with intricate faint birds
by daisies and twilights
Deepen her,

Recite
upon her
flesh
the rain’s

pearls singly whispering
"Farewell"

based on a poem by Li Bai (Tang Dynasty)
Written at the parting of Li Bai and his contemporary, Du Fu; two of the greatest poets in 8th century China.

醉别复几日，
drunk apart 'til meet again/ how many days

登临遍池台。
climb up to full pond platform

秋波落泗水，
Autumn ripple drop - water

海色明珠练。
Sea color bright to & from

何时石门路，
what time stone gate trail

重有金樽开?
Again let's have golden goblet click

飞蓬各自远
Fly full-wing respective way far-away

且尽手中杯。
For now empty hand in cup.

This song cycle is a synthesis of different historical and musical influences, as well as instrumentations. Perhaps the only preservation of original art form in this lies in the poems. It has been an exciting and challenging process. The experience of working with Sheila, among other supportive and dedicated musicians has been a most rewarding one.

- Ting

"Mad Bee"

based on a poem by Su Huan (Song Dynasty)

毒蜂一成灾，
toxic bees one form hive

高枝恶木枝。
high hang evil wooden branch

行人百步外，
walking people hundred paces away

目断魂亦飞。
eye-view cut souls also fly-away

长安大道边，
Chang-An big road side

拂舞谁家儿?
snatch pellet which family kid

右手持金丸，
Right hand take golden pellet

盛满无所疑，
Full - bow without any doubt

一骑纷下来，
Once numerous down come

若纱风雨随。
Appears as if wind shower follows

身如万箭攒。
body as if millions arrows stung

宛转无何之。
whirling whirling lost his knowing

彼有疾患心。
Merely to have hate evil heart

奈何不知几
pitifully to not avail do not know how
II

“Love Me or Leave Me” words, Gus Kahn; music Walter Donaldson
“My Baby Just Cares for Me”

“See-Line Woman” words and music, George Bass

“Ruby” words and music, Marti Jones

“Black Coffee” words and music, Paul Francis Webster & Sonny Burke

“The Water is Wide” anonymous, 18th century Scottish ballad

Brazil English lyrics, S. K. Russell; music, Ary Barroso

Sheila Lewandowski, voice
Dan Mohr & Tim McCarthy, back-up vocals
Jason Fridley, alto sax & flute
Phil Salathé, electric bass
Tom Farrell, piano & arrangements
Jay D. Metz, drums & percussion
Jamil-Jalim Shiner, dance

Lights Garin Marschall & T’aiya Shiner
Reception T. Kemmeo Brown & Ursula Mathers
House Managers J. R. Magsaysay, Elizabeth Cortlett,
Sound Board Jeremy G. W. Romagna
Recording Larry Wineland

Margaret Masingill, Kerry Gilbertson
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Rebekah, Todd & Ting - thank you for your creativity, commitment & patience with me. Working on this new material was a great experience.

Ida - Your idea to commission original material gave me more than beautiful music to sing. I am a better musician for the opportunity to work directly with the composers. Thank you for pushing me and believing in me.

Tom - I can’t thank you enough for all of the extra work you did for my concert. I know, very well, that this would not have been possible without your help.

Amy, Jason, Phil, Jay, Jalim, Garin, T’aiya, Kemmeo, J.R., Guy, Hank, Ursula, Kerry, Megan, Irina, Dan & Tim - I would be singing in a box without all of you.

Additional moral and musical support (M&M’S) provided by:

Tommy Bogdan, Allen Shawn, Stephen Siegel, Suzanne Jones, Suzy Reiss, Elizabeth Kim, Gladden Shrock, Bruce Williamson, Danny Michaelson, Heather Milne, Meredith Butner, Jen Zynel, Michael Buhl, Aaron Scholer, Amy DiPaulo, Joan Edwards, Shana Onigman, Rebecca Zafonte, Eva, Andrea, Nathan, Louis, Mom, Dad, & the voice class.

This concert is made possible in part through the generous support of Judith Rosenberg Hoffberger ’54 and the Henry and Ruth Blaustein Rosenberg Foundation.