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LOVE AND DEATH

The Madrigal Singers

Geoffrey Boers, *conductor*
Steven McCollom, *assistant conductor*

8:00 PM
June 2, 1998
Meany Theater



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I. Three Prayers

DAF

- CD
- 1 BOGORODITSE DYEVO (1990) 1:20 Arvo Pärt 1
- 2 SICUT CERVUS 3:07 Giovanni Pierluigi de la Palestrina (1525-1594) 2
- 3 SALMO 150 1:37 Roberto Aguiar (b. 1949) 3
Steven McCollom, conductor
- 4 SOON AH WILL BE DONE 4:04 arr. Diane Loomer 4

II. Madrigals of Love and Death

- 5 SESTINA LAGRIME D'AMANTE AL SEPOLCRO DELL' AMATA 20:20 Claudio Monteverdi (1567-1643) 5
 - I. Incenerite spoglie
 - II. Ditelo, ofiumi
 - III. Dará la notte il sol
 - IV. Ma te raccoglie, o ninfa
 - V. O chiome d'or
 - VI. Dunque, amate reliquie/Cedano il pianto
- 6 Excerpts from SIX "FIRE SONGS" 16:54 Morten Lauridsen 6
(1993) (b. 1942)
 - I. Ove, Lass', Il Bel Viso?
 - II. Quando Son Più Lontan
 - IV. Io Piango
 - V. Se Per Havervi, Oime
- 7 STEAL AWAY 3:23 Traditional 7
Elaina Lewis, soprano

CASS A B

CD 1
CD 2

III. Reflections on Childhood

- CD
- 1 Excerpts from NESLEGTAIS GREDZENS 6:04 Juris Karlsons (b.1948) 8
Sung in Latvian
 - I. Mans Ezers (My Lake)
 - III. Rotala (Round Dance)
- 2 IN THAT GREAT GETTIN' UP MORNIN' ... 4:24 Heinz Werner Zimmerman 9
(b. 1930)
- 3 The Garden of Seraglio - from Three Choral Ballads 10
by Wilhelm Stenhammer 2:18

The concert this evening explores a variety of images, emotions, and experiences that exist within the intricate interplay of love and death. Joy, pain, struggle, acceptance, desire, and release are strangely shared by these powerful life events, and the composers presented on tonight's program interweave these themes around the same emotion. The concert is presented in three sections, with each section brought to a close by the singing of a traditional American Black spiritual. THE FIRST SECTION, *Three Prayers*, are songs of yearning. *Bogoroditse Dyevo* is the Russian Orthodox prayer equivalent to the Roman Catholic *Ave Maria*. This setting is reflective of two styles of Russian Orthodox worship: The hushed, hurried, repetitions of private, personal prayer, contrasted with the fervor of romantic Russian choral settings.

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos,	Blessed art Thou among women,
Mary full of grace.	And blessed is the fruit of thy womb
The Lord is with Thee.	For Thou hast borne the Savior of our souls

Sicut Cervus, is the beautiful psalm of the soul longing for nourishment: Like as the hart desireth the waterbrooks, so longeth my soul after Thee, O God.

Salmo 150 is a setting by Brazilian composer Ernani Aguiar, and describes the profound desire yet our human limitations to express love:

Praise the Lord in His sacred place,	Praise Him with timbrel and dance
Praise Him in the firmament	Praise Him with strings and pipes.
Praise Him for His mighty acts	Praise Him with cymbals of joy.
Praise Him for His excellent greatness.	Let everything that has breath praise
Praise Him with the sound of a trumpet	the Lord.
Praise Him with psaltery and harp	

Soon Ah Will Be Done, is a setting of the beloved spiritual by Canadian composer Diane Loomer. In it she integrates the tune "Goin' Home" the familiar tune as set by Dvorak in his *New World Symphony*, to further underscore the desire for release from the pain of this world.

SECTION TWO of tonight's program is a series of madrigals exploring how the flame of love makes us experience "deaths" and conversely how the sting of death can not extinguish the flame of love.

Sestina Lagrime:

Ashen remains, bitter tomb
become the earthly heaven of my sweet sun,
alas, I come to bow down before you on the ground.
With you my heart is shut within by marble,
and tormented Glaucus lives out his nights and days
consumed by fire, weeping, grief and rage.
Say it, o rivers, and you who heard Glaucus
wound the air above the tomb with his cries,
desolate fields; and Nymphs and heaven know it:
sorry has been my food, tears my drink,

your fair breast—o happy stone—my bed,
since the cold earth covered my beloved.

The sun will illuminate the earth by night
and Cynthia (the moon) shine by day before Glaucus
may cease to kiss and to honor that breast where love
once nestled, now crushed by the harsh tomb;
nor shall the wild beasts and heaven be alone
in lavishing on him their loud sighs and tears.

For heaven gathers you to its breast, o Nymph.
With you gone, the earth for me seems bereft,
the woods deserted and rivers run with tears.
And Dryads and Wood-nymphs echo the laments
of sorrowing Glaucus, and above the tomb
sing the praises of the beloved's breast.

O golden tresses, snow-soft breast,
o lily-white hands that envious heaven
stole away: who hides you enclosed
in the blind tomb? Alas, poor earth
do you hide the flower of all beauty, the sun
of Glaucus? Ah, Muses, here pour forth your tears.

So, beloved remains, would not even
a cold stone weep a sea of tears
on this noble breast? Behold the afflicted Glaucus
who makes sea and heaven resound to 'Corinna.'
May the winds always say, may the earth say:
'Alas Corinna, alas death, alas tomb.'

Words turn to weeping: beloved breast,
may heaven grant you peace, Glaucus prays for
your repose to the revered tomb and hallowed earth.

FIRE MADRIGALS:

Ov' é, Lass', Il Bel Viso?

Alas, where is the beautiful face? Behold, it hides.
Woe's me, where is my sun? Alas, what veil
Drapes itself and renders the heavens dark?
Woe's me, that I call and see it; it doesn't respond.
Oh, if your sails have auspicious winds,
My dearest sweet, and if you change your hair
And features late, if the Lord of Delos
Hides grace and valor in your beautiful bosom,
Hear my sighs and give them place

to turn unjust disdain into love,
And may your pity conquer hardships.
See how I burn and how I am consumed by fire;
What better reason, what greater sign
Than I, a temple of faithful life and love!

Quando Son Più Lontan

When I am farther from your beautiful eyes
That made me change my wishes and my ways,
The flame grows and leads me to my death;

And you, who for my fate
Could restrain the sweet flame,
Deny me the flame that inflames me.

Io Piango

I'm weeping, for the grief
Makes me cry, since I
Can Find no other remedy for my fire.
So trapped by Love and I
That ever I lie in torment
But the more I cry the less pain I feel.
What cruel, unheard-of fate
That silence gives me death and weeping life!

Se Per Havervi, Oime

If, alas, when I gave you my heart,
There was born in me that passion,
Cruel Lady, which burns me everywhere
So that I am all aflame,
And if, loving you, bitter torment
Makes me die of sorrow,
Wretched me! What shall I do
Without you who are my every joy?

SECTION THREE focuses on thoughts which often occur at the end of life. Thoughts on childhood memories of home and childhood experiences are brought to the fore in Karlson's *Neslegtasi Grezdens*. *Mans Ezers* describes the memory of a childhood place which remains a place for escape in the poet's heart:

How the sun shines
how the grass smells
And the clouds glide,
and the horizon mists.
How the sun shines.

The air slowly clears,
my lake glitters

there the waves roll
there the boat rocks.
The air slowly clears.

And the horizon shivers and sparkles.
But in the depth itself
lies my heart,
and throbs, and throbs, and throbs.

Rotala is a description of a round-dance game played by Latvian children:

Vidu! To the middle!

One came, the other went,
One lets go, another waves, vidu!

The outstretched hand is not yet grabbed
You already swing along in circle, vidu!

Hither, thither, part and join your hands,
further joining, further swaying, vidu!

The final spiritual is the apocalyptic *In that Great Gettin' Up Mornin'* set by German composer Heinz Werner Zimmerman. In this setting, the preacher describes the events of the end of the world, while the choir behind him alternately plays the role of the "church choir" exhorting the congregation to "fare thee well," and creates sounds of the apocalypse from Gabriel's trumpet to the wailing of the saints.

THE MADRIGAL SINGERS

Geoffrey Boers, *conductor* / Steven McCollom, *assistant conductor*

SOPRANO

Joelle Berry
Rosa Duarte
Julie Goodell
Anneliese Gorne
Mary Kennedy
Ellaina Lewis
Christine Monson
Marcie Morrel
Janet Reasons
Samara Wolcott

ALTO

Rebecca Bailey
Tova Dodge
Kelly Esvelt
Heather Hull
Heather Mills
Michelle Rice
Rachel Root
Sara Schultz
Carolyn Waud
Kathe Wicks

TENOR

Spencer Arnot
Chip Frederick
Elliot Harbin
Samuel Lai
Evin Lambert
Steven McCollum
Simon Poon
Jacob Winkler
Eun Ho Yang

BASS

Jeff Adams
Anthony Balducci
Jeffery Cooper
Kacey Evans
Kevin Gausepohl
David Hebert
Hyojin Kang
Mark Kloepper
Craig Schell
Daniel Zucker