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

Dissertation directed by: Professor Rita Sloan
School of Music

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 Dekelboum 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
Eunae Cho

Dissertation submitted to the Faculty of the Graduate School of the University of Maryland, College Park in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Musical Arts 2010

Advisory Committee:
Professor Rita Sloan, Chair
Professor Bradford Gowen
Professor Linda Mabbs
Professor Edward Maclary
Professor Sung Lee
TABLE OF CONTENTS

CD Tracks.....................................................................................................................1

Words of The Cloisters .................................................................................................3

Words of “Jack and Jill” ...............................................................................................5

Words of Petit Fours ....................................................................................................6

Bibliography ................................................................................................................8
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 fleure qui brille
à la bouche un refrain nouveau.

An Alley in Luxembourg
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 heard and glittering eye,
Now wherefore stopp'st thou me?"
It is an ancient Mariner,
And he stoppeth one of three
Bibliography


Johnson, Lawrence A. *John Corigliano- Revitalizing Such Traditional Forms as the Symphony and the String Quartet*. South Florida Sun-Sentinel, March 1, 2005.


Oteri, Frank J. *John Corigliano at Home.* NewMusicBox, February 2005.


Ramey, Philip *A Talk with John Corigliano (liner notes for Concerto for Oboe and Orchestra and Poem in October),* RCA Records ARL 1-2534.

Ramey, Philip *A Talk with John Corigliano (liner notes for Concerto for Clarinet and Orchestra),* New World Records 80839.


Discography


Andrew Russo, Corey Cerovsek, and Steven Heyman. Violin Sonata; Etude Fantasy; Fantasia on an Ostinato; Chiascuro. London, Black Box Inc., 2006.