

## ABSTRACT

Title of Dissertation / Thesis:      REQUIRED VIOLA REPERTOIRE FOR THE  
PRIMROSE COMPETITION AND THE TERTIS  
COMPETITION

Yun-Jin Oh, Doctor of Musical Arts, 2005

Dissertation Directed By:      Professor Gerald Fischbach and Mr. Daniel Foster  
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William Primrose (1903–1982) and Lionel Tertis (1876–1975) made the viola a grand instrument for public performances of solo and chamber music throughout their long and active lives characterized by a common passion for the viola. I, too, have been deeply inspired by their passion for the viola. I chose, therefore, for my doctoral performance project to feature works for viola from the required repertoire of the William Primrose and Lionel Tertis competitions of 2001 and 2003, respectively.

For purposes of the performances, I divided selections from the combined repertoire for the William Primrose and Lionel Tertis competitions into three recitals. The first recital included Sonata, Opus 120, No.2 in E-flat Major (1894) by Johannes Brahms; Sonata, Opus 147 (1975) by Dmitri Shostakovich; and Sonata (1919) by Rebecca Clarke.

These pieces represent standard components of the general repertoire for both the Primrose and Tertis competitions. The second recital was comprised of two works dedicated by their composers to Primrose: *Lachrymae*, Opus 48 (1950) by Benjamin Britten; and *Concerto* (1945) by Béla Bartók. The third recital included three pieces dedicated by their composers to Tertis: *Sonata* (1922) by Arnold Bax; *Sonata in C Minor* (1905) by York Bowen; and *Sonata* (1952) by Arthur Bliss.

The goal of my preparation for these recitals was to emphasize a variety of techniques and, also, the unique timbre of the viola. For example, the works I selected emphasized high-position technique, which was not much used before the nineteenth century, and featured the lowest string (the C-string), which provides a beautifully somber and austere sonority characteristic of the viola. For these reasons, the selected works provided not only attractive and interesting pieces to study and perform but were also of educational merit.

REQUIRED VIOLA REPERTOIRE FOR THE PRIMROSE COMPETITION AND  
THE TERTIS COMPETITION

By

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Sonata in E-flat major op.120 no.2    Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

Sonata Op. 147                      Dmitri Shostakovitch (1906-1975)

Sonata for viola and Piano              Rebecca Clarke (1886-1979)

### Chapter 2

#### CD# 2

Lachrymae for Viola and Piano, op 48   Benjamin Britten (1913-1976)

Concerto for Viola and Orchestra, op posth   Bela Bartok (1881-1945)

### Chapter 3

#### CD# 3

Sonata for viola and Piano              Arnold Bax (1883-1953)

Sonata No.1 in C Minor, op 18              York Bowen (1884-1961)

Sonata for viola and Piano              Arthur Bliss (1891-1975)