

Elizabeth Pomès, soprano

First Prize Winner

Eckhardt-Gramatté Competition

with

Peter Tiefenbach, piano

**Thursday, September 30, 1993
at 12 pm**

**Convocation Hall, Arts Building
University of Alberta**

Program





Program

- Loon (Evocations I) Harry Somers
(b. 1925)
- Quatre chansons françaises* Benjamin Britten
I Les Nuits de Juin (b. 1913-1976)
II Sagesse
III L'Enfance
IV Chanson d'Automne
- Songs From My Cupboard Peter Tiefenbach
1. Alques de Mer (b.1960)
2. Fécule de Mäis
3. Epices pour Bifteck
4. A.A.S.
- Autumn Patrick Cardy
I alba (b. 1953)
II aspects of rain
III twilight
- Patria - The Prologue, aria from
Princess of the Stars R Murray Schafer
(b. 1933)
- Sequenza III Luciano Berio
(b. 1925)

Translations

Quatre chansons françaises (Four French Songs)

1. Les Nuits de Juine (June Nights)

In the summertime, at close of day, a heady scent rises from the flower-covered meadows. With eyes closed and ears half-open, only a transparent half-sleep is possible.

The stars seem brighter, the darkness, deeper; a faint half-light streaks the eternal dome and the pale, peaceful dawn, awaiting its time, seems to hover at the edge of the sky all the night long.

Victor Hugo

2. Sagesse (Wisdom)

Above the roof, the sky is so blue, so calm! Above the roof, a tree-branch sways. The bell in the sky gently tolls. A bird in the tree sings its sad song. Oh God, life is there, simple and tranquil. I can hear the peaceful sounds of the town.

What have you done, you there, weeping ceaselessly? Tell me, what have you done with your young life?

Paul Verlaine

3. L'Enfance (Childhood)

The child was singing; the mother, stretched out on the bed, lay dying, her beautiful face turned towards the darkness. Death hovered in the mists above her. I listened to that death-rattle, and I heard that song.

The child was five years old, and outside the window the sound of his games and his laughter were enchanting. The poor sweet creature sang all day, and the mother coughed all night.

The mother was laid to rest beneath the stones in the cloister, and the little child took up his song again. Sorrow is a fruit: God does not permit it to grow on a branch too weak to bear it.

Victor Hugo

4. Chanson d'Automne (Autumn Song)

The slow sobbing of the violins of autumn wounds my heart with monotonous languor. Breathless and pale, as the hour strikes, I remember former days and weep; and I let the rough wind toss me this way and that, like a dead leaf.

Paul Verlaine

Songs From My Cupboard

1. Algues de Mer (Seaweed)

In Japan seaweeds have long been a staple food. For centuries, they have been gathered and prized for their delicious tastes, their versatility in cooking, and their nourishing goodness.

2. Fécule de Mâis (Cornstarch)

Versatile, multipurpose cornstarch - my favourite thickener for sauces! Economical cornstarch! Helps to absorb perspiration and prevent unpleasant odour in shoes. Added to bathwater, provides soothing relief from sunburn and minor skin irritations.

3. Epices pour Bifteck (Steak Spice)

The ideal barbecue seasoning made with four exotic peppercorns: Lampong black, Sarawak white, Madagascar green, and Reunion pink. Sprinkle over steak or add to marinades and sauces.

4. A.A.S. (A.S.A.)

This package contains enough drug to seriously harm a child. Always keep out of the reach of children. Consult a physician before taking this medicine during the last three months of pregnancy or when nursing.

Program Notes

Evocations

Harry Somers

Canadian Composer Harry Somers wrote *Evocations* in 1966. Each of the four songs of the cycle evokes a particular aspect of nature. The cycle begins with the cry of a loon. The second song is a portrait of water and sky. The third sees the day "spinning away" and the last depicts a crisp, cold winter night.

Quatre chansons françaises

Benjamin Britten

Britten began to compose his *Quatre chansons françaises* in June 1928, and had finished the full score by August of that year, before he had reached his 15th birthday. The songs, among the most ambitious of his compositions at that time, are dedicated to his parents, on the occasion of their 25th wedding anniversary.

Program notes (continued)

Autumn

Patrick Cardy

Commissioned for the 1993 E-gré Competition, the song cycle **Autumn** consists of three short songs to texts by the composer. The first song, **Alba**, is an impression of the mystery and grandeur of an autumn dawn. The second, **aspects of rain**, is a playful patter song with a tongue-twisting text that is a catalogue of onomatopoeic words suggesting rain. The third song, **twilight**, is a nostalgic evocation of the power and the sorrow of memory.

Patria - The Prologue, aria from Princess of the Stars

R Murray Schafer

This aria opens the prologue of **Patria**, a series of music theatre works by Canadian composer, R Murray Schafer **Princess of the Stars** (which is performed on a lake at dawn, on an autumn morning), tells the story of how the Princess fell from the sky into the lake, and how Wolf will try everything in his power to rescue her. In this first aria, the Princess is crying out for help.

Sequenza III

Luciano Berio

Berio wrote **Sequenza III** for his wife, Cathy Berberian, who premiered many of his works. It presents, in various ways, the noise of everyday life. The performer switches rapidly from one emotion to another: "urgent", "very tense", "tender", "bewildered", "coy", while trying to utter a disjointed text.

The text is: "Give me a few words for a woman to sing a truth allowing us to build a house without worrying before night comes."

Elizabeth Pomès, soprano

Soprano Elisabeth Pomès began her vocal studies in her native France and has since continued her training in Montreal and in Toronto. She has received her degrees from the Université de Paris, Université de Montréal and from the University of Toronto. Her teachers have included Gaston Germain, Mary Morrison, Selena James and Phyllis Bryn-Julson. She is currently studying with Wendy Humphreys.

Her engagements have taken her to both side of the Atlantic where she has appeared in operas, recitals, broadcast performances, chamber programs as well as concerts with orchestra.

In May 1993 she won the first prize in the E-gré Competition (Voice) in Brandon Manitoba. This summer she was invited to participate in the Aspen Music Festival where she sang a creation by Reza Vali.

Her most recent operatic roles include Despina, Zerlina and from the contemporary repertoire, Charlotte (Zimmerman; *Die Soldaten*), Adriana (Murray Schafer's *La Testa d'Adriana* and *And Wolf Shall Inherit the Moon*).

Among her upcoming engagements is a series of a concerts, one of them in the Music Umbrella Series, featuring Canadian composer Harry Somers' *Love-in-idleness*.

She is a member of the Voice Faculty at the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto.

Peter Tiefenbach, piano

Regina-born Peter Tiefenbach settled in Toronto in 1986 following studies in Canada, the United States and Europe. He holds a BMus in Piano and Church Music (St. Olaf's); MMus (Northwestern); Licentiate in Piano Pedagogy (Royal Academy) and in Piano Performance (Guildhall School).

He was involved with Toronto's innovative Musical Performance and Communication Program, first as a participant, later as a Musical Director. He is a founder of the Music Umbrella Chamber concerts and is currently Director of Music at Humbercrest United Church and Artistic Adviser to the Music West concert series.

He has toured with the chamber group, TRIO MIO, and has taken part in several of R Murray Schafer's music theatre works and will this fall again be chorus master for *Patria II: "Requiem for the Party Girl"*.

Upcoming Events:

Wednesday, at 12:10 pm
October 13, 1993
Convocation Hall
Free admission

Sunday, at 8 pm
October 17, 1993
Convocation Hall
Admission: \$7/adult,
\$5/student/senior

Tuesday, at 8 pm
October 26, 1993
Convocation Hall
Admission: \$7/adult
\$5/student/senior

Friday, at 8 pm
October 29, 1993
Convocation Hall
General admission: \$1

Saturday, 2-4 pm
October 30, 1993
Convocation Hall
Free admission.

Noon-Hour Organ Recital. First of a series of 6 organ recitals featuring faculty, visiting artists, undergraduate and graduate students. Program and performers to be announced.

Kilburn Encounters I featuring **Tanya Prochazka, cello, with Shelley Younge, flute, Marike Roos and Helmut Brauss, piano, Debra Cairns Ollikkala, soprano, and Michael Bowie, viola.** Program will include works by Villa-Lobos, Ravel, Reger and Schumann.

Faculty Recital: Fordyce Pier, trumpet, assisted by Janet Scott-Hoyt, piano, Marnie Giesbrecht, organ, Harold Wiens, baritone and Raj Nigam, percussion. Program will include works by Bach, Handel, Torelli, Suderburg, Bozza, Ponchielli and Cirone.

Kilburn Memorial Concert featuring **Ofra Harnoy, cello.** Program will include works by Brahms, Schubert and Prokofiev.

Kilburn Masterclass with Ofra Harnoy, cello. Masterclass participants will be students from the Department of Music and the community. All are welcome to attend.

Acknowledgement

Tour sponsored by the Eckhardt-Gramatté National Music Competition, Brandon, Manitoba, with support from the Manitoba Arts Council, The Canada Council, The Brandon Area Foundation and the Eckhardt-Gramatté Music Development Fund, Brandon University.