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Senior Recital:Cheryl McCracken, Mezzo Soprano

Cheryl McCracken Mezzo-Soprano
Illinois State University

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SENIOR RECITAL

CHERYL McCracken, Mezzo soprano

BETSY DRILLON, Pianist

Centennial Lecture Hall, Saturday, May 17, 1969, 7:30 p.m.

I

Cara Sposa George F. Handel
1685-1759

"Dearest Consort" is from the opera, RINALDO, 1711. The opera set a new standard for Italian opera in England and established Handel's reputation there.

Sommi Dei George F. Handel

This aria opens the opera RADAMISTO, 1720. "All-powerful gods, who from heaven behold my anguish, restore my wounded heart."

II

Widmung Robert Schumann
1810-1856

Composed in 1840, the year of Schumann's long awaited marriage to the concert pianist, Clara Wieck, "Widmung" is a dedication of an eternal love. "Thou art my life, my soul, my heart, my joy and sadness, my better self."

Mein Herz ist schwer Robert Schumann

"My soul is dark" is from the MYRTENLIEDER, a collection of songs which Schumann wrote as a "bridal gift" for his beloved Clara. "My soul is dark. Oh quickly string the harp I yet can brook to hear, and let thy gentle fingers fling its melting murmurs o'er my ear. If in this heart a hope be dear, that sound shall charm it forth again. If in these eyes there lurk a tear, 'twill flow, and cease to burn my brain. But bid the strain be wild and deep, nor let the notes of joy be first! I tell thee minstrel I must weep or else this heavy heart will burst. For it hath been by sorrow nursed and ached in sleepless sorrow long: And now 'tis doomed to know the worst and break at once or yield to song,"

Lord Byron

(over)

Die Mainacht Johannes Brahms
1833-1897

"A Night in May" is one of Brahms' best-known and best-loved songs. A melancholy lover wanders in the silvery moonlight turning away to seek the gloom of the shadows while his desolate tears o'er-flow.

III

O mio Fernando Gaetano Donizetti
1797-1848

This recitative and aria is from the opera LA FAVORITA, composed in 1840 at the height of Donizetti's career. Leonora, inspired by her love for Fernando, yet shaken by doubt and fears because he knows nothing of her past as King Alfonso's mistress, expresses these conflicting feelings in her principal aria.

--Intermission--

IV

A Charm of Lullabies, Op. 41 Benjamin Britten
1913-

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| 1. A Cradle Song (William Blake) | 4. A Charm (Thomas Randolph) |
| 2. The Highland Balou (Robert Burns) | 5. The Nurse's Song (John Philip) |

V

Canciones Clasicas, Volume III Fernando J. Obradors
1897-1945

Obradors has transcribed these lovely fifteenth and nineteenth century Spanish folk songs from guitar to piano.

1. Tres Morillas

Three little moors were on their way to Jaen to do a little courting. Axa, Fatima, and Marien, so "tall" and hearty, were going to pick up olives, but alas, the fruit was so ripe it had wasted. The growing boys picked oranges instead.

2. Oh Que Buen Amor

Oh how wonderful to be a "yoglar" (traveling jugglar, minstrel) and to play upon my tamborine, clarinet, guitar, violin, "zanfona," viola, drum, and trumpet.

5. Polo Del Contrabandista

I am a "contra bandista," venerated throughout the country. Everyone fears me. My poor little horse is worn out, but I must move on. Swiftly, like the wind, my horse and I maneuver through the sharp-shooting skirmishes with night-patrols. If I am found, I'll draw out to the east, avoiding danger.

6. El Vito

Older, more experienced coins may be of more value than the shiny new ones. As we dance "El Vito" (an Andalusian dance), do not make me laugh or blush.
