

SELECTED TWENTIETH-CENTURY BRITISH & AMERICAN ENGLISH
SONG REPERTOIRE WRITTEN FOR SOPRANO

by

Ya-Hui Hsu

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
2004

Advisory Committee:

Professor Linda Mabbs, Chair/Advisor
Professor Dominic Cossa
Professor Timothy J. Ng
Professor Rita Sloan
Professor Delores Ziegler

ABSTRACT

Title of Dissertation: SELECTED TWENTIETH-CENTURY BRITISH &
 AMERICAN ENGLISH SONG REPERTOIRE
 WRITTEN FOR SOPRANO

Ya-Hui Hsu, Doctor of Musical Arts, 2004

Dissertation directed by: Professor Linda Mabbs
 School of Music

English language song (both British and American) is influenced by a variety of cultures, races, and musical forms and has produced a broad range of song repertoire. Like songs in all countries and throughout history, these songs can be classified into three categories: imitative songs, experimental songs, and songs of individuality. Music experimentation, necessary and welcome as it is, can hardly command broad international attention. Thus, the songs of this dissertation performance project are chosen from the first and third categories: imitative songs and individual songs in the composer's own unique style. This project concentrates its exploration on twentieth-century solo songs written in English. Although twentieth-century British & American composers also produced solos and chamber music in other languages, this

dissertation focuses upon their English repertoire. This performance project consists of three programs: one British repertoire and two American. The first program titled *An Evening of British Song* examines twentieth-century British song written by Roger Quilter, Peter Warlock, William Walton, Benjamin Britten, Thomas F. Dunhill, Ivor Gurney, and Frank Bridge. It was presented on December 12, 2001, in Homer Ulrich Recital Hall with the collaborative pianist Meriel Owen. The second program titled *An Evening of American Song I* comprises music written by Dominick Argento, Samuel Barber, Ned Rorem, Leonard Bernstein, and Lee Hoiby. It was presented on October 23, 2002, in Joseph & Alma Gildenhorn Recital Hall with the collaborative pianist R. Timothy McReynolds. The third program titled *An Evening of American Song II* written by John Duke, John Corigliano, Charles Ives, Richard Hundley, Lori Laitman, Frederick Loewe, George Gershwin, and Jerome Kern was presented on December 18, 2003, again in Joseph & Alma Gildenhorn Recital Hall with the collaborative pianist R. Timothy McReynolds and the flutist Jessica Dunnavant. Each of these three dissertation recitals occurred at the University of Maryland in College Park and was recorded. These CD recordings are held by the Michelle Smith Performing Arts Library at the University of Maryland.

Voice Dissertation Recital 1
An Evening of British Song

Program

O Mistress mine
Come away death
Now sleeps the crimson petal
Love's philosophy

Roger Quilter
(1877-1953)

Take, o take those lips away
Rest sweet nymphs
Sleep
Pretty Ring Time

Peter Warlock
(1894-1930)

Three Songs
Daphny
Through gilded trellises
Old Sir Faulk

William Walton
(1902-1983)

Intermission

From *On This Island*
Let the florid music praise!
Now the leaves are falling fast
Seascape
Nocturne

Benjamin Britten
(1913-1976)

The clothes of Heaven
Sleep
Love went A-Riding

Thomas F. Dunhill
(1877-1946)
Ivor Gurney
(1890-1937)
Frank Bridge
(1879-1941)

Voice Dissertation Recital 2
An Evening of American Song I

Program

Songs about Spring

Dominick Argento
(1927-)

- I. who knows if the moon's a balloon
- II. Spring is like a perhaps hand
- III. in Just-spring
- IV. in Spring comes
- V. when faces called flowers float out of the ground

Hermit Songs Op. 29

Samuel Barber
(1910-1981)

- I. At Saint Patrick's Purgatory
- II. Church Bell at Night
- III. Saint Ita's Vision
- IV. The Heavenly Banquet
- V. The Crucifixion
- VI. Sea-Snatch
- VII. Promiscuity
- VIII. The Monk and His Cat
- IX. The Praises of God
- X. The Desire for Hermitage

Intermission

From The Nantucket Songs

Ned Rorem
(1923-)

2. The Dance
9. Ferry me across the water
10. The Dancer

I Hate Music! A Cycle of Five Kid Songs for Soprano

Leonard Bernstein
(1918-1990)

- I. My mother says
- II. Jupiter has seven moons
- III. I hate music
- IV. A big Indian
- V. I just found out today

She Tells Her Love
The Serpent

Lee Hoiby
(1926-)

Voice Dissertation Recital 3
An Evening of American Song II

Program

Loveliest of Trees
Heart! We Will Forget Him!
Nobody Knows This Little Rose
Bee! I'm Expecting You!

John Duke
(1899-1984)

Three Irish Folksong Settings
I. The Salley Gardens
II. The Foggy Dew
III. She Moved Through the Fair

John Corigliano
(b. 1938)

Ann Street
Two Little Flowers
The Side Show
Serenity
He Is There

Charles Ives
(1874-1954)

Intermission

Moonlight's Watermelon
My Master Hath A Garden
Sweet Suffolk Owl
Postcard from Spain

Richard Hundley
(b. 1931)

from *Days and Nights*
They Might Not Need Me
The Night Has A Thousand Eyes
Song
Wild Nights

Lori Laitman
(b. 1955)

Waitin' For My Dearie
from *Brigadoon*
By Strauss
from *The Show Is On*
You Are Love
from *Show Boat*
I Could Have Danced All Night
from *My Fair Lady*

Frederick Loewe
(1901-1988)
George Gershwin
(1898-1937)
Jerome Kern
(1885-1945)
Frederick Loewe