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The University of Washington School of Music
and the Walter Chapin Simpson Center for the Humanities

present

Selected songs from "The Jubilee" (1769)

Part of the colloquium on "Shakespeare, Music, and Memory"

29 April 2016 5:00 PM

Brechemin Auditorium, UW School of Music

UW Collegium Musicum
Directed by JoAnn Taricani

Tekla Cunningham, baroque violin John Lenti, baroque guitar
Emerald Lessley, soprano Linda Tsatsanis, soprano Nathan Whittaker, baroque cello

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PROGRAM

Texts by David Garrick (1717-1779) Music by Charles Dibdin (1745-1814)

Texts provided in the slides are images from 18th-century publications of "The Jubilee"

~~1 "Remarks, Taricani"~~

2 "Let Beauty with the Sun Arise" (duet) 3:34

3 "All this for a Poet?" (air) 2:08

4 "Ye Warwickshire Lads and Ye Lasses" (air) 3:38

5 "Sweet Willie O" (air) 3:14

6 "Let us Sing It and Dance It" (duet) 1:13

7 A Roundelay: "The Jubilee" (air) 4:18

8 "This, Sir, is a Jubilee" (duet) 3:10

"The Jubilee" was a play produced by the Shakespearean actor David Garrick in October 1769, a month after his disastrous attempt to produce a three-day Shakespeare Jubilee in Stratford-upon-Avon in September 1769, which ended at mid-point because of torrential rains and the flooding of the venue by the River Avon. Garrick departed Stratford in a fury and in debt, turning his vehemence into a satire of the Stratford event in his play "The Jubilee," performed over ninety times in the 1769-70 season at the Drury Lane Theatre in London.

This performance uses a new edition of the music for "The Jubilee" by JoAnn Taricani, recreated from 18th-century publications and heard for the first time in almost 250 years.

David Garrick: Garrick was noted for his interpretations of Shakespeare's characters and for productions of Shakespeare's plays at the Drury Lane Theatre in London, which Garrick managed starting in 1747. He created one of the first modern destination celebrations with his three-day festival devoted to Shakespeare in Stratford-upon-Avon in early September 1769, an event he planned with the civic leaders of Stratford for years. A recent discussion noted that Garrick's Stratford Jubilee "wasn't just the first major Shakespeare celebration, it seeded all others" (BBC News, 20 April 2016). A large rotunda, seating over a thousand audience members was built on the bank of the River Avon. Garrick's plan for the Shakespeare Jubilee included a Handel oratorio, a masquerade ball, a horse race, fireworks, a pageant of Shakespearean characters and costumes from Drury Lane, and his centerpiece known as the "Ode to Shakespeare," a long poem with musical interludes by Thomas Arne. (This "Ode" was reconstructed with its music for the 400th anniversary events, and the reconstruction premiered in Stratford on 22 April, last week.)

By day two of the Jubilee, torrential rains caused the Avon to flood the venue; Garrick proceeded with the oration of his "Ode," but soon after, the water filling the rotunda and surrounding land caused the audience to wade out of the venue as well as Stratford. Because of a lack of transportation, it took days for the visitors to Stratford to exit the town. The planned pageant of characters could not occur because of the inevitable damage to the costumes from the theatre. Returning to London with a significant debt because of the lost revenue of the Jubilee, Garrick's initial frustration turned to the creation of a theatre piece he titled "The Jubilee." Rather than a tribute to his festival, Garrick offered a parody of the problems that beset the Stratford event, with the song "This, Sir, is a Jubilee" describing the various impediments faced by the visitors to Stratford: "Blankets without sheeting, Sir, Dinners without eating, Sir!" He also incorporated the procession of Shakespeare's characters that had been planned for Stratford, allowing him to show off the costumes of his theatre. The song titled "A Roundelay: The Jubilee" describes major characters of Shakespeare's plays in an episodic series of musical vignettes. Garrick's play "The Jubilee" opened at Drury Lane in October, and became one of the most popular London productions of the 1769-70 season, with over ninety performances. The play itself only existed in a manuscript written by Garrick and was presumed lost for over a hundred years; but the manuscript emerged in the early 1900s when it was purchased by the collector Henry Huntington, whose immense book collection forms the basis of the Huntington Library.

Charles Dibdin: Dibdin ultimately was a prolific composer of songs and theatre music, and was the youngest of several composers Garrick had approached to create the music for the Stratford Jubilee. In addition to some incidental songs, Dibdin wrote a number of instrumental pieces with titles of Shakespeare's characters, apparently intended for use in the pageant of those characters. He wrote almost all of the songs for "The Jubilee" (the later theatrical piece). This performance is just a few of the pieces from the play; we hope to present the full music in a year or two.

The performers all have extensive careers in early music and recordings available for purchase, described at their websites: Emerald Lessley is a doctoral student in voice; Linda Tsatsanis is a visiting scholar at the UW: www.lindatsatsanis.com ; Nathan Whittaker recently received his doctoral degree from the UW: www.nathanhwhittaker.com ; John Lenti's extensive performance career is found at <http://magnificatbaroque.com/john-lenti/> ; and Tekla Cunningham is a faculty member at the UW: <http://www.teklacunningham.com/>