

BENNINGTON COLLEGE MUSIC DIVISION
PRESENTS

A SONG CONCERT

given by

CELIA TWOMEY
VOICE

MARIANNE FINCKEL
PIANO

with

Jonathan Bepler,
Joseph Bloom, Allen Shawn,
and
The Chorus Within

Wednesday, May 12, 1993
8:15 p.m.
Greenwall Music Workshop

PROGRAM

I. Plaisirs d'Amour

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| 1. Si mes vers avaient des ailes | Reynaldo Hahn (1875-1947) |
| poem by V. Hugo | |
| 2. L'Heure exquise | |
| poem by P. Verlaine | |
| 3. A Chloris | |
| poem by T. de Viau | |

II. Die Schmerzen des Lebens

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| 1. O wüsst' ich doch den Weg zurück | J. Brahms (1833-1897) |
| poem by K. Groth | |
| 2. Verborgenheit | H. Wolf (1860-1903) |
| poem by E. Mörike | |
| 3. Immer leiser wird mein Schlummer | J. Brahms |
| poem by H. Lingg | |
| 4. Nacht und Träume | F. Schubert (1797-1828) |
| poem by M. von Collin | |

III. A Theme and Variations

C. Twomey (b. 1951)
Allen Shawn, piano

-pause-

IV. Hermit Songs

S. Barber (1910-1981)

These 8th through 13th century anonymous Irish texts were written by monks, scholars, and possibly a saint or two, in some of their more informal moments.

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| 1. At St. Patrick's Purgatory | 13th c |
| 2. Church Bell at Night | 12th c |
| 3. St. Ita's Vision | 8th c |
| attributed to St. Ita | |
| 4. The Heavenly Banquet | 10th c |
| attributed to St. Brigid | |

3. My Slumbers Grow Lighter and Lighter

My slumbers grow lighter and lighter,
My sorrow lies as a mere veil
Trembling above me.
Often in my dreams I hear you
Calling outside my door,
No one is awake to open it for you,
I wake up and weep bitterly.

Yes, I am dying;
And you will kiss another
When I am pale and cold.
Before the May breezes blow,
Before the thrush sings in the wood—
If you want to see me once again,
Come, o come soon!

4. Night and Dreams

Holy night, you are sinking down,
Downward too dreams are floating,
Like your moonlight through space,
Through the silent hearts of men.
We heed these joyfully;
Crying out, when day awakes:
Come again, holy night!
Sweet dreams, come again!

This concert is being presented in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the MFA Degree in Music.

German Translations

1. If Only I Knew the Way Back

If only I knew the way back,
The sweet way back to childhood's land!
O, why did I search after happiness
And let go of my mother's hand?

O, how I long to have a rest,
To be roused by no striving,
To shut tight my weary eyes,
To be covered softly by love.

To search for nothing, watch for nothing,
And dream only light and gentle dreams,
Not to see the changing of the times,
For a second time, a child.

O, show me the way back,
The sweet way back to childhood's land!
I am searching in vain for happiness
Ringed 'round by a desolate shore.

2. Seclusion

Leave, o world, o, leave me be!
Do not lure me with gifts of love.
Leave this heart alone to have
Its bliss, its agony!

What I grieve, I do not know,
It is a nameless grief;
Always through my tears I see
The sun's loving light.

Often, scarcely aware am I,
And joy's light flashes through my troubles,
Through the oppressing heaviness,
Blissfully within my breast.

Leave, o World, o leave me be...

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| 5. The Crucifixion | 12th c |
| from <u>The Speckled Book</u> | |
| 6. Sea-Snatch | 8th or 9th c |
| 7. Promiscuity | 9th c |
| 8. The Monk and His Cat | 8th or 9th c |
| translated by W. H. Auden | |
| 9. The Praises of God | 11th c |
| translated by W. H. Auden | |
| 10. The Desire for Hermitage | 8th or 9th c |

INTERMISSION

V. Excerpts from **Porgy and Bess** George Gershwin (1898-1937) book by D. Heyward, lyrics by Ira Gershwin

1. Summertime
2. Gone, Gone, Gone
3. My Man's Gone Now
4. Bess, You Is My Woman Now

Joseph Bloom, piano , and coach for The Chorus Within
Jonathan Bepler, voice

Chorus:
Shawnette Sulker, Selina Basey, Raven Meyers,
Jessica Peck
Michael Buhl, Mike Cole,
Edmund Mooney

Thank you, Frank Baker. And thank you to Marianne Finckel, Teshna Beaulieu and network chiropractic, Michael Downs, The Gentle Listeners--Pamela, Susan, Shannon, Jen, Kristin and Cristin; MJ and BJ, Theresa Koon, Joseph Bloom, Evita Cobo, Reinhard Mayer, Min Tanaka, Abby Layton, Diane Barraclough and Florence André, Suzanne Jones; and to all the evening's performers.

French Translations

1. If My Song Had Wings

My song would fly, tender and fragile,
Towards your lovely garden,
If my song had wings
Like the bird.

It would fly, shimmering,
Towards your joyous hearth,
If my song had wings
Like the spirit.

Close to you, pure and faithful,
It would hasten, night and day,
If my song had wings
Like love.

trans. by: Diane Barraclough
Florence André

2. The Exquisite Hour

The white moon shines in the forest,
From every branch comes forth a voice,
Under the foliage,
Oh beloved!

The pond reflects a deep mirror,
The silhouette of the dark willow,
Where the wind is weeping.
Let us dream, this is the hour!

A vast and tender calm
Seems to descend from the heavens,
which the orb clads in rainbow colors;
This is the exquisite hour.

3. To Chloris

If it is true, Chloris, that you love me,
(But I know that you love me well)
I do not believe even the kings
Possess such happiness as I.

How ill-timed death would be
To come and change my fortune
For the joys of paradise.

All that is said of ambrosia
Does not move my desire
Compared with the graciousness of your eyes.

trans. by: Diane Barraclough
Florence André