

Brahms - Zwei Gesänge

1. Gestillte Sehnsucht (Longing Appeased)  
(text by Friedrich Rückert)

Dipped in golden evening glow, how solemnly the forests stand!  
Mingled with the soft voices of the little birds is the soft breath  
of the evening wind. What are the winds and the little birds  
whispering? They are whispering the world into slumber, into  
slumber.

You desires of mine, always stirring in my heart without letup!  
You longing of mine that makes my breast heave, when will you  
rest, when will you slumber? To the whispering of the winds and  
little birds, you longing desires, when will you fall asleep, fall  
asleep?

Ah, when my spirit no longer hastens toward golden faraway places  
on the wings of dreams, when my eyes no longer gaze at eternally  
distant stars with longing looks; then the winds and little birds will  
whisper my longing away together with my life.

2. Geistliches Wiegenlied (Lullaby for the Christ Child)  
(text by Emanuel Geibel)

You that hover about these palms in night and wind, you holy  
angels: Silence the treetops! My child is sleeping. You palms of  
Bethlehem in the roar of the wind, how can you rustle so angrily  
today? Do not make so much noise! Be quiet, bow down softly and  
mildly. Silence the treetops; my child is sleeping.

The heavenly infant is suffering hardships; oh, how he has been  
wearied by the sorrows of the world.

Ah, now softly soothed in sleep, his distress fades away. Silence the  
treetops; my child is sleeping. Cruel coldness whirs down; whatever  
can I use to cover the child's limbs? Oh, all you angels that wander  
winged in the wind: Silence the treetops. My child is sleeping.

BENNINGTON COLLEGE MUSIC DIVISION

PRESENTS

## A CONCERT OF CHAMBER MUSIC

WITH

CLAUDIA FRIEDLANDER  
clarinetist and mezzo-soprano

BRUCE GRIFFIN, pianist  
KATHY ANDREW, violist

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1991

8:15 p.m.

GREENWALL MUSIC WORKSHOP

## PROGRAM

Sonata for Clarinet and Piano (1962)      FRANCIS POULENC

- I. Allegro tristamente
- II. Romanza
- III. Allegro con fuoco

Trois Mèlodies pour chant et piano (1930)      OLIVIER MESSIAEN

- I. Pourquoi?
- II. Le Sourire
- III. La Fiancée perdu

Première Rapsodie (1910)      CLAUDE DEBUSSY

- INTERMISSION -

Sonata in Eb Major opus 120 no. 2 (1894)      JOHANNES BRAHMS

- I. Allegro amabile
- II. Allegro appassionato
- III. Andante con moto; Allegro

Zwei Gesänge opus 91 (1884)      JOHANNES BRAHMS  
für eine Altstimme mit Bratsche und Pianoforte

- 1. Gestillte Sehnsucht
- 2. Geistliches Wiegnelied

1. Pourquoi? (text by Messiaen)

Why the birds of the air,  
Why reflections on the water,  
Why the clouds of the sky,  
Why?

Why the leaves of autumn,  
Why the roses of summer,  
Why the songs of spring,  
Why?

Why do they hold for me no beauty?  
Why?  
Why, ah! Why?

2. Le Sourire (The Smile) (text by Cecile Sauvage)

A certain word, when murmured by you  
is a kiss  
Intimate and prolonged  
Like a kiss to the soul.  
My mouth wants to smile  
And my smile trembles.

3. La Fiancée perdue (The Lost Fiancée) (Text by Messiaen)

It's the gentle fiancé-e,  
It's the angel of bounty,  
It's a sunny afternoon,  
The wind on the flowers.

It's a smile  
Pure as the heart of a child,  
It's a huge lily  
White as a wing,  
Lifted high in a golden cup!

Oh, Jesus, bless her!  
Give her your grace!  
That she may ignore suffering and tears!  
Give her rest,  
Jesus!