

BENNINGTON COLLEGE MUSIC DIVISION

Presents

A SENIOR CONCERT*

by

ISH BICKNELL

Wednesday
November 17, 1976

8:15 PM
Carriage Barn

- I. Trio in C major, op 87
arranged for Oboe, Clarinet and Bassoon
by Ish Bicknell

BEETHOVEN

Allegro
Adagio
Minuetto - trio
Finale: Presto

Ish Bicknell - oboe, Steve Brettler - clarinet, Karen Cunningham - bassoon

- II. The Sepulchre (1975)
A one-act opera for solo baritone

ISH BICKNELL

Michael Downs - baritone

Steve Brettler - clarinet
Maurice Pachman - bassoon
Jacob Glick - viola
George Finckel - cello

Abigail Tischler - vibraphone
David Jacobson - marimba
Marta Ptaszynska - timpani
Catherine Marker - piano

- INTERMISSION -

- III. Two Love Songs (1976)
for Contralto, Oboe and String Trio

ISH BICKNELL

- 1) Seizure - words by Sappho
2) Venus Transiens - poem by Amy Lowell

Evangeline F. Bicknell - contralto
Jacquelyn Bertles - violin
George Finckel - cello
Ish Bicknell - oboe
Jacob Glick - viola

HENRY BRANT: CONDUCTOR

IV. Double Concerto for oboe and violin

J.S. BACH

Allegro

Adagio

Allegro

Soloists:

Ish Bicknell - oboe

Gretchen Paxson - violin

Jacquelyn Bertles - 1st violin

Jacob Glick - viola

Leora Zeitlin - 2nd violin

George Finckel - cello

Marianne Finckel - double bass

Maurice Pachman - bassoon I

Karen Cunningham - bassoon II

HENRY BRANT: CONDUCTOR

* This concert is being presented in partial fulfillment of the requirements for a Bachelor of Arts degree.

I want to extend my special thanks to Beate Klein for the design and production of the masks in The Sepulchre and Melody London for the design and creation of the stage-set.

Next Concert: A Faculty Concert on December 1, 1976 at 8:15 p.m. in the Carriage Barn.

A synopsis of The Sepulchre, text and music by Ish Bicknell.

The Man is alone with his memories. The Sepulchre is the tomb of his dead past. The Man himself is a sepulchre. One by one his memories come to bury themselves in him.

- Scene I: General calmness, he is alone, no memories have come to him yet. He is not lonely. He is singing of the blankness in his dreams, they are dull. He does not know why he is sitting at this tomb, all he knows is that he is incapable of leaving: some force is holding him there. It does not worry him because he has no desire to go anywhere else. Then he hears something that reminds him of an incident in his past.
- Scene II: The first memory is not exceptionally harsh, but bad enough to jostle his contentment and make him start questioning his existence. It was something he did as a boy, a despicable act but quickly forgotten. He was never caught nor punished so he had had no conscience about it until now.
- Scene III: The second memory is a crime of passion and afterwards, regret.
- Scene IV: The third memory is one of ecstasy being snatched away like having one's life's juices sucked out.
- Scene V: The fourth memory is one of a traumatic succession of mistakes leading to physical breakdown and depression.
- Scene VI: The fifth memory is the crime of hate, pure hate without regret. He has no conscience, not knowing there is any other way to feel; therefore, he is not guilty of the crime because he knows no alternative way of feeling.
- Scene VII: The sixth memory: he remembers his true state of being: nowhere, with nothing, doing nothing, being no one; feeling nothing except what he just went through in his reenactments of his memories. He is released from his reveries.
- Scene VIII: The realization (finale) is that he has died and is now in Limbo. He cannot go to Hell because none of the crimes he committed were consciously cruel. He cannot go to Heaven because he has never been deliberately good.
He can only remain at this tomb as a shell.