

Juventas!

Mark David Buckles, music director
Boston Conservatory: Opera Studio
April 8, 2006
Program

Auf die Menschenherzen nieder...

Christopher Stark
(b. 1980)

Erin Huelskamp, flute
Kiera Thompson, clarinet
Janet Jacobson, violin
Kristen Drymala, cello
Julia Carey, piano
John Address, percussion

In The Sky She Floats

John Aylward
(b. 1980)

- I. Clear Silver Light
- II. Autumn
- III. Winter
- IV. Murmurs
- V. The Sinking Moon

Emily Marvosh, mezzo
Julia Scott Carey, piano

Dancing in Dew

Mark David Buckles
(b. 1980)

Erin Huelskamp, flute
Mark David Buckles, piano

Nigun for the Victims of Terror

Tiven Weinstock
(b. 1979)

Brandy Blakely, alto flute
Janet Jacobson, violin
Kristen Drymala, cello
Heather Ash, soprano
Tiven Weinstock, conductor

Intermission

...the four conditions for happiness

Erin Huelskamp
(b. 1982)

III. Freedom from all ambition

Heather L. Ash, soprano
Julia Scott Carey, piano

Poor soul, the centre of my sinful earth

Julia Scott Carey
(b. 1986)

Heather L. Ash, soprano
Julia Scott Carey, piano

Progress

Andrew Nishikawa
(b. 1980)

Erin Huelskamp, flute
Kristen Drymala, cello
Julia Carey, piano
John Andress, percussion

Program Notes

Auf die Menschenherzen nieder...

Christopher Stark

Auf die Menschenherzen nieder... was inspired by a single line from the poem *Nacht* (Passacaglia) by Albert Giraud. *Nacht* was the first poem set in the second part of Arnold Schönberg's *Pierrot Lunaire*. The piece was written for the 2004 New Music Ensemble at the University of Montana, which was comprised of essentially the same instrumentation as *Pierrot Lunaire*, but which used percussion rather than voice. I was drawn to the poem *Nacht* because of its dark and apocalyptic nature. The line, *Auf die Menschenherzen nieder...*, comes at the end of the poem, when the darkness that is overwhelming the world makes its way into human hearts. The piece is made up of small, beating bursts of hope quickly pursued to their end by despair.

In the Sky She Floats

John Aylward

In the Sky She Floats is a setting of five poems by Sappho. Each poem brings to my mind different aspects of the natural world and their reflection in human emotions. These songs are dedicated to Martin Boykan.

I.

The gleaming stars
All about the shining moon
Hide their bright faces
When full orb'd and splendid
In the sky she floats
Flooding the shadowed earth
with clear silver light.

II.

Peer of the Gods,
The happiest man I see sitting before me.
Rapt at thy sight hearing thy soft laughter
And thy voice so gentle singing so sweetly.

Then in my bosom my heart wildly flutters.
And when on thee I gaze never so little
Bereft am I of all power of utterance.
My tongue is useless.

There rushes at once through my flesh tingling fire.
My eyes are deprived of all power of vision
My ears hear nothing but the sound of wind roaring.
And all is blackness.

Down courses in streams the sweat of emotion.
A dread trembling overwhelms me.
Paler I than dried grasses in autumn.
And in my madness dead I seem almost.

III.

At the peak of the gale
The terrified sailors toss their cargo
And ground their ship on the beach.

To go voyaging over the sea in winter.
To be forced to throw my goods in the brink.
If it ever happens to me that all my possessions
Fall to the swell of the sea.

IV.

By the cool water the breeze murmurs.
Rustling through apple branches
While from quivering leaves streams
Down deep slumber.

V.

The sinking moon
has left the sky.
The Pleiades have also gone.
Midnight comes and goes.
The hours fly and solitary
Still I lie.

Dancing in Dew

Mark David Buckles

All music asks of us is that we listen.

Nigun for the Victims of Terror

Tiven Weinstock

I wrote Nigun for the Victims of Terror in response to the attacks on September 11th, 2001. However it is dedicated to all the victims of terrorism throughout history. Nigun is the Hebrew word for melody, and it refers specifically to the wordless prayers originally sung by the Jews of Eastern Europe.

Freedom from all ambition from ...the four conditions for happiness

Erin Huelskamp

Freedom from all ambition is the third song of a set; the piece sets four poems that describe the four conditions for happiness as told by Albert Camus.

I'm nobody! Who are you?
Are you nobody too?
Then there's a pair of us – don't tell!
They'd banish us you know.

How dreary to be somebody!
How public, like a frog,
To tell your name the livelong day
To an admiring bog!
-Emily Dickinson

Poor soul, the centre of my sinful earth

Julia Scott Carey

Sonnet 146

Poor soul, the centre of my sinful earth,
Thrall to these rebel powers that thee array;
Why dost thou pine within and suffer death,
Painting they outward walls so costly gay?
Why so large cost, having so short a lease,
Dost thou upon thy fading mansion spend?
Shall worms, inheritors of this excess,
Eat up thy charge? Is this thy body's end?
Then soul, live thou upon thy servant's loss,
And let that pine to aggravate thy store;
Buy terms divine in selling hours of dross;
Within be fed, without be rich no more:
So shalt thou feed on Death, that feeds on men,
And Death once dead, there's no more dying then.

Biographies

Heather L. Ash, soprano

Heather L. Ash, soprano, is currently a graduate student at New England Conservatory of Music.

Before moving to Boston, she completed two separate undergraduate degrees - a B.F.A. in Theatre Performance from Stephens College in Columbia, MO and a B.A. in Music from The University of Missouri-Columbia. She studies voice with Bill Cotten.

John Aylward, composer

Composer and pianist John Aylward (b. 1980) is currently a doctoral candidate at Brandeis University in Boston, Massachusetts. Aylward's compositions, versatile in style and aesthetic, have been performed across the United States by ensembles such as The New York New Music Ensemble, The Lydian String Quartet, Duo Maintenant and The Aspen Contemporary Ensemble. As a pianist, Aylward maintains an active performance schedule having recently premiered some of his own works for piano while in residence at the Sergipe Conservatory in Aracaju, Brazil. Aylward's compositions and concert engagements have also taken him to Holland, Austria, Germany and the KKL in Switzerland. This past summer, Aylward was a resident at the Atlantic Center for the Arts and a fellow at the Wellesley Composers Conference where his Concerto for Piano and Chamber Orchestra was performed with Stephen Gosling as piano soloist. A doctoral fellowship scholar at Brandeis University, and an alumnus of both the Aspen Music Festival and School and University of Arizona, Aylward's mentors include Martin Boykan, David Rakowski, Mario Davidovsky, George Tsontakis, Craig Walsh, Pamela Decker, James Wiznerowicz and Nicholas Zumbro.

Brandy Blakely, flute

Brandy Blakely is a first year graduate student in flute performance at the Boston Conservatory. She began playing the flute in fifth grade at the age of ten in order to escape piano practice. Music gradually became a priority in Brandy's life and she graduated with a Bachelor in Music from the University of California Santa Cruz in 2002. A proponent of new music, Ms. Blakely has premiered many new works, including the compositions of her partner, Tiven Weinstock.

Mark David Buckles, composer and conductor

Mark David Buckles, born in Beverly Hills, Michigan, received his Bachelors of Music in Composition from the University of Michigan, where he studied composition with Evan Chambers, William Bolcom, Karen Tanaka, and Susan Botti; and conducting with Jerry Blackstone, Theo Morrison, and Sandra Snow. He also studied voice, piano, carillon, and percussion. His has received commissions from the University of Michigan Women's Glee Club, The University of Michigan Honors Convocation, Miller College, and Dixboro United Methodist Church, and his works have been performed and recorded by the University of Michigan Chamber Choir and the Saint Petersburg String Quartet. In 2003 and 2005, he attended the European American Music Alliance through the Juilliard School of Music, where he studied with Claude Baker, Philip Lasser, Nacis Bonet, and Mark Shapiro, and received honors for his studies in counterpoint and harmony. Currently, he resides in Boston, Massachusetts where he studies conducting at Boston University with Anne Howard Jones and Theodore Antoniou.

Julia Scott Carey, composer and piano

Julia Carey is a sophomore at Harvard and a student in the Harvard-New England Conservatory joint degree program, for which she studies composition with Lee Hyla. She has won numerous awards, including nine consecutive recognitions in the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers' Morton Gould Young Composer Awards. Her orchestra pieces have received nearly seventy performances by twenty-four different orchestras, including the Boston Symphony Orchestra. She is the youngest composer ever published by the Theodore Presser Company. Recently, she served as the Principal Guest Composer for the Etowah Youth Symphony Orchestra, for which she wrote a piano concerto. At Harvard, Julia sings in the Harvard University Choir and the Radcliffe Choral Society, plays in the Harvard Baroque Chamber Orchestra and the Mather House Chamber Music program, is the co-president of the Harvard Radcliffe Contemporary Music Society, and serves on the board of the Harvard Early Music Society, the Dunster House Opera Society, the Harvard Piano Society.

Erin Huelskamp, composer and flute

Erin Huelskamp, born in Saint Louis, Missouri, completed a bachelor of music degree in both composition and flute performance from the University of Missouri-Columbia, where she studied composition with Thomas McKenney and Stefan Freund and flute with Steven Geibel. In 2004, she was the recipient of the Ellen Taaffe Zwilich Prize for *The Elements*, a piece for flute, violin, and violoncello. In 2005, she attended the European American Music Alliance through the Juilliard School, and the Bard Institute in New York with Maestro Harold Farberman. Ms. Huelskamp has had the privilege of performances at L'Ecole Normale de Musique in Paris, France, Bard University in New York, the University of Missouri-Columbia New Music Festival. Currently, she resides in Boston, Massachusetts where she studies flute with Steven Finley and composition with Dana Brayton at the Boston Conservatory as a masters in music composition candidate.

Christopher Stark, composer

Christopher Stark (b. 1980) was born and raised in the mountains of Montana. He received his Bachelor of Music degree in composition and technology from the University of Montana in Missoula. While at the University he was the president of the campus Composers' Club and the recipient of the R. Richard Riddle Memorial Scholarship in composition. During this time Christopher also studied composition and the German language abroad in Vienna, Austria. Christopher's accomplishments include a performance on the inaugural Mountain Computer Music Festival in 2004, a publication in the Spring 2005 Cutoff Mountain Literary Review and an upcoming premiere of a new orchestral work written for the University of Montana Symphony Orchestra in May of 2006. Christopher is currently pursuing a graduate degree in composition at the College-Conservatory of Music in Cincinnati, Ohio. He has attended and premiered works at the Bach Festival in Oregon, the Mountain Computer Music Festival in Montana and will premiere a new work at the Music '06 Festival in Cincinnati, Ohio this Summer. He currently studies acoustic and electro-acoustic music with Mara Helmuth, and has also studied under David Maslanka, Charles Nichols and Wolfram Wagner (in Vienna).

Kiera Thompson, clarinet

Clarinetist Kiera Thompson, is currently performing and teaching as a free-lance musician in the Boston metropolitan area. She has previously performed as a soloist with the American Youth Philharmonic and the DC Youth Chamber Orchestra in her native Washington DC. At this time, Ms. Thompson is a member of several chamber groups throughout Boston, including the Somerville based Serenata Chamber Musicians, the Boston Clarinet Quartet, and the 'Leftovers' Contemporary Ensemble. With these fine groups she has been successful with other Boston musicians on New Music outreach projects, in addition to season concert and recital tours. In addition, Ms. Thompson has also presented several solo recitals at New England Conservatory, as well as a community outreach performance at the Boston Public Library. As an orchestral player, Ms. Thompson was principal clarinet of the Civic Symphony of Boston from 2003 to 2006, and is now affiliated with several other orchestras in the Boston area. Her clarinet studies began at an early age with Michael Rusinek, while she later studied with Nancy Genovese, Marguerite Baker, and William Wrzesien. Ms. Thompson received her Bachelor of Music degree in clarinet performance in 2005 from the New England Conservatory of Music, and is presently studying with Mark Nuccio.

Tiven Weinstock, composer

Tiven Weinstock, born in Ventura, California, received his BA in Music at the University of California at Santa Cruz and graduated with honors. He studied composition with David Cope, David Jones, Hi Kyung Kim, and Paul Nauert. In 2002, he won the Ernest T. Kretschmer Prize for his composition *Nigun for the Victims of Terror*. Following graduation, Tiven studied film music in Los Angeles with John Swihart (Napoleon Dynamite) and Greg Conway.

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