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Junior Recital: Christy Balluff, soprano

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JUNIOR RECITAL

Christy Balluff, soprano

assisted by
Adam Claar, trumpet
Joanne Kong, harpsichord and piano

FEBRUARY 21, 2003, 7:30 PM
PERKINSON RECITAL HALL
... PROGRAM ...

Quel Che Dice  3:37  
G. B. Bassani  
(1657-1716)

Where'er you walk  3:41 - 7:49  
George Frideric Handel  
(1685-1759)

Bright Seraphim  8:20 - 13:54  
Adam Claar, trumpet  
Joanne Kong, harpsichord

Auf Flügeln des Gesanges  16:28 - 19:16  
Felix Mendelssohn  
(1809-1847)

Venetianisches Gondellied  22:18  
Neue Liebe  24:07  
Joanne Kong, piano

From Hermit Songs (1952-53)

At Saint Patrick's Purgatory  25:43 - 27:15  
Samuel Barber  
(1910-1981)

The Crucifixion  27:13 - 29:13
Sea-Snatch  29:17 - 29:47
Promiscuity  
The Monk and His Cat  30:35
The Praises of God  31:41 - 32:51  
Joanne Kong, piano

34:03

37:23?
BAROQUE ARIAS

Although G.F. Handel (1685-1759) is of German birth, he later became naturalized as an English citizen, and some consider him to be an English composer. Today, he is known as the master of the English oratorio and is thought to be one of the greatest baroque composers of both vocal and instrumental music.

“Bright Seraphim” appears at the end of Samson, which experienced huge success during Handel’s time and remains among his most popular works. Written within weeks of completing The Messiah, it is based on Milton’s Samson Agonistes and the Old Testament. The oratorio Semele did not enjoy as great a success, but its aria “Where’er you walk” has become a popular piece to be performed independently of the larger work.

A violinist and composer, Giovanni Battista Bassani (1657-1716) spent much of his life as the position of maestro di cappella at various locations including the Accademia della Morte and the Ferrara Cathedral. Although he wrote numerous types of vocal music, his fame was in large part due to his trio sonatas.

MENDELSSOHN LIEDER

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847) is a composer known for his contributions to the concert-overture and vocal lieder. By age seventeen, he had already written the overture to A Midsummer Night’s Dream, proving himself to be a true prodigy. His lieder output consists of approximately 80 songs, ranging from a simple form to those of a more complex, virtuosic character.

The flowing sixteenth notes of the piano accompaniment in both Auf Flügeln des Gesanges and Venetianisches Gondellied move the music forward and give a sense of flight and waves, respectively. The upbeat and mysterious Neue Liebe contrasts with both of these. It and Auf Flügeln are strophically constructed songs, a form Mendelssohn often used in his vocal compositions. Venetianisches Gondellied is set to a German translation of Thomas Moore’s “When through the Piazzetta” and is similar to Mendelssohn’s gondola songs for solo piano.
HERMIT SONGS

The *Hermit Songs*, composed by American Samuel Barber (1910-1981), were first performed by Leontyne Price in 1953 at the Library of Congress. A collection of ten songs, each sets a text written by Irish monks and scholars from the Middle Ages, who remain anonymous to this day. The texts are both poems and observations, sometimes quite bold and straightforward in language.

The characters in each movement are very distinct. While some individuals ponder philosophical questions, others describe their everyday lives, such as their relationship with their cat. It is interesting to think about each of these characters and why they wrote what they did as well as whether they intended for these words to be seen by eyes other than their own.