

## Abstract

Title of Dissertation: The Music of John Corigliano:  
A Recorded Selection of Solo and Collaborative Piano  
Works

Eunae Cho, Doctor of Musical Arts, 2010

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Composer John Corigliano (b. 1938) is recognized as one of America's most influential and successful composers. I have had the opportunity to perform his music in front of a variety of audiences and have witnessed enthusiastic responses. I came to realize that his music contains the type of communicative power that contemporary classical music has sometimes been unable to attain. Wanting to examine Corigliano's music more closely, I decided to research, study and record repertoire selections for my dissertation.

By listening to, studying and analyzing Corigliano's music, one can learn how he uses his full array of compositional techniques to reach out to his audience. His unique compositional voice has captivated me, and my hope is that through this recording project others will be drawn to his music and may learn more about his compositional style.

This dissertation recording project comprises two CDs of approximately 120 minutes of music representing Corigliano's works for piano in a variety of settings. The musical selections have been chosen in order to demonstrate his diverse style. The first CD includes: *The Cloisters* (1965, with soprano Linda Mabbs); "Jack and Jill" (1994) and

*Petit Fours* (1959, both with soprano Brooke Evers); the Sonata for violin and piano (1963, with violinist Hyun Park); and *Phantasmagoria* for cello and piano (1993, with cellist Ben Wensel). The second CD presents: *Voyage* for flute and piano (1988, with flutist David Lonkevich); *Fantasia on an Ostinato* (1985) and *Etude Fantasy* (1976, both for piano solo); and *Gazebo Dances* for piano four-hands (1972, with pianist Alejandro Hernandez-Valdez). These recordings were made on December 2, 2008 and March 11, April 6, and November 30, 2009 in Dekelbourn Concert Hall at the University of Maryland. The discs can be found in the Digital Repository at the University of Maryland (DRUM).

# The Music of John Corigliano:

A Recorded Selection of Solo and Collaborative Piano Works

By

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## **CD 1**

### The Cloisters

Professor Linda Mabbs, soprano

Eunae Cho, piano

1. Fort Tryon Park: September
2. Song to the Witch of the Cloisters
3. Christmas at the Cloisters
4. The Unicorn

### 5. Jack and Jill

Brooke Evers, Soprano

Eunae Cho, piano

### Petit Fours

Brooke Evers, Soprano

Eunae Cho, piano

6. Upon Julia's Clothes
7. The Turtle
8. Une allée du Luxembourg
9. The Ancient Mariner

### Sonata for Violin and Piano

Hyun Park, violin

Eunae Cho, piano

10. Allegro
11. Andantino
12. Lento
13. Allegro

### 14. Phantasmagoria

Ben Wensel, cello

Eunae Cho, piano

## **CD 2**

### 1. Voyage

David Lonkevich, flute

Eunae Cho, piano

### 2. Fantasia on an Ostinato

Eunae Cho, piano

### Etude Fantasy

Eunae Cho, piano

### 3. For the Left Hand Alone

### 4. Legato

### 5. Fifths to Thirds

### 6. Ornaments

### 7. Melody

### Gazebo Dances

Eunae Cho, piano

Alejandro Hernandez-Valdez, piano

### 8. Overture

### 9. Waltz

### 10. Adagio

### 11. Tarantella

**Words of *The Cloisters***

By William Hoffman

Fort Tryon Park: September

Alone in these woods  
Among vagaries of leaves,  
Pale arcades, plummeting berries,  
We founder and flee  
Into dreams of permanence.

The sun, diminished by trees  
And blackening ivy,  
The filtered sun, falters,  
And, homeless, we seek the cobbled court.

Song to the Witch of the Cloisters

Old lady in the herb garden,  
This Sunday in the lavender,  
Fat lady in the crawling leaves, White lady in the sun,  
I know by moonlight,  
Sweet lady, what you are.  
Granny, Granny, the lovers wake and  
Oh, they sigh and fold.  
White shades glow like stained glass;  
Their cigarettes burn like incense.

Mistress who rules coriander  
And curbs scents without mercy,  
In whose palace grows the woven pomegranate,  
Help me stop that stirring,  
Without me willing,  
Their kissing, their sleeping,  
Their soaring.

My lady of the Cloisters  
Where Mary is forever weeping,  
The holy baby never wakes,  
And Christ lies unresurrected,  
Before the moon moves  
And is laced gently by leaves,  
Make the lovers be still.

### Christmas at the Cloisters

The new one,  
The third one,  
Savior and baby,  
Is born again.  
Praise Him!

The straw child,  
The wood child,  
The holy doll,  
Lives again.  
Praise Him!

The innocent,  
The penitent,  
Redeemer and martyr,  
Cries again.  
Praise Him!

The uptown Christ,  
The Hudson guest,  
The Inwood babe,  
Smiles again.  
Praise Him!

The new one,  
The third one,  
Savior and baby,  
Sleeps again in Bethlehem,  
Praise Him!

God invests December.  
Hallelujah, Amen.

### The Unicorn

Now, now as buds grow and snow melts in parks,  
And black before, far away,  
The threes verge purple on the Palisades,  
Pale boy,  
Make clear how you stand in relation to tulips  
And, after, languor  
In the green blast of the sun.

Now, now before asphalt buckles  
And this grass-starved city  
Grows weeds in the street,  
Quick boy, come to me cold!  
Let our swell and sweet bend  
Warm these woods...

Lest Spring catch you three nights sad,  
When fog obscures the bridge  
And starts shimmer in the arc lamp haze;  
Lest tubers and tendrils and red oak,  
Yellow streamers,  
And the smell of mud and river  
Catch the unicorn  
Who thinks love, like vision,  
Proceeds from *his* eyes.

### **Words of "Jack and Jill"**

By William Hoffman

May every Jack who has a Bill, and every Jill a Joy,  
May every man who climbed a hill  
To fill his lover's pail with starts,  
And all the women dancing close  
To loving women in the bars;

May all those blokes who broke their crowns  
In low-down down-town dives,  
And all those maids in wedding gowns  
Who'll live their lives with fugitive looks,  
And all those kids with searing eyes  
Who dream of romance at their book;

May all the women who've worn rings and lockets with her name,  
May every man and all his kings  
Who ever tumbled in the night,  
Be humbled by a lunar breeze,  
And make sweet love till break of light;

May all of you in fine array,  
On wings of angels fly away,

Come to our island this wondrous day.  
For it was dark; we couldn't see.

And there was nowhere for us to be.  
But when the sun rose in the sly,  
There was a garden, and you and I.  
Our lives have changed beyond our dreams,  
Yet not enough, sometimes it seems.  
But through joy and sorrow, hope and fears,  
We've stayed together throughout the years.

### **Words of *Petit Fours***

#### Upon Julia's Clothes

By Robert Herrick

Whenas in silks my Julia goes,  
Then, then, methinks, how sweetly flows  
That liquefaction of her clothes.

Next, when I cast mine eyes and see  
That brave vibration each way free;  
O how that glittering taketh me!

#### The Turtle

By Ogden Nash

The turtle lives 'twixt plated decks  
Which practically conceal its sex.  
I think it clever of the turtle  
In such a fix to be so fertile.

#### *Une allée du Luxembourg*

By Aloysius Bertrand

*Elle a passé la jeune fille vive et preste comme un oiseau  
à la main une fleur qui brille  
à la bouche un refrain nouveau.*

#### An Alley in Luxemburg

English Translation by Annick Kanter-Saint Hubert

She passed by the young woman lively and nimble like a bird  
in her hand a flower that glimmers  
on her lips a new refrain.

The Ancient Mariner (verse 1)

By Samuel Taylor Coleridge

It is an ancient Mariner,  
And he stoppeth one of three.  
“By thy long grey beard and glittering eye,  
Now wherefore stopp’st thou me?”  
It is an ancient Mariner,  
And he stoppeth one of three

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