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Ensemble Concerts: University Concert Choir, May 10, 1971

Donald Armstrong Conductor

Mark Johnson Assistant

Dellyne Strawbridge Accompanist

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Recommended Citation

Armstrong, Donald Conductor; Johnson, Mark Assistant; and Strawbridge, Dellyne Accompanist, "Ensemble Concerts: University Concert Choir, May 10, 1971" (1971). *School of Music Programs*. 5050. <https://ir.library.illinoisstate.edu/somp/5050>

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ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

present

UNIVERSITY CONCERT CHOIR

Donald Armstrong, Conductor
Mark Johnson, Assistant
Dellyne Strawbridge, Accompanist

CONCERT OF SECULAR
CHORAL MUSIC

Jean Berger, Guest Composer

May 10, 1971

8:15 p.m.

Capen Auditorium

PROGRAM

THREE COMPOSITIONS BY JEAN BERGER

THREE TUDOR AYRES (1965)

1. That Was My Woe (Robert Fairfax)
2. Pleasure It Is (William Cornish)
3. In Youth, In Age (Robert Cooper)

THREE CHORAL PIECES ON SEVENTEENTH CENTURY POEMS

1. The Burden (Ralph Knevet)
2. The Mistake (Ralph Knevet)
3. My Wishes (Anon. Poet—1652)

GOOD, BETTER, BEST (Collection of Old Sayings)

Dedicated to the ISU Concert Choir
Premier Performance

SEVEN SONGS FOR MIXED CHOIR, Opus 62 (1874)

Johannes Brahms
(1833-1897)

1. Rosmarin
2. Von alten Liebesliedern
3. Waldesnacht
4. Dein Herzlein mild
5. All meine Herzgedanken
6. Es geht ein Wehen
7. Vergangen ist mir Gluck und Heil

(Knaben Wunderhorn)

(Jungbrunnen, Paul Heyse)

(Altdeutsch)

SEVEN JAPANESE TANKA (1969)

Gordon Johnson

Soloists—Peggy L'Heureux, Douglas Trumble

1. Mist
2. In the Spring
3. Pearls
4. White Egret
5. Recalled
6. A Doe
7. Fondly

Poems from **One Hundred Poems From the Japanese**,
Kenneth Rexroth, 1956.

THE CAROL OF THE BIRD (1967)

Allen R. Trubitt
(b. 1931)

Soloist—Larry Hansen

Text from **When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloomed**,
Walt Whitman.

THE MASK OF CAIN—Poems of the American Civil War (1953)

Robert Evett

1. The Portent
2. Youth Is the Time When Hearts Are Large (On the Slain Collegians)
3. Shiloh (A Requiem—April 1862)

TRANSLATIONS

SEVEN SONGS FOR MIXED CHOIR

Johannes Brahms

1. Rosemary

A young girl wanted to arise early, wanted to go into her Father's garden.
She wanted to pick a little red rose, to make a lovely garland.
It would be her bridal garland; "for the fine young man, my young man.
You little rose, I'll pick you, and will make a lovely garland."
(But) she went in the green place here and there; instead of roses, she found a Rosemary:
"So you are gone, my true one! No little rose is found, no lovely garland."
She went into the garden here and there; instead of roses she picked a Rosemary:
"Take this away with you, my true one! Lay it beside you, under the linden,
as a lovely funeral garland."

2. From An Old Love Song

I went out riding, to my dearest, by her door;
She looked towards me from afar and spoke with greatest joy:
"See, there, my heart's jewel, how he trots here to me!"
Trot, little horse, trot on and on.

I loosed the bridle and galloped up to her:
I greeted her most friendly and spoke with words so sweet:
"My darling, my finest jewel, why are you at your door?"
Trot, little horse, trot on and on.

I sprang from my horse, tied him to the door, and lovingly embraced her;
The time did not go slowly;
Into the garden we went, with loving desire.
Trot, little horse, trot softly on.

3. Forest Night

Forest night, you wondrous cool, which I a thousand times greet,
After the loud world's tumult, O, how your rustling is sweet!
Dreamingly, my tired limbs I shelter softly in the moss:
And I feel as though I were again free from all my frenzied torment.

In these hidden, narrow places, it goes well for you, wild heart;
And a peacefulness floats with quiet wingbeats downwards.
Sing, tender bird songs, sing me gently to sleep.
You torments, dissolve again; wild heart, now goodnight!

4. Your Heart So Gentle

Your heart so gentle, you lovely image, it has not yet awakened,
And in it hides a dreaming fire which soon to daylight will come.

The night has brought dew to the buds through the forest,
And in the morning there, they bloom abundantly, and waft their fragrance
through the hills.

Love has gently, overnight, poured dew into your heart.
And then in the morning, one can see, the bud is unlocked!

5. All My Heart's Thoughts

All my heart's thoughts are evermore with you;
That is the quiet sickness that gnaws at me inside.
Because you once embraced me, gone from me are peace and rest.
All my heart's thoughts are evermore with you.

May God will to join those who are for each other!
From grieving and from weeping, otherwise, their eyes will grow blind.
True love is in heaven's care; all, all will yet be good.
May God will to join those who are for each other!

6. A Breeze Goes Through the Wood

A breeze goes through the wood, the wind's bride I hear singing.
She sings of a fine sweetheart; and until she rests in his arms,
She must, with painful courage, soar on through the country.

Her song, which sounds so ghastly, which sounds so wild, so troubled,
By it, a fierce longing is awakened; my love, a thousand good nights!
The day comes, before you think, the one true love!

7. Gone Is my Happiness and Joy

Gone is my happiness and joy, and all joy on the earth;
Miserable and forlorn am I completely; nothing will get better for me.
Until death I will suffer great need, for I must shun you my love;
Pain is mine, woeful is everything! Since I must avoid you,
Great grief is mine.

For help I cry, my greatest helper, hear my longing cry!
Send me, sweetheart, only your messenger, or I must perish from grief!
My troubled heart suffers greatest pain, how shall I overcome it?
I long, since death surrounds all of my life.
Give me your love and treasure.

PROGRAM NOTES

Jean Berger is one of the most widely published and performed American choral composers. Born in Hamm, Germany, in 1909, he settled in New York in 1941, and spent many years on the faculty of the University of Colorado.

Sacred choral music has been a mainstay of his production. Major sacred choral works include **Vision of Peace** (1941) and **Brazilian Psalm** (1941). His choice of secular texts has exhibited two tendencies: older, more classic texts; and sayings, axioms and parables.

The choral writing always displays Berger's sensitivity to textual prosody. Although the musical language is never avant-garde, he has achieved success in employing "traditional twentieth-century" materials to compose choral music which is satisfying to sing and thrilling to hear.

Half of Brahms' compositions are vocal, half of those are choral, and, except for the **German Requiem**, the four motets, and one or two more opus numbers, the choral music is secular. His choice of poetry not only stressed folk-type texts, but employed writings of romantic and classic literarists such as Goethe, Holderlin, and Heyse.

The **Seven Songs for Mixed Chorus** are excellent hallmarks of his textual and musical practices. Numbers one, two, and four are folk-like in text and music. Numbers three (the most famous of the set), five, and six are romantic songs of Brahms' best. Number seven, which also appears in Opus 48 as a solo song, is in the old chorale style to which Brahms reverted so often.

The images of death are numerous in the poetry of Walt Whitman (1819-1892). Especially in his long paean on the death of Abraham Lincoln, **When Lilacs Last In the Dooryard Bloomed**, the gray-brown thrush singing in the swamp and wilderness is the carrier of the lovely song of death.

Herman Melville (1819-1891) is unquestionably most famous for his immense sea novels, **Typee**, **Billy Budd**, and **Moby Dick**. But his poetry has been greatly underrated and unjustifiably ignored. His first volume appeared in 1866, **Battle Pieces and Aspects of the War**, from which these three texts are taken. This collection must rank with Whitman and the great poets of the first world war as singularly forceful polemics on man's insane cruelty through war.

PERSONNEL

Soprano

Brabant, Elizabeth
Brauer, Roxanne
Deuth, Kris
Doud, Donna
Gardner, Dede
Hansen, Judy
Kastner, Mary Ann
Marek, Joan
Seavall, Nancy
Wasson, Vicki
Westphal, Chris
Wilcox, Pam
Zeisel, Rae Lee

Alto

Bennett, Carol
Bucek, Laverne
Davis, Vicki
De Franco, Donna
Graham, Roberta
Hajek, Donna
L'Heureux, Peggy
Lundeen, Karen
Schweninger, Valerie

Bass

Avelis, Richard
Bowen, Chuck
Brody, Clark
Gardner, Brooks
Hansen, Larry
Jenkins, Bernard
Johnson, Mark
Kamp, Russ
Mangun, Rick
Rinkenberger, Steve
Royer, Jim
Smith, Lee Choir
Wasson, Rodger
Weber, Larry

Tenor

Cain, Rodney
Duffy, Mike
Hutchins, Jerry
Kanold, Tim
Phillips, Mike
Reno, Brett
Stephens, Don
Trumble, Douglas
Vaughn, Brian
Wallace, David