

GRADUATION RECITAL

KIM WISEMAN, soprano
Ellen Wells, piano

Misera, dove son!...Ah! non son io che parlo
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
(1756-1791)

Morgen
Heimliche Aufforderung
Zueignung
Richard Stauss
(1864-1949)

La Regata Veneziana
Anzoleta avanti la regata
Anzoleta co passa la regata
Anzoleta dopo la regata
Gioacchino Rossini
(1792-1868)

INTERMISSION

A Song for the Lord Mayor's Table
The Lord Mayor's Table
Glide Gently
Wapping Old Stairs
Holy Thursday
The Contrast
Rhyme
William Walton
(1902-1983)

Ludions
Air du Rat
Spleen
La Grenouille américaine
Air du Poète
Chanson du Chat
Erik Satie
(1866-1925)

Paño Murciano
El Vito
El Canto de los Pájaros
Polo
Joaquin Nin
(1879-1949)

PROGRAMME NOTES

W.A. Mozart

"Misera, dove son!...Ah! non son io che parlo", is a concert aria which was written to insert into the opera, "Ezio". It was common practice during Mozart's time to insert arias into any given opera to show off the talents of a particular singer. This aria is essentially a show piece and the high tessitura and large leaps not only provide this opportunity but can also be representative of Fulvia's grief for her lost husband.

Richard Strauss

One of the most famous of the German post-Romantic composers, Strauss was a well-known conductor as well as composer. Although known mainly for his symphonic poems and operas, he wrote some 150 Lieder.

"Morgen", the long sustained lines seem to whisper the "muted silence of happiness" which has overcome two lovers.

"Heimliche Aufforderung", passion on a different level, this poem is of drinking and a secret love.

"Zueignung", a simple melody repeated three times, each with more intensity, expresses the devotion of two hearts.

Gioacchino Rossini

Rossini's vocal writings are best known in his operas such as "Il barbiere di Siviglia", and "La Cenerentola", however his song cycle, "La Regata Veneziana", has enjoyed enormous success. Consisting of three songs in Venetian dialect, the excitement of the young girl Anzoleta, is described as she watches her sweetheart, Momolo, win the race.

Sir William Walton

The song cycle "A Song for the Lord Mayor's Table" was commissioned by The Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths for the Festival of the City of London, England, in 1962 and given its first performance by Elisabeth Schwarzkopf and Gerald Moore, for whom it was written, on 18 July 1962.

Erik Satie

Although Satie is not especially known for his vocal writing, he has written a fair number of songs including the song cycle, "Ludions". This miniature song cycle was written in 1923 to poetry by Leon-Paul Fargue. Satie has successfully provided a playful and child-like setting for these punning, nonsense poems.

Joaquin Nin

Although not very well known, Nin was a leading composer, pianist and musicologist of his time. He spent much of his life transcribing old Spanish music and folk songs. These four songs taken from his "Vingt Chants Populaires Espagnols", show his good sense of Spanish rhythm and free lyricism.

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TRANSLATIONS

MISERA! DOVE SON... AH! NON SON IO CHE PARLO, K. 369 (WRETCHED ME, WHERE AM I?...AH! IT IS NOT I WHO SPEAK,)

Wretched me, where am I?
Is this the air of the Tiber
that I breathe?
Am I wandering the streets
of Thebes and Argos?
Or from the shores of Greece,
heavy with tragedies,
have the denizen furies
come to these shores,
of the stock of Cadmus
and the Atridae?

There, the cruelty of an unjust monarch
fills me with horror;
here, the guilt of traitorous father
makes my blood freeze;
and my innocent spouse
is always before my eyes.
Oh dreadful visions!
Oh memories! Oh torment!
And do I, poor wretch, still speak,
do I still breathe?
Ah, no!...

Ah! it is not I who speak,
it is the cruel sorrow
rending my heart
which turns me delirious
Ah! it is not I,
not I who speak, etc.
Stern heaven does not heed
the trouble in which I find myself:
I beg it for a thunderbolt,
but it has no thunderbolt for me.