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Ensemble Concerts: Madrigal Singers, May 4, 1976

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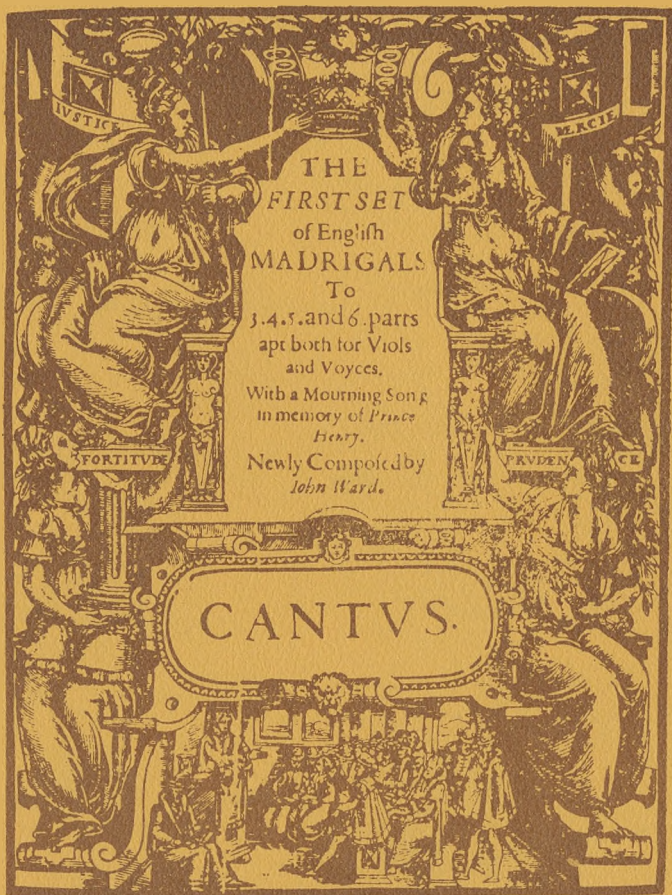
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Illinois State
University
**Madrigal
Singers**

Tuesday, May 4, 1976
Hayden Auditorium
8:15 p.m.



Repertoire

I

Je pleure	Claude LeJeune
Ein hennlein weiss	Antonio Scandello
Deh, coprite il bel seno	Carlo Gesualdo
Fair Phyllis	John Farmer
Six Madrigals	Jean Berger
1. My true-love hath my heart	
2. I find no peace	
3. Art thou that she	
4. To Mistress Isabel	
5. Lost is my quiet	
6. Harvester's Song	

II

Six Chansons	Paul Hindemith
La Biche (The Doe)	
Un Cygne (A Swan)	
Puisque tout passe (Since all is passing)	
Printemps (Springtime)	
En Hiver (In Winter)	
Verger (Orchard)	

III

Songs of Innocence	Earl George
Introduction	
The Shepherd	
Infant Joy	
The Lamb	
Laughing Song	

IV

The Wit and Wisdom of Benjamin Franklin	Robert Penn
On Being a Proper Host	
Sage Advice	
A Ship and a Woman	
The Fool's Promise	
On Poverty and Wealth	
When Man and Women Die	
On Having a Fair Wife	
Marriage and Life	
On Keeping a Secret	
The New Year	

V

My Lovely Celia	George Monro
Wailie, Wailie	Arr. Robert DeCormier
Wade in de Water	Arr. Jester Hairston
Go 'way from my Window	John Jacob Niles
Goin' to Boston	Arr. Alice Parker

Program Notes

I

The first four compositions were selected from the 16th century Madrigal schools. Each piece displays its own unique style and also the levels of development for the late 16th century to the middle 17th century.

The six madrigals by Jean Berger were published in 1961. An American composer, Berger's compositions demonstrate contemporary examples of the 16th-century form.

II

Based upon a series of texts by the French poet Rainer Maria Rilke, the chansons by Paul Hindemith were composed and published in 1939. Renewed attention to the individual vocal line is apparent in the linearly conceived pieces.

III

Seldom has art and poetry been so skillfully combined and expressed with such ease and perfection as in William Blake's *Songs of Innocence*. The beauty of Blake's poetry lies in its sweet lyricism and simplicity, each poem painting an image in words and colors. Blake's imaginative visions, combined with music by the contemporary American composer, Earl George, creates an ideal synthesis of poetry and music.

IV

The texts of this set of miniatures are selected from different numbers of Ben Franklin's Poor Richard's Almanac and hopefully represent the charm of both his wit and his wisdom in terms of their startling immediacy.

V

The Negro Spiritual along with American folk songs and the folk-like quality of the compositions by Monro and Niles, represent a vast tradition which is uniquely American. Musically simple yet deeply sincere, these songs reflect some of the emotional facets of an emerging nation.