

## 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  
School of Music

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. Ysaÿe'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  
Professor Peter Beicken  
Professor James Fry  
Professor David Salness**

January 14, 2009

RE: Audiovisual Recordings of Musical Performances

To Whom it May Concern:

Due to copyright restrictions, performance theses and dissertations are ineligible for digital submission. Enclosed are three compact discs encompassing my dissertation recital recordings.

Sincerely,

Eileen Doty  
University of Maryland, College Park  
College of Arts & Humanities  
Doctor of Musical Arts, 2009

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University of Maryland, College Park  
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Edward Newman, piano
- [1] H.I. Franz von Biber (1644–1704)  
Passacaglia for solo violin in g minor
- [2]-[4 ] Ernest Bloch (1880–1959)  
Baal Shem: *Three Pictures from Chassidic Life*  
Vidui  
Nigun  
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CD II:

Second Dissertation Recital  
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University of Maryland, College Park  
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University of Maryland, College Park  
Recorded and mastered by Opusrite™ Audio Productions

Eileen Doty, violin  
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**Student Information**

Eileen Doty 108466166  
First Name Last Name UID

Music - Violin - DMA Spring 2009  
Degree Program Graduation Date

6026 Westchester Park Dr #T-1  
Street Address

College Park MD 20740  
City State Zip

202-345-0948 eileendoty@gmail.com  
Daytime Phone Number Email Address

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In Search of the Divine: Spirituality and Prayer in Diverse Violin Repertoire  
Title of Thesis / Dissertation from Biber to Ives

Gerald Fischbach Gerald Fischbach  
Advisor Advisor Signature