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### A Celebration of American Song: Diana Ellis and Susan Kindall in a Faculty Recital

Diana Ellis

*Ouachita Baptist University*

Susan Kindall

*Ouachita Baptist University*

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**Ouachita Baptist University**

**Jones School of Fine Arts  
Division of Music**

presents

**“A Celebration of American Song”**

**DIANA ELLIS, soprano**

**SUSAN KINDALL, piano**

**in**

**Faculty Recital**

assisted by

Barry McVinney, clarinet

Elise Buffat Nelson, violincello

*Sponsored by Sigma Alpha Iota*

January 25, 1996 • 7:30 p. m. • Mabee Fine Arts Center Recital Hall

**“A Celebration of American Song”**

**Diana Ellis, soprano**  
**Susan Kindall, piano**

*Program*

**I**

*Songs to Poems of Edna St. Vincent Millay*

Richard Thomas

1. The Road to Avrillé

*At Last, To Be Identified!*

4. I Never Saw A Moor

**II**

*Just Before Dawn (Song Cycle for Voice, Piano and Cello ) Op. 23*

Robert Boury

1. The Hangman's Wife

2. My Whole Life Long

3. A Blessing

4. Two Horses Playing In the Orchard

Ms. Nelson, violincello

**III**

*Other Loves*

Richard Cumming

1. Summer Song

2. Night Song

3. Love Song

Memory, Hither Come

Heart, We Will Forget Him

Ms. Nelson, violincello

As Dew In April

Dr. McVinney, clarinet

**IV**

I Can't Be Talkin' of Love

John Duke

I Carry Your Heart

**V**

*Four Love Songs for Soprano, Cello and Piano*

James Mulholland

1. Balow, Lalow

4. Devotion

Ms. Nelson, violincello

**You are cordially invited to a reception in the Gallery immediately following the recital.**

## About the Composers . . .

**ROBERT BOURY** is the composer of some seventy art songs set to twentieth-century poetry. He holds degrees from the Manhattan School of Music and the University of Michigan. Boury is the Music Director of the James Wright Poetry Festival and the Resident Composer at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. Recent performances of his works include those by Cary and Dorothy Lewis at Interlochen, Irene Harrower in Atlanta, the New York University Orchestra and the Ann Arbor Chamber Orchestra.

Boury says, "'Just Before Dawn' is the title of my favorite song by Hugo Wolf. He is the only composer mentioned by name in the poetry of James Wright. There is an Austrian flavor to the entire cycle whose theme is freedom: what it means to want it, to have it, and to lose it. The hangman's wife in the first song discovers that she is a prisoner and seeks her escape. Herbert Zand, who, like Hertha Kräftner, is a contemporary Austrian poet, speaks in the first person in 'My Whole Life Long,' the second song of the group. The melody is freely based on the theme from the last movement of the Fourth Piano Concerto by Beethoven, but it is in slow motion.

"'A Blessing,' to a poem by James Wright uses the score to a song by Wolf, but with the addition of a cello, becomes something different. I wanted to grant the late poet his unexpressed but clear wish to be set by a great composer. The final song about two horses is set to another poem by James Wright. The man comes and locks the gate, driving them home, 'too soon, too soon already. Now.' The effect I sought was Schubertian."

**RICHARD JACKSON CUMMING** was born in Shanghai on 9 June 1928. Reared in Manila and schooled on the West Coast, he studied at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music and privately with Ernest Bloch, Arnold Schoenberg and Roger Sessions. As a pianist, he has worked with (among others) Rudolf Firkušny, Ashley Pettis, Herbert Jaffe, and Jili Kraus. Cumming has toured throughout the United States, Canada, Europe and the Far East as a soloist, Assistant Conductor of the Santa Fe Opera and accompanist for numerous instrumentalists and singers, the latter including Donald Gramm, Carol Bogard and Anna Russell. His colleagues, sprinkled throughout his variegated career as composer, conductor and pianist, include Igor Stravinsky, Darius Milhaud, Samuel Barber and Aaron Copland, to name just a few.

A resident of Rhode Island, Richard Cumming continues as composer-in-residence for Trinity Square Repertory Company in Providence, Rhode Island (a post he has held since 1966) and teaches music courses at two private colleges in New England. He is the recipient of the 1990 Rhode Island State Governor's Arts Award and an honorary Doctor of Music degree from Rhode Island College. Richard Cumming is published by Boosey & Hawkes, J. & W. Chester, Samuel French and Galaxy Music. His recordings as pianist appear on the Music Library Recordings, Cambridge Records and DESTO labels.

Cumming's compositions range from intimate chamber and solo works to vocal works with orchestra to a two-act opera, *The Picnic*. Cumming has composed well over 100 theater scores and over 150 highly acclaimed American art songs for solo voice and piano. Works for such diverse media as chorus, solo piano, film, television, and radio complete Cumming's *oeuvre*.

**JOHN DUKE** was born in Cumberland, Maryland on 30 July 1899. He studied at Peabody Conservatory and later in Europe with Schnabel and Boulanger. From 1923-67 he taught piano as Professor of Music at Smith College. His works encompass such diverse genres as string trio, piano concerto, orchestral overture, opera and numerous songs for voice and piano. Duke died in 1983.

**JAMES MULHOLLAND** was born in Laurel, Mississippi in 1935. He is Professor of Music and Composer-in-Residence at Butler University in Indianapolis, Indiana. Mulholland received the Bachelor and Master of Music degrees at Louisiana State University and the doctorate from Indiana University. His works include vocal, instrumental, piano and choral pieces published by four companies. His choral piece "Red, Red Rose" from *Four Robert Burns Ballads* has received national acclaim.

*Four Loves Songs for Soprano, Cello and Piano* was published in 1983. The texts of these four love songs are by anonymous authors. Because of his predilection for irregular meters, Mulholland read through hundreds of poems searching for those with some rhyme but no predestined rhythm. In an 3 October 1990 interview Mulholland stated, "I also chose poems where the cello could have some meaning. In the 'Balow, Lalow' the cello and the voice each have their own lullaby."

**RICHARD PEARSON THOMAS** holds a music degree from Eastman. He spent fourteen years in New York City as a professional vocal coach and accompanist. His works encompass everything from music for theater to children's opera. He is not only a composer but a dramatic lyricist as well. Song cycles for voice and piano include *At Last, To Be Identified!* based on poems by Emily Dickinson, *Songs to Poems of Edna St. Vincent Millay*, *Portraits of Imagined Love*, and *Ladies of Their Nights and Days*. Recent performances of his works include those of the Texas Opera Theater and the Chataqua Festival. Thomas is actively engaged in film scoring at the University of Southern California. He maintains residences in both West Hollywood, California and New York City.

## *About the Artists . . .*

**DIANA ELLIS** has served as Instructor of Voice on the faculty of the Bernice Young-Jones School of Fine Arts, Division of Music, at Ouachita Baptist University since 1990. She holds the Bachelor of Music Education Degree from Louisiana College (1986) and the Master of Music Degree from Mississippi College (1990). Mrs. Ellis's recital performances include programs presented at Louisiana College, East Texas Baptist University, and numerous faculty concerts at Ouachita Baptist University. Her opera and oratorio performances include appearances in productions of *La Traviata*, *La Boheme*, *Trial by Jury* and *Messiah*. Mrs. Ellis is a native of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, and resides in Arkadelphia, Arkansas, with her husband, Bill, and their two children, Emily and Brett.

**SUSAN KINDALL** is a native of Greenville, South Carolina. Dr. Kindall is Instructor of Piano, Piano Pedagogy and Theory on the music faculty of Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, Arkansas, having taught on the faculties of The University of Oklahoma in Norman, Oklahoma and Bob Jones University in Greenville, South Carolina. She holds the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Piano Performance and Pedagogy from The University of Oklahoma and the Master of Music and Bachelor of Music degrees in Piano Performance from Bob Jones University. Dr. Kindall has performed throughout the United States as sacred concert pianist, writer and arranger, and is recognized for her ongoing work with American composer Richard Cumming and Polish composer Andrzej Dutkiewicz. Her summers have included serving on the staff of the National Music Camp at Interlochen, Michigan, and as staff pianist and music coordinator for The Wilds of the Rockies Christian Camp and Conference Center in Kremmling, Colorado.

**BARRY MCVINNEY** was born in Dobbs Ferry, Westchester County, New York. Earliest musical studies in flute, saxophone, and jazz were with Tom Carpenter. McVinney holds the Bachelor of Arts degree in Music Theory with emphases in clarinet and sound technology from Fredonia State College of the State University of New York, the Master of Music in Flute Performance at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln and the Doctor of Musical Arts degree from The University of Texas at Austin. Artist teachers include David Van de Bogart, Torkil Bye of the Oslo Philharmonic, Karl F. Kraber and David Shostac. Dr. McVinney has travelled the US and Canada in orchestras for national tours of *Singin' in the Rain* and *My One and Only* and participated for three summers in the Aspen Music Festival. Before serving as Assistant Professor of Woodwinds on the Ouachita music faculty, Dr. McVinney served as Instructor of Woodwinds and Director of Jazz Studies at Howard Payne University in Brownwood, Texas. He and his wife, Diane, reside in Arkadelphia with their son, Ian.

**ELISE BUFFAT NELSON** received her Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Wisconsin-Superior. Her Master of Music degree came from the University of Wisconsin-Madison where she was coached by the Pro Arte Quartet as a member of the Graduate String Quartet. In addition to playing in the Arkansas Symphony, Ms. Nelson is cellist for the Quapaw Quartet, Arkansas' premiere string quartet. She is a member of the teaching faculty of the Community School at the University of Central Arkansas in Conway and also teaches privately in Little Rock.