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2-1-2005

## Death Defying Displays of Divahood

Michelle Vought Soprano  
*Illinois State University*

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### Recommended Citation

Vought, Michelle Soprano, "Death Defying Displays of Divahood" (2005). *School of Music Programs*. 2749.  
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Illinois State University  
School of Music

Charles W. Bolen Recital Series

“Death Defying Displays of Divahood”

Faculty Artists

Michelle Vought, *Soprano*

Paul Borg, *Piano & Harpsichord*

Julia Jamieson, *Harp*

Student, Brian Bromberg, *Cello*



Center for the Performing Arts

February 1, 2005

Tuesday Evening

8:00 p.m.

This is the one hundred and eighty-third program of the 2004-2005 season.

## Program

### "Death Defying Displays of Divahood"

from *Rinaldo*  
Lascia chi'io pianga

Georg Friedrich Händel  
(1685-1759)

#### Plot synopsis

Almirena, who has been kidnapped by the evil Armida, is bemoaning her fate.

from *Semele*  
Myself I Shall Adore

Georg Friedrich Händel

Brian Bromberg, *cello*

#### Plot synopsis:

Handel's oratorio ("near-opera"), *Semele*, concerns the unhappy consequences of a liaison between the Theban princess Semele and the god Jupiter. During this aria, Jupiter's wife Juno plays a trick on Semele and hands her a mirror in order to bolster her confidence to demand immortality from Jupiter. Semele likes what she sees in the mirror.

from *Die Entführung aus dem Serail*  
Welcher Wechsel...Traurigkeit  
Martern aller Arten

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart  
(1756-1791)

#### Plot synopsis

Mozart's comedy *Die Entführung aus dem Serail*, one of many operas inspired by the Turkish craze that gripped 18<sup>th</sup> century Europe, was composed from 1781-82 for the national Singspiel company patronized by the enlightened Emperor Josef II. In Act II, the captive European maiden Konstanze languishes in the seraglio with naught but sorrow ("Traurigkeit") on her lips. But when threatened with torment unless she submits to Pasha Selim's demands that she love him, she galvanizes herself and replies that she laughs at any torment he can devise ("Martern aller Arten")

from *La Fille du Regiment*  
Chacun le sait

Gaetano Donizetti  
(1797-1848)

#### Plot synopsis

The daughter of the regiment, Marie, who was found on the battlefield by a regiment of grenadiers after she was abandoned in her cradle, proudly sings the regiment's song.

~ Intermission ~

from *The Ballad of Baby Doe*

Douglas Moore  
(1893-1969)

Dearest Mama  
Silver aria

#### Plot synopsis

In the true story of Baby Doe of Leadville, Colorado, Baby Doe sings the aria "Dearest Mama" as she composes a letter to her mother telling her of her new found love, Horace Tabor. Later in the opera, after she and Horace have begun a silver mining enterprise, she sings the Silver aria to show a group of gentlemen how magnificent silver is.

Etude de Concert

Felix Godefroid  
(1818-1897)

Julia Jamieson, *harp*

from *The Kissing Bandit*  
Love Is Where You Find It

Herb Nacio Brown  
(1896-1964)

from *Gianni Schicchi*  
O mio babbino caro

Giacomo Puccini  
(1858-1924)

#### Plot synopsis

Young Lauretta is pleading with her father to let her marry Rinuccio.

from *Candide*  
Glitter and Be Gay

Leonard Bernstein  
(1918-1990)

#### Plot synopsis

During this aria, the courtesan Cunegonde, contemplates her career choice.

## Translations

from *Rinaldo*  
Lascia chi'io pianga

Let me weep for my black fate  
And let me yearn for liberty.

May sorrow break these bonds of torment  
Alone for pity's sake.

from *Die Entführung aus dem Serail*  
Welcher Wechsel...Traurigkeit

What sorrow reigns in my breast since the day  
When fate parted us!  
O Belmonte! Those joys have fled which once I knew at your side.  
The pangs of aching yearning have replaced them  
In my afflicted breast.

Sorrow has become my lot,  
For I am torn from you.  
Like the cankered rose,  
Like grass in winter moss,

## Translations (cont.)

My sad life withers away,  
Even to the breeze I cannot tell  
My soul's bitter anguish,  
For, unwilling to carry it,  
It breathes all my laments  
Back into my poor heart.

from *Die Entführung aus dem Serail*  
Martern aller Arten

Torture of every kind may await me;  
I scorn torment and pain,  
Nothing shall shake my resolve;  
I would tremble only  
If I were untrue to him.

Be moved to pity and spare me,  
And may heaven's blessing reward you!  
But you are adamant.  
Meekly, steadfastly, I will endure all pain and torment.  
Then order, command, bluster, roar and rage!  
In the end, death will set me free.

from *La Fille du Regiment*  
Chacun le sait

Everyone knows it, everyone says it,  
The regiment of regiments,  
The only one to get credit in all the pubs in France!  
The regiment in every land, the terror of lovers and husbands,  
But beauty quite supreme!

It's there, it's there, by gum!  
Here it comes, here it comes, by George!  
It's here, it's here, the magnificent 21<sup>st</sup> regiment!

It's won so many battles that our Emperor, we feel sure,  
Will make every man of it a marshal of France, when peace comes!  
For it's known to be the regiment  
The most victorious, the most entrancing.  
Feared of one sex, beloved of the other.

from *Gianni Schicchi*  
O mio babbino caro

O my daddy dear he pleases me, he is handsome;  
I want to go to Porta Rossa to buy the ring!  
Yes, yes, there I wish to go!  
And if I should love him in vain,  
I would go on the Ponte Vecchio bridge to throw myself into Arno river.  
I pine away and torment!  
Oh God, I would like to die!  
Daddy, have pity.