

12-15-2016

Senior Recital - Ellyn Porter

Ellyn Porter
Utah State University

Rachel Larsen
Utah State University

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C A I N E
COLLEGE
of the ARTS

Utah State University

The Department of Music String Program

presents

Senior Recital
Ellyn Porter, Viola

December 15, 2016

7:00 pm

FAC 214

Carly Hoffman

Senior Recital

Ellyn Porter, Viola
and
Rachel Larsen, Piano

December 15, 2016

7:00 pm
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PROGRAM

Romance for Viola and Piano

Ralph Vaughan Williams
(1872-1958)

Lachrymae, Op. 48

Reflections on a song of Dowland

Benjamin Britten
(1913-1976)

-INTERMISSION-

Concerto for Viola and Orchestra

I. Andante comodo

William Walton
(1902-1983)

*This recital is in partial fulfillment of the requirements for
the degree of Bachelor of Music in Music Performance.
Ellyn Porter is a student of Bradley Ottesen.*

Program Notes

Romance for Viola and Piano:

Ralph Vaughan Williams began playing the viola in his school orchestra in the late 1880s and carried his love for the instrument with him throughout his life. The manuscript for this *Romance* was found after the composer's death. Little is known about its composition, but it is likely that it was intended for Lionel Turtis, the dedicatee of Vaughan William's other works for viola. The piece's rich and beautiful harmonies are typical of the composer's style and a delight to play and hear.

Lachrymae, Op. 48, Reflections on a song of Dowland:

Die shall my hopes, but not my faith,
That you that of my fall may hearers be
May here despair, which truly saith,
I was more true to Love than Love to me.

Though primarily a vocal composer, Benjamin Britten returned to his childhood instrument, the viola, in 1950 and wrote "Lachrymae, Variations on a song of Dowland." Dowland was an Elizabethan composer. The word Lachrymae is a directive of the Latin word for "tear" and is best know as the title of a sorrowful section of a Mass, such as that of Mozart. This title accurately conveys the melancholy of Dowland's songs and Britten's composition. Britten incorporates two songs of Dowland. "If My Complaints Could Passions Move" is found throughout the work, from the initial statements of the piano to the final refrain of the viola. Britten includes a complete statement of "Flow My Tears" in the sixth variation. Britten used the reverse of a standard "theme and variations" form, giving the listener eleven variations before ending with a complete statement of the theme. Extended techniques, such as tremolo, harmonics, and pizzicato contribute to the piece's mysterious and melancholy atmosphere. Britten reflects the emotions of the song with extreme dynamics and an ascending melody. The term "reflections" is quite descriptive of the piece's gradual unveiling of the shrouded melody before it is revealed at the close of the work.

Concerto for Viola and Orchestra:

Walton's *Concerto for Viola and Orchestra*, written in 1928-1929, marks an important turning point for the composer's style and skill. The work combines influences from Stravinsky and Hindemith to create unique combinations of sounds and textures. Rhythmic and tonal complexities fold beautifully into flowing melodies. Like Britten, William Walton was deeply immersed in the choral world from his early childhood. This influence can be heard in the lyrical, extended lines in the opening of the movement which return throughout before bringing the movement to a close. This concerto holds a prominent and deserved place in viola repertoire.

2016-17 String Program Events

- **Tuesday, September 20, 7:30 pm.** Caine Performance Hall. Fry Street Quartet Concert, The Crossroads Project CD Launch
- **Friday, October 7, 10:00 AM.** Caine Performance Hall. Masterclass with the St. Lawrence String Quartet
- **Tuesday, November 15, 7:30 pm.** Caine Performance Hall. Fry Street Quartet Concert, Fry Street and Friends
- **Friday, November 18, 7:30 pm.** Caine Performance Hall. Fall Student Chamber Music Concert
- **Thursday, February 16, 7:30 pm.** Caine Performance Hall. Fry Street Quartet Concert
- **March 20-22.** Residency with guest violinist, Marilyn MacDonald
- **Friday, April 14, 7:30 pm.** Caine Performance Hall. Spring Student Chamber Music Concert