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Jerry Childers in a Voice Recital

Jerry Childers

Ouachita Baptist University

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OUACHITA BAPTIST
UNIVERSITY

Division of Fine Arts

presents

JERRY CHILDERS, Baritone

assisted by

Deborah Mashburn, Pianist

MITCHELL HALL

March 26, 1968

Eight O'clock

PROGRAM

I

Piango gemo sospiro	Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1841)
Ingrata si mi svena	Antonio Vivaldi
Strike the Viol	Henry Purcell (1659-1695)
“Arm, Arm, ye brave” from Judas Maccabeus	G. F. Handel (1685-1759)

II

“Avant de quitter ces lieux” from Faust	Charles Gounod (1818-1893)
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III

Vier ernste Gesange (Four Serious Songs)	Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)
1. Denn es geht dem Menschen	
2. Ich wandte mich	
3. O Tod, wie bitter bist du	
4. Wenn ich mit Menschen unt mit Engelszungen	

IV

Le Bestiaire

Francis Poulenc
(1899-1963)

1. Le Dromadaire
2. La Chevre du Thibet
3. La Sauterelle
4. Le Dauphin
5. L'Ecrevisse
6. La Carpe

V

I Said to Love

Gerald Finzi
(1901-1956)

1. I need not go
2. At Middle-Field Gate in February
3. Two Lips
4. In five-score Summers
5. For Life I had never cared greatly

Mr. Childers is a student of Miss Helen Lyon and is a Graduate Student.

Ushers Courtesy of
Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia

PROGRAM NOTES

I

"Piango gemo sospiro" -- One weeps, groans, sighs, and suffers here in this life. No one knows more sorrow and pain than I. I can only ask for peace through death.

"Ingrata si mi svena" -- The man who bleeds because another man has a more beautiful image than he, is an ungrateful man, indeed.

II

"Avant de quitter ces lieux" from Faust -- A fair is in progress, and the town is full of soldiers, students, townspeople, youths, and maidens. Valentine, Marguerite's brother, is departing for the wars, and leaves his sister in the care of their young friend Siebel. His song of farewell expresses his sadness, which is balanced by recognition of his patriotic duty.

III

"Vier Ernste Gesange" (Four Serious Songs) -- Brahms was sixty-three years old in 1896 when he took up these texts from Ecclesiastes and Ecclesiasticus, (and Corinthians) as a memorial tribute to a dear friend who had recently died. Few of Brahms's songs exalt the finality of death as does this set of songs. Brahms died in the year after its composition.

I. Ecclesiastes III: Both man and beast are the same. Both shall die and return to dust. Man should rejoice in his own works for who knows what happens to him after death.

II. Ecclesiastes IV: It is better to be dead than alive. But it is best to never have been, thus, missing all the evil on earth.

III. Ecclesiasticus 41: Death is bitter for those who have joy and possessions. Death is welcomed by those who have nothing and nothing to hope for.

IV. I Corinthians XIII: Though I can prophesy, can understand all mysteries, and have great knowledge and faith, without love I am nothing. Although I give all my worldly goods to the poor and give my body to be burned, without love, it profiteth me nothing. "Now abideth faith, hope, and love, but the greatest of these is love."

IV

"Le Bestiaire" --- In 1918-19 Poulenc set to music twelve quatrains (stanzas of four lines) by Appollinaire which dealt, ironically, with animals. On a friend's advice he destroyed six of them. The remaining six are as follows:

The Dromedary --- With his four camels, Don Pedro d'Alfaroubeira wandered abroad to see the world. If I had four camels I should like to travel the earth also.

The Tibetan Goat --- I care not for this goat's hair and the Golden Fleece, which cost Jason so much pain. Far dearer to me are the locks of my own true love.

The Grasshopper --- Here is the artful grasshopper, the sustenance of Saint John. I wish that these little verses of poetry might have a charm of their own, such as the grasshopper has.

The Dolphin --- Dolphins, you play at sea. The waves are always bitter. Even so, in temporary moments of happiness, I also forget about the sadness in life.

The Crab --- O fickle are my joys! You and I, like crabs, walk backwards, too.

The Carp --- In your pools, Carp, how long you live! Can it be that Death passed you by?

V

"I Said to Love" --- Gerald Finzi, a modern English composer, has made an ever increasing contribution to song literature. During his last year, Finzi had a remarkable burst of song writing and it is from these songs that the following group is taken. English poet Thomas Hardy supplies the words for these songs as well as many other songs of Finzi.

I need not go --- Even though I have time to go see my love, I need not go now because she'll wait for me to come. Should I have new cares or loves she will not blame me but will suffer it so.

At Middle-Field Gate in February --- The bars of the gate are lined with drops of dew. The land has been plowed where only a while back a bed of flowers grew.

Two Lips --- I kissed my love many times but she never knew it.

In five-score Summers --- In a hundred years all new people will love on the earth and you and I will be only dust. This new civilization will be greater than our own but that will make no difference to me. I only hope that your worm should be my worm.

For Life I had never cared greatly --- I never cared much for life until lately. I realized that living alone was duller than living among men. I found God and I have courage to walk the rough highway of life.