

THE FEMININE SOUL:
LOVE, COURAGE AND SACRIFICE IN THREE CENTURIES
OF VOCAL REPERTOIRE

by

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ABSTRACT

Title of Dissertation: THE FEMININE SOUL: LOVE, COURAGE, AND SACRIFICE
IN THREE CENTURIES OF VOCAL REPERTOIRE

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Music is a unique form of communication. It sings from soul to soul, touching each of us in uniquely different ways. While researching the life of Clara Schumann, I became intrigued with the idea that feminine qualities, as expressed by her music, could be found in other composers work for the soprano voice. I explored this possibility in a lecture recital and followed up this work by performing two operatic roles and a recital.

This dissertation performance project comprises three programs that represent five aspects of the *ying*, the feminine side of the soul---namely, yearning for love, courage in the face of love, love itself, loss of love and finally sacrifice for love. Program number one was a presentation of *Serse* by G. F. Handel presented by the Maryland Opera Studio on November 21, 22, and 24, 2003 in the Ina & Jack Kay Theater in the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center. I sang the role of Romilda, a character representing courage and sacrifice.

The second performance project was a fully staged performance of *Tales of Hoffmann* by J. Offenbach also presented by the Maryland Opera Studio on May 1 and 5, 2004 in the Kay Theater in the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center. I sang the role of the yearning Antonia in this production.

The third program presented music in four different languages covering three centuries of art song and concert music in a recital on November 28, 2005 in the Joseph and Alma Gildenhorn Recital Hall. The repertoire examined the feminine themes presented by Romilda and Antonia: yearning for love, love itself, courage, loss of love and sacrifice for love.

All of the above programs are documented in a digital audio format and are available on compact discs.

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