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
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 Dunnivant. 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

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

Three Songs
Daphny
Through gilded trellises
Old Sir Faulk

Intermission

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

The clothes of Heaven

From The Valley of the Dolls
Let the flowers swaying
To the rapture of the breeze

From Summer My Love
Let us be in love
Sleep
Love went A-Riding

Roger Quilter
(1877-1953)

Peter Warlock
(1894-1930)

William Walton
(1902-1983)

Benjamin Britten
(1913-1976)

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

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

Dominick Argento
(1927-)

Samuel Barber
(1910-1981)

Ned Rorem
(1923-)

Leonard Bernstein
(1918-1990)

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!

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

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

Intermission

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

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

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

John Duke
(1899-1984)

John Corigliano
(b. 1938)

Charles Ives
(1874-1954)

Richard Hundley
(b. 1931)

Lori Laitman
(b. 1955)

Frederick Loewe
(1901-1988)

George Gershwin
(1898-1937)

Jerome Kern
(1885-1945)