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Junior Recital: Dennis Tobenski, Tenor; March 22, 2003

Dennis Tobenski Tenor
Illinois State University

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Illinois State University

School of Music

Junior Recital

Dennis Tobenski, *Tenor*

Sharon Baker, *Piano*

This recital is in partial fulfillment of the graduation requirements
for the degree Bachelor of Music Performance.

Kemp Recital Hall

Saturday Evening

March 22, 2003

6:15 p.m.

This is the One-hundred and eighth program of the 2002-2003 Season

About the Composer . . .

Ned Rorem was born on October 23, 1923 to Rufus Rorem, the medical economist whose work led to the creation of Blue Cross. From 1949 until 1958, Rorem lived in Paris, where he wrote nearly half of the pieces programmed this evening. Another third were composed within 5 years of his return to the States and his settlement in New York. Rorem won the Pulitzer Prize for his orchestral suite *Air Music*, and is considered to be America's leading composer of art song because of his sensitivity to the texts which he works with. Rorem is also well known for his prosaic works – he has published four diaries and numerous lectures, essays, and criticism for a total of fourteen books. Ned Rorem currently resides in New York City and Nantucket.

About the Poets . . .

Robert Hillyer was born in 1895. His anthology, published in 1933 and titled *Collected Verse*, earned Hillyer the 1934 Pulitzer Prize in Poetry. After graduating from Harvard in 1917, Hillyer served in the French Ambulance and later as a Lieutenant of Ordinance in the A.E.F., from which experience the poet drew his inspiration for the poem "Early in the Morning." He later returned to his alma mater to teach. Hillyer died in 1961.

Walt Whitman, born in 1819, was a strongly democratic and egalitarian poet who believed in the ideals of America. His poetry derives its power from its spontaneity of emotion and freedom of expression, and found inspiration in the "thought-rhythm" of Old Testament poetry and the sacred texts of India as well as in the rhythms and cadences of opera (of which he was a regular devotee). Whitman's poetry often expresses his bold feelings on love, sexuality, and humanity. Rorem's song cycle *War Scenes* was freely excised from Whitman's prosaic writings on the American Civil War titled *Specimen Days*.

Dame Edith Sitwell, born in 1887, was the first child of Sir George Sitwell. The eccentric poetess' works were often explorations of sound and image and found some of their inspiration in the music of Stravinsky. After obtaining degrees at Cambridge and Oxford, Sitwell died in 1964.

Demetrios Capetanakis was born in Smyrna on January 22, 1912. In 1939, after publishing several philosophic studies, Capetanakis moved to England where he fully adopted the English language and attained a complete mastery of it. His poetry shows an amazing concentration of meaning and a surprising and sometimes terrifying depth. Capetanakis died of an incurable disease in 1944.

Alfred Lord Tennyson, third of eleven children, was born in 1809 to Rev. George and Elizabeth Tennyson. After the death of Wordsworth, Tennyson was named British Poet Laureate, partly as a result of Prince Albert's reading of *In Memoriam*. The texts for "Ask Me No More" and "Now Sleeps the Crimson Petal" were excised from the sixth and seventh Cantos (respectively) of Tennyson's *The Princess: A Medley*, and "The Sleeping Palace" was excised from *A Day-Dream*, Tennyson's poetic meditation on the Sleeping Beauty legend.

Theodore Roethke was born in Saginaw, Michigan in 1908. During his youth, Roethke was profoundly influenced by his observations of the natural world as he observed it in his father's greenhouse. Much of his poetry deals with the mystery, beauty, fierceness, and sensuality to be found in every aspect of nature.

Program

- Early in the Morning (1958) (Hillyer)
- O You Whom I Often and Silently Come (1961) (Whitman)
- You, the Young Rainbow (1948) (Sitwell)
- To a Common Prostitute (1982) (Whitman)
- The Land of Fear (1954) (Capetanakis)
- Ask Me No More (1963) (Tennyson)
- Memory (1959) (Roethke)
- Root Cellar (1959) (Roethke)
- Orchids (1959) (Roethke)
- Now Sleeps the Crimson Petal (1963) (Tennyson)
- The Sleeping Palace (1949) (Tennyson)

Intermission

- Look Down, Fair Moon (1957) (Whitman)
- Abel (1954) (Capetanakis)
- from *War Scenes*
A Night Battle (1971) (Whitman)
The Real War Will Never Get in the Books (1971) (Whitman)
- Youth, Day, Old Age, and Night (1954) (Whitman)

Ned Rorem
(born 1923)

Upcoming Events

March

22	CPA	2:00 p.m.	Guest Artist, Stephen Lange, <i>trombone</i>
22	KRH	5:00 p.m.	Senior Recital, Laura Doherty, <i>soprano</i>
22	KRH	6:15 p.m.	Junior Recital, Dennis Tobenski, <i>tenor</i>
22	CPA	8:00 p.m.	Guest Artist, Fujimoto/Both, <i>piano duet</i>
23	CPA	3:00 p.m.	Madrigal Singers & Concert Choir
23	KRH	6:30 p.m.	Graduate Recital, William Cuthbert, <i>percussion</i>
25	CPA	8:00 p.m.	Faculty String Quartet
26	KRH	6:00 p.m.	Junior Recital, Ivory Sevastion, <i>clarinet</i>
26	CPA	8:00 p.m.	Bastien and Bastienne & other acts operas
27	KRH	7:00 p.m.	Graduate Recital, Trevor Headrick, <i>trombone</i>
27	CPA	8:00 p.m.	Bastien and Bastienne & other acts operas
28	KRH	6:00 p.m.	Graduate Recital, Matt Lorz, <i>baritone</i>
28	CPA	8:00 p.m.	Encore Jazz Choir
29	KRH	Noon	Senior Recital, Ellen Skolar, <i>trombone</i>
29	KRH	1:30 p.m.	Senior Recital, Michelle Kopay, <i>percussion</i>
29	KRH	2:45 p.m.	Senior Recital, Corey Harris, <i>soprano</i>
29	KRH	4:30 p.m.	Senior Recital, Scott Simon, <i>percussion</i>
29	KRH	6:00 p.m.	Graduate Recital, Elivi Varga, <i>flute</i>
29	KRH	7:30 p.m.	Graduate Recital, Ying Wang, <i>cello</i>
29	KRH	9:00 p.m.	Senior Recital, Vanessa Passini, <i>English horn & oboe</i>
30	KRH	12:15 p.m.	Graduate Recital, Heather Broyles, <i>English horn & oboe</i>
30	KRH	1:30 p.m.	Graduate Recital, Kristi Benedick, <i>flute</i>
30	KRH	3:00 p.m.	Graduate Recital, Erin Click, <i>bassoon</i>
30	KRH	4:30 p.m.	Junior Recital, Kelly Twedt, <i>soprano</i>
30	KRH	5:30 p.m.	Senior Recital, Amanda DeSutter, <i>viola</i>
30	KRH	7:00 p.m.	ISU Percussion Ensemble