ABSTRACT

Title of dissertation: IN SEARCH OF THE DIVINE: SPIRITUALITY AND PRAYER IN DIVERSE VIOLIN REPERTOIRE FROM BIBER TO IVES

Eileen Doty, Doctor of Musical Arts, 2009

Dissertation co-directed by: Dr. Elisabeth Adkins, Dr. Gerald Fischbach
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Composers from all eras and of all ethnicities explore spirituality and prayer by using one or a combination of the following ideas: having a spiritual concept in mind when composing certain pieces, quoting hymns, being influenced by their own personal beliefs, or portraying spiritual figures and ideas in their works. Some musical works are inspired by spirituality; others, as in the case of Bloch's Nigun, even serve as prayers themselves. These recitals gave me the opportunity to approach a wide variety of musical styles while discovering my own mode for expression.

The unaccompanied violin works throughout this project trace a distinct lineage from the baroque to the twentieth century. Biber's appendix to the Rosary Sonatas, the Passacaglia for solo violin, is a crucial predecessor to Bach's monumental Chaconne. Eugène Ysaÿe was inspired to write the Six Sonatas, Op. 27 after he attended a performance of Bach's Sonatas and Partitas given by Josef Szigeti. Ysaye's second solo sonata blatantly quotes Bach's Partita No. 3 in E major throughout the first movement. Every movement also contains quotations from and variations on the plainchant Dies Irae. Although each of the solo violin works presented in this project may be viewed as virtuosic concert pieces, each piece allows the performer to transcend the technical
hurdles—and perhaps even utilize them—to serve a higher, artistic and spiritual purpose while alone on the concert stage.

Each of the sonata works in this project requires a close, equal collaboration between violinist and pianist, rather than displaying the violinist as soloist.
IN SEARCH OF THE DIVINE: SPIRITUALITY AND PRAYER IN DIVERSE VIOLIN REPERTOIRE FROM BIBER TO IVES

by

Eileen Doty

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 2009

Advisory Committee:

Professor Gerald Fischbach, Co-Chair
Professor Elisabeth Adkins, Co-Chair
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RE: Audiovisual Recordings of Musical Performances

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Sincerely,

Eileen Doty
University of Maryland, College Park
College of Arts & Humanities
Doctor of Musical Arts, 2009
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CD I:  
First Dissertation Recital  
November 18, 2007 at 8:00 pm, Gildenhorn Recital Hall  
University of Maryland, College Park  
Recorded and mastered by Opusrite™ Audio Productions

Eileen Doty, violin  
Edward Newman, piano

H. I. Franz von Biber (1644–1704)  
[1] Passacaglia for solo violin in g minor

Ernest Bloch (1880–1959)  
  Vidui  
  Nigun  
  Simchas Torah

Georges Enesco (1881–1955)  
  Moderato malinconio  
  Andante sostenuto e misterioso  
  Allegro con brio, ma non troppo mosso
CD II:
Second Dissertation Recital
March 5, 2008 at 5:30 pm, Gildenhorn Recital Hall
University of Maryland, College Park
Recorded and mastered by Opusrite™ Audio Productions

Eileen Doty, violin
Edward Newman, piano

Charles Ives (1874–1954)
Sonata No. 2
   Autumn
   In the Barn
   The Revival

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)
Partita No. 2 in d minor, BWV 1004
   Chaconne

Ernest Bloch (1880–1959)
Sonata No. 2 Poème Mystique
CD III: Third Dissertation Recital
December 1, 2008 at 8pm, Gildenhorn Recital Hall
University of Maryland, College Park
Recorded and mastered by Opusrite™ Audio Productions

Eileen Doty, violin
Edward Newman, piano

Karol Szymanowski (1882–1937)

La Fontaine d'Arethuse
Narcissus
Dryades et Pan

Eugène Ysaÿe (1858–1931)

[4]-[7] Sonata No. 2, Op. 27
Obsession: Prelude
Malinconia: Poco lento
Danse des Ombres: Sarabande
Les Furies: Allegro furioso

Ildebrando Pizzetti (1880–1968)

[5]-[8] Sonata in A
Tempestuoso
Preghiera per gl'innocenti
Vivo e fresco
Thesis and Dissertation Electronic Publication Form

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Gerald Fischbach
Advisor

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