

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA PRESS
and the
DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC
are proud to present on the occasion
of the publication of
Max Reger's Music for Solo Piano
by Helmut Brauss

A CONCERT OF WORKS BY
MAX REGER

Sunday, September 25, 1994
at 8:00 pm

Convocation Hall, Arts Building
University of Alberta

Program



Program

Six selected pieces from Op. 44

- No. 1 Albumblatt
- No. 2 Burletta
- No. 3 Es war einmal
- No. 4 Capriccio
- No. 5 Moment Musical
- No. 6 Humoreske

Helmut Brauss, piano

Sonata for Clarinet and Piano in A-Flat Major, Op. 49, No. 1

- Allegro affanato
- Vivace
- Larghetto
- Prestissimo assai

Dennis Prime, clarinet
Helmut Brauss, piano

INTERMISSION

Six selected songs

- Mausefangen, Op. 76, No. 58
 - Der Igel, Op. 76, No. 56
 - Darum, Op. 75, No. 15
 - Das Fenster klang im Winde, Op. 75, No. 16
 - Waldeinsamkeit, Op. 76, No. 3
 - Wenn die Linde blüht, Op. 76, No. 4
- Kuniko Furuhata-Brauss, mezzo-soprano**
Roger Admiral, piano

Sonatina in E Minor, Op. 89, No. 1

- Allegro moderate e con espressione
- Andantino con Variazioni
- Vivace

Helmut Brauss, piano

Translations

Six selected songs

Mausefangen - Mouse catching

(Ernst Ludwig Schellenberg)

You want to capture the mouse? Then grasp her tail!
But into the mouse hole it escape and takes the tail along.

Der Igel - The Hedgehog

(Ernst Ludwig Schellenberg)

The hedgehog is a bad fellow. He has a rough coat with lots of prickles.
If you don't want to be hurt, don't touch him.

Darum - That's why

(Sofie Seyboth)

I like singing. It sounds joyfully through the fields.
Thus it makes me angry that my dear one can't sing at all
So finally he decided to learn how to sing, and immediately tried to serenade
at my door. But it was so ugly, that the neighbours screamed.
That's why I pulled him into my room.

Das Fenster klang im Winde - The wind made the windows sing

(Franz Evers)

The wind made the windows sing, golden fields are waiting for the harvest.
A couple's kiss under the linden tree,—
A lark's song takes my heart away.

Waldeinsamkeit - The quiet of the woods

(Folksong from Franconia)

Midst the quiet of the woods last night, I grew absorbed in a blackbirds
flight. While I rested there, thoughts were anywhere.
Steals my sweetheart round a linden tree, and kisses me.

Many leaves upon the linden grow.

As many kisses then I felt my love bestow.

True, I must admit that my soul witnessed it. To the blackbird it is only
known, we were alone.

Wenn die Linde blüht - When the linden blossoms

(Karl Busse)

When the linden blooms, then the goslings to the sunshine throng.
While I watch them preen their snowy plumes, comes my love along.
While my dearest sweetheart kisses me, all the goslings seek the new sown
grain, could the farmer see!
So from kissing now we must refrain. Translations

Program Notes

With respect to the *Zehn kleine Vortragsstücke*, Op. 44 Max Reger wrote to his publisher in 1900: "On the other hand, from what one might call the **practical** point of view, you will probably be **pleasantly surprised** by Op. 44. This work really isn't difficult! However, in order not to create the impression that I have put in **everything at my disposal**, I have made the point of adding: **For educational purposes**. It isn't all that bad, but I none the less have mixed feelings about such works from my pen." Why Reger should have had mixed feelings is not quite understandable, since all 10 pieces are real miniature gems and not all that easy for that matter. They brim with exciting musical ideas, are admirably crafted and at the same time eminently suited for what he called educational purposes.

The Sonata for Clarinet and piano Op. 49 No. 1 is the first of three substantial works for this genre. Like most of his major chamber music works it adheres to the conventional four movement form following the traditional cyclical schemes within the various movements. Although harmonically not as revolutionary as his controversial Violin Sonata Op. 72, Reger expands the harmonic spectrum considerably through bold modulations and the constant use of chromaticism combined with a kind of "pseudo contrapuntal treatment" of the texture. The dynamic contrasts are considerable, as is the density of the writing, in particular in the slow movement. However, the humoristic vein of the composer is frequently obvious especially in the second and last movements,

Max Reger wrote over 200 songs, not all of them successful creations, since frequently an imbalance between melodic substance and overwhelmingly dense accompaniments can be found. He also was not always very discriminate in the selection of his texts. However, quite a number of songs in particular in his collection "*Schlichte Weisen*" excel in their intense lyricism, while others show Reger's preponderant humour in a wide variety of figurative patterns.

In the *Sonatina*, Op. 89, No. 1 a stylistic link between Mozart and Reger is clearly discernible, not only in its clear formal structure but also in its transparent texture. Reger's usual polyphonic density, his sometimes oppressive sound spectra have been replaced by a more homophonic concept deliberately aimed at lightness and transparency, particularly obvious in the first movement. In the second movement Mozart's figurative procedures as found in many of his variations seem to be perfectly emulated and successfully amalgamated with Reger's idiosyncratic harmonic language. In the joyful last movement with its burlesque character, obvious in the juxtaposition of contrasting motifs and the abundance of figurative elements, Reger seems to be in his element as playful juggler and musical joker.

Upcoming Events:

Wed., September 28 at 12:10 pm
Convocation Hall
Free admission

Wed., September 28 at 8:00 pm
Convocation Hall
Admission: \$10/adult, \$5/student/senior

Sunday, October 2, 1994
Convocation Hall
Admission: \$10/adult, \$5/student/senior

Thursday, October 20 at 7:00 pm
1-29 Fine Arts Building
Free admission

Friday, October 21 at 7:30 pm
Provincial Museum Auditorium
General admission: \$15

Friday, October 21 at 8:00 pm
Convocation Hall
General admission: \$1

Saturday, October 22 at 8:00 pm
Convocation Hall
Admission: \$10/adult, \$5/student/senior

Wednesday, October 26 at 12:10 pm
Convocation Hall
Free admission

Friday, November 4 at 8:00 pm
West End Christian Reformed Church
Admission: \$10/adult, \$7/student/senior

Noon-Hour Organ Recital with Stillman Matheson. Program will include works by Couperin, Pachelbel, Bruhns, Vaughan and Alain.

Eckhardt-Gramatté Competition Winner from New York: Bridget Hunt, violin, with Lydia Wong, piano. Program will include works by Beethoven, Prokofieff, Raum, Kulesha, Ysaÿe and Ravel.

Faculty Recital: Richard Troeger, harpsichord. Program will include works by Bach, Handel, Fischer, Couperin, Rameau and Haydn.

Kilburn Memorial Artist Heinz Holliger will give a master class on 20th century performance techniques.

"South Indian Music on the Veena" with Veena master Muthulakshmi Raganathan. For information and ticket, please call 988-8303 or 474-0341.

Kilburn Memorial Concert featuring Heinz Holliger, oboe, with Ursula Holliger, harp. Program will include works by CPE Bach, Dorati, Carter, Britten, Viotti, Rossini and Chopin.

Music at Convocation Hall featuring Norman Nelson, violin, with Dianne New, violin; Jonathan Craig, viola; Tanya Prochazka, cello and Dennis Prime, clarinet. String quartets by Wolf, Bartók and Brahms.

Lecturer: Malcolm Forsyth. Guest Host: Richard Moses, Radio Host, CKUA.

Noon-Hour Organ Recital featuring Ken Logan, a graduate of the University of Michigan and professor of organ music at Union College, Lacombe. He will perform solo organ works.

Musica Festiva Series. University of Alberta Concert Choir with Marnie Giesbrecht, organist. Debra Cairns, conductor. The program will feature Durufle's *Requiem*.

Please Note: All concerts and events are subject to change without notice. Please call the Department of Music at 492-3263 to confirm concerts (after office hours a recorded message will inform you of any changes to our schedule).