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Senior Recital: Steve Travers, tenor

Department of Music, University of Richmond

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SENIOR RECITAL

Steve Travers, tenor

assisted by
Joanne Kong, piano



APRIL 24, 2005, 7:30 PM
PERKINSON RECITAL HALL

PROGRAM

Aria del Cavaliere (from I Finti Eredi) Franz Josef Haydn
(1732-1809)

Dichterliebe Robert Schumann

- I. Im wunderschönen Monat Mai 5:16 (1810-1856)
- II. Aus meinen Thränen sprühen 6:48
- III. Die Rose, die Lilie, die Taube 7:46
- IV. Wenn ich in deine Augen seh' 8:31
- XI. Ein Jüngling liebt ein Mädchen 10:12
- XVI. Die alten, bösen Lieder 11:22

Folksong Arrangements – British Isles Benjamin Britten
(1913-1976)

- The Plough Boy 6:40
- The Miller of Dee 18:34
- O Waly, Waly 21:17
- Oliver Cromwell 24:33

INTERMISSION

Spanish Folksongs Manuel de Falla
(1876-1946)

- El Paño Moruno 36:26
- Asturiana 37:50
- Seguidilla Murciana 40:06

Vainement, ma bien-aimée (from Le Roi d'Ys) 41:50 Édouard Lalo
(1823-1892)

Where the Music Comes From 45:16 Lee Hoiby
(b. 1926)

- Jabberwocky 48:10
- Lady of the Harbor 52:45

individual

songs,
not movements - edit and bounce individually

Being Alive (from Company) 54:55 Stephen Sondheim
(b. 1930)

PROGRAM NOTES

Before he was a composer, Franz Josef Haydn was a choir boy at St. Stephen's Cathedral in Vienna. He then worked as a free lance musician playing the violin and keyboard instruments. His compositions span a very wide range including sacred works, theater comedies, instrumental symphonies and numerous operas. He was so prolific that even now many of his works remain unpublished and little-known. By the time of his death in 1809, he had prepared a catalogue of his works, and was widely revered. The style of his music was the foundation for Beethoven's music and many others soon to follow.

Robert Schumann was struck with two horrid tragedies when he was 16 years old, as his father died and his sister, in the same month, drowned herself. When he left for Leipzig for school, he started out studying law, but soon realized his passion for music and became a virtuoso pianist. However, Schumann was again hit with bad luck when the third finger of his right hand became completely paralyzed. Since his virtuoso career was over, he focused solely on composing. He went on to marry Clara Wieck, daughter of his former piano teacher and soon to become a famous musician herself. In 1854, Robert attempted suicide by jumping in the Rhein and was committed to the Eendenich asylum, where he died on July 29th, 1856. The tragedies in Robert's life were clearly an influence on his compositions. Like many of the songs in the Romantic era, Schumann's *Dichterliebe* is very passionate but with a negative feel. Even the more upbeat ones, like the third song, have a cynical outlook on love. The sixteenth and final song sums up the sentiments of the work, as it speaks of "the old angry songs."

Benjamin Britten was born on November 22nd, 1913, which also happens to be St. Cecilia's day, celebrating the patron saint of music. His earliest compositions date all the way back to age 6, and he steadily composed from age 9 until his death at age 66. In 1930 he entered the Royal College of Music in London where he won several prizes for his compositions. In 1933 he met Peter Pears, a tenor,

who premiered most of Britten's songs thereafter. Of his arrangements of the British Isles folk songs, *The Plough Boy* is a clever tune that uses many plays on words. *The Miller of Dee*, which tells the tale of a miller who "cares for nobody...for nobody cares for me," has a constant moving piano line which represents the miller's wheel. *O Waly, Waly* is a familiar tune from the area of Somerset England, and *Oliver Cromwell* is a nursery rhyme from Britten's home region of Suffolk.

Manuel de Falla was born in 1876 in the seaport town of Cadiz in the region of Andalucia, Spain. He began his musical career taking piano lessons, and at age twenty he moved with his family to Madrid where he studied composition under Felipe Pedrell, a very important figure in the revival of Spanish music in the late nineteenth century. In 1904, Falla's opera *La Vida Breve* won the composition competition of the Real Academia de Bellas Artes. In 1919 he settled in Granada until the end of the Spanish Civil War (1939), and there he composed most of his major works. He then moved to Argentina and worked there until his death in 1946. His Spanish Folksongs are from different regions of Spain. *El Paño Moruno* and *Seguidilla Murciana* are from the Murcia region in the southeast, which is an area known for its fast music in triple meter, whereas the sad *Asturiana* is from the Asturias region of the north.

Édouard Lalo (1823-1892) was born in Lille, France and studied at music conservatories both in his hometown and, later in his life, Paris. While in Paris, he worked as a violinist and teacher before gaining fame as a composer. Though Lalo is known more as a violin composer, he did write several orchestral compositions and an opera entitled *Le Roi d'Ys*, from which *Vainement, ma bien-aimée* comes. *Le Roi d'Ys* (The King of Ys) is the story of Rozenn and Margared, two young daughters of the King of Ys, who fall in love with Mylio, a warrior of the kingdom. Mylio only has eyes for Rozenn, and this makes Margared so jealous that she betrays the kingdom to Ys's enemy, Karnac. In *Vainement*, Mylio sings of his love for Rozenn.

American composer Lee Hoiby is known for his very diverse compositions. He was born in Wisconsin in 1926 and studied composition at the Curtis Institute in Philadelphia. His earliest compositions were operas, including a setting of Shakespeare's last play *The Tempest*, which was premiered at the Des Moines Metro Opera in 1986. He has been a recipient of Fulbright and Guggenheim fellowships and the National Institute of Arts and Letters Award. *Where the Music Comes From* is his own setting, *Jabberwocky* is set to the bizarre poem by Lewis Carroll, and *Lady of the Harbor* is a poem by Emma Lazarus, its title referring to the Statue of Liberty.

Stephen Sondheim is considered by many to be the greatest composer on Broadway. In his early days as a composer of musicals, he wrote the lyrics to *West Side Story* and *Gypsy*. His first musical for which he wrote both music and lyrics was *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*. Since then, he has written the music and lyrics for a variety of musicals such as *Into the Woods*, *Assassins*, and *Sweeney Todd*. The song *Being Alive* is from the musical *Company*, a concept musical dealing with relationships and marriage.