

BENNINGTON COLLEGE MUSIC DIVISION

Presents

A SENIOR CONCERT

By

CHRISTINE WATSON

Tuesday
November 23, 1982

8:15 p.m.
Greenwall Music Workshop

Sonatas and Interludes for Prepared Piano

JOHN CAGE

Sonata IV
First Interlude
Sonata V
Sonata VIII

Christine Watson

Four Songs

CHRISTINE WATSON

Voices in the Staircase
At the Last
"Pearl" from The Beginning of Jewels
A Minor Bird

Marianne Finckel - piano
Jill Beckwith - voice

An Ogden Nash Cycle

CHRISTINE WATSON

Celery
The Shark
The Parsnip
The Firefly
Summer Serenade

Lori Goldston - 'cello
Jill Beckwith - voice
Christine Watson - piano

Le Bestiaire au Cortège d'Orphée

FRANCIS POULENC
(transposed by
Christine Watson)

1. Le Dromadaire
2. La Chèvre du Thibet
3. La Sauterelle
4. Le Dauphin
5. L'Ecrevisse
6. La Carpe

Christine Watson - piano
Michael Downs - voice

Five Greek Folk Songs

1. Le Reveil de la mariée
2. Là-bas, vers l'église
3. Quel gallant m'est comparable
4. Chanson des cueilleuses de lantiques
5. Tout gai!

MAURICE RAVEL
(transposed by
Christine Watson)

Christine Watson - piano
Michael Downs - voice

- INTERMISSION -

Apparition

GEORGE CRUMB

Elegiac Songs and Vocalises for
Soprano and Amplified Piano

- I. The night in silence under many a star...
Vocalise 1: Sounds of a summer evening
- II. When lilacs last in the dooryard bloom'd...
- III. Dark mother always gliding near with soft feet...
Vocalise 2: Invocation to the dark angel
- IV. Approach strong deliveress!
Vocalise 3: Death carol ("Song of the nightbird")
- V. Come lovely and soothing death...
- VI. The night in silence under many a star...

Christine Watson - piano
Jill Beckwith - soprano

Sherman Foote, piano amplification

Liebeslieder Walzer

JOHANNES BRAHMS

- Nr. 1 Rede Mädchen, allzu liebes
- Nr. 6 Ein kleiner, hübscher Vogel
- Nr. 10 O wie sanft die Quelle
- Nr. 8 Wenn so lind dein Auge mir
- Nr. 2 Am Gesteine rauscht die Flut

Bette Goldberg - soprano
Susan Alancraig - alto
Edward Hines - tenor
Michael Downs - bass
Christine Watson - piano
Marianne Finckel - piano

This concert was made possible in part by a grant from the Woolley Fund.
Mr. Downs wishes to express his appreciation to the Woolley Fund for its support
of his preparation for this concert.

Thanks to Susan Alancraig, Anne Dambrowski, Alice Abraham and Phoebe Neville.
Extra special thanks to Marianne Finckel, Frank Baker and Michael Downs.

This concert is being presented in partial fulfillment of the requirements for
the Bachelor of Arts Degree.

TEXTS AND TRANSLATIONS

Four Songs

Voices in the Staircase
Witter Bynner

Voices in the staircase, in the floor,
in the furniture.
There are more of the dead here than
the living.
Except for the voice, which sometimes
comes through passionately.
I do not wish to be born.

At the Last
Witter Bynner

There is no denying
That it matters little,
When through a narrow door
We enter a room together,
Which goes after, which before.

Perhaps you are not dying:
Perhaps - there is no knowing -
I shall slip by and turn and laugh
with you
Because it mattered so little,
The order of our going.

"Pearl" from The Beginning of Jewels
Ned O'Gorman

When the Oyster drew upon itself
and noted its elect condition
it traced a perfect circle,
shelled, aquatic, white...
and at the center, on a point
of sand, it focused its attention.

A Minor Bird
Robert Frost

I have wished a bird would fly away,
And not sing by my house all day;
Have clapped my hands at him from the
door
When it seemed as if I could bear no
more.
The fault must partly have been in me
The bird was not to blame for his key.
And of course there must be something
wrong
In wanting to silence any song.

An Ogden Nash Cycle

Celery

Celery, raw,
Develops the jaw,
But celery, stewed,
Is more quietly chewed.

The Shark

How many scientists have written
The shark is gentle as a kitten!
Yet this I know about the shark:
His bite is worser than his bark.

The Parsnip

The parsnip, children, I repeat,
Is simply an anemic beet.
Some people call the parsnip edible;
Myself, I find this (claim) incredible

The Firefly

The firefly's flame
Is something (for) which science has
no name.
I can think of nothing eerier
Than flying around with an unidentifi
glow on a person's posteerier.

Summer Serenade

When the thunder stalks the sky,
When tickle-footed walks the fly,
When shirt is wet and throat is dry,
Look, my darling, that's July.

Though the grassy lawn be leather,
And prickly temper tug the tether,
Shall we postpone our love for weather
If we must melt, let's melt together!

Please refrain from turning pages
until each song cycle is completed.

The Book of Beasts or
Procession of Orpheus
- Guillaume Apollinaire

1. The Dromedary
With his four dromedaries
Don Pedro of Alfaroubeira
Roamed the world and admired it
He did what I would like to do
If I had four dromedaries
2. The Tibetan Goat
The fleece of this goat and even
That of gold for which Jason took
so much trouble,
Are worth nothing compared to
The locks of my beloved
3. The Grasshopper
Here is the delicate grasshopper
The nourishment of St. John
May my verses be likewise
The feast of superior people.
4. The Dolphin
Dolphins, you play in the sea
Yet the waters are always bitter
At times my joy bursts forth
But life is still cruel.
5. The Crayfish
Uncertainty O! My delights
You and I we progress
Just like the crayfish
Backwards, backwards.
6. The Carp
In your fish-ponds in your pools
Carp how long you live!
Is it that death has forgotten
you
Melancholic fish?

Five Greek Folk Songs
French version, M.D. Calvocoressi
English translation, Waldo Lyman

1. The awakening of the bride
Awake, little partridge,
Greet the morning with open opinions.
The three beauty spots
Put my heart on fire.
Look at the golden ribbon which I
bring you
To tie round your hair
Let us get married, my love, if
you will!
In our two families all are related.
2. Yonder, at the Church
Yonder, at the church,
At the church of Ayio Sidero,
The church, oh blessed Virgin,
The church of Ayio Costanndino,
Have come together,
Have assembled in great numbers
People, oh blessed Virgin,
All of the bravest people!
3. What dandy can compare with me
What dandy can compare with me,
Of all those passing by?
Won't you tell me Vassiliki?
Look at pistols and a sharp saber
Hanging on my belt...
And 'tis you I love!
4. Song of the girls gathering
pistachios
Oh joy of my soul, joy of my heart,
Treasure so precious to me;
Thou, whom I love ardently,
Thou, more handsome than an angel.
When thou appearest, angel so sweet,
Before our eyes,
Like a beautiful blond angel
In the bright sunlight,
Alas, all our poor hearts sigh!
5. Very merrily!
Very merrily,
Ah, very merrily,
Beautiful legs, tireli, dancing,
Beautiful legs, even the dishes
dancing.
Tra la-la-la.

APPARITION

Text from Walt Whitman's "When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom'd"

I. The night in silence under many a star...

The night in silence under many a star,
The ocean shore and the husky whispering
wave whose voice I know.
And the soul turning thee O vast and
well veiled death,
And the body gratefully nesting close
to thee.

II. When Lilacs last in the dooryard bloom'd...

When lilacs last in the dooryard
bloom'd,
I mourned, and yet shall mourn with
ever returning spring.

III. Dark mother always gliding near with soft feet...

Dark mother, always gliding near with
soft feet,
Dark mother, Have none chanted for thee
a chant of fullest welcome?
Then I chant it for thee, I glorify
thee above all,
I bring thee a song that when thou must
indeed come, come unfalteringly.
Dark mother, always gliding near with
soft feet.

IV. Approach strong deliveress!

Approach strong deliveress!
When it is so, when thou has taken them
I joyously sing the dead!
Approach strong deliveress!
Lost in the loving floating ocean of
thee,
Laved in the flood of thy bliss O death.
Approach strong deliveress!
When it is so. When thou hast taken
them.
I joyously sing the dead!
Approach strong deliveress!

V. Come lovely and soothing death...

Come lovely and soothing death, mm.
Undulate, mm, round the world, mm,
Serenely arriving, mm.
Undulate around the world, serenely
arriving.
In the day, in the night, to all, to
each.

Sooner or later delicate death.
Come lovely and soothing death. MM.

VI. The night in silence under many a star...

The night in silence under many a star.
The ocean shore and the husky whisper-
ing wave whose voice I know.
And the soul turning to thee O vast
and well veiled death.
And the body gratefully nesting close
to thee.

Liebeslieder Waltzes

From: "Polydora" by von Davmer

Nr. 1 Speak maiden, my dearest

Speak maiden, so that the cold leaves
my breast.
Rest quietly beside me.
Come 'til the stars greet us.

Nr. 6 A small, handsome bird

A small, handsome bird flew into the
garden, where the fruit was
plentiful.
In that place, malice also clung to
the branches.
But the bird fell into a pretty hand,
and the hand did him no harm.
If I were a small, handsome bird, I
would do just as he did.

No. 10 Oh how soft the streamlet

Oh how soft the streamlet winds itself
through the meadow.
Oh how beautiful, when one love finds
another.

Nr. 8 When your soft eyes so lovingly gazed upon me

When your soft eyes so lovingly gaze
upon me,
Every last trouble flies away.
Let not this love's beautiful glow
fade away.
Never become as I, and love another
so truly.

No. 2 Over the rocks rushes the river

Over the rocks rushes the river with
a violent force.
He who does not know how to sigh, will
learn to through love.