



Bucks County Choral Society

May 12, 1990 — 8 p.m.
Central Bucks West High School
Court & Lafayette Streets
Doylestown, Pennsylvania

Elma Heckler, Director
Sandra Carlock, Piano
The Newman & Oltman
Guitar Duo

This performance is sponsored in part by a grant from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts

FRANZ PETER SCHUBERT (1797-1828)

Schubert lived a short life. In his fifteen active years, this Viennese composer turned out an incredibly large number of masterworks, including more than 600 songs in addition to symphonies, string quartets, masses, and many works for piano. A master of melodic invention, he elevated the lied (song) to a position of supreme artistry. His songs combined classical serenity and simplicity with romantic harmony and lyric melody.

Lebenslust (Joy of Living)

Opus 11

Für vier Männerstimmen mit Begleitung der Gitarre
(For four men's voices with guitar accompaniment)

2. Die Nachtigall (The Nightingale)
Male Quartet: Ladd McCoy, Alan Johnson,
Philip Franchois, John Grever

*Concealed in a thicket. Philomele lifts his magic song and tells of the reward of faithfulness in sounding beat and trilling tone. The voice softly rises, singing of love and desire, longingly drifting away.
So my friend, many heavenly songs have faded away and, ignited by Cynthia's fire, have returned on wings of song into the feeling heart.*

3. Geist der Liebe (Spirit of Love)
Men of the Choral Society

*The evening covers the fields and groves in gentle twilight; the star of the Queen of Love brightly shines.
The streams and trees whisper of evening; the meadows are kissed by the winds of spring.
The Spirit of Love is in the streams, trees, and meadows.
O Spirit of Love, bring the chosen one!
One loving glance of the beloved brings heavenly radiance to the earth.*

JOHANN KASPER MERTZ (1806-1856)

The Hungarian-born Mertz was a distinguished guitar player as well as a teacher and composer. Like his contemporary, Schubert, he demonstrated a mastery of melody in his guitar compositions.

Two romantic pieces for guitar

1. Barcarolle
2. Tarantella

The Newman & Oltman Guitar Duo

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JOHANNES BRAHMS (1833-1897)

Brahms' lieder (songs) rank with those of other great composers of lieder: Schubert, Schumann, Wolf, and Strauss. Many are based on folk songs, others are original but with a folk song quality, and still others are deeply passionate love songs. Brahms' accompaniments are woven with the vocal melody, creating in each song a true duet for singer and pianist.

Zigeunerlieder, Op. 103 (Gypsy Songs)

Featuring Sandra Carlock, Piano

Solo Quartet: Marcia Lincoln-Heinz, Jane Keller,
David Furniss, David Fryling

The eleven *Zigeunerlieder* were composed in 1887 during the period of Brahms' greatest artistic refinement. Taking translations of Hungarian folk songs for his texts, Brahms set all the songs in 2/4, the favorite rhythm of Hungarian national music. But, as was his custom, he did not copy the folk music; rather he created his own artistic music in the Hungarian spirit. The songs fall into a cyclic grouping, in which is told a story of the joy and sorrow of a love that in the final outcome remains unrequited.

1. *Hey, gypsy! Strike the strings, and play the song of the unfaithful maiden.*
2. *High and towering Rimastream, how are you so clouded; on your shore I call loudly for you, my love.*
3. *Do you know when my beloved is the most beautiful? When her sweet mouth is laughing and kissing! Sweetheart, you are mine, I kiss you tenderly.*

4. *O dear God, you know how often I have regretted that I once gave my sweetheart a kiss.*
5. *Brown-skinned lad leads his blue-eyed girl to the dance, and saucily kicks his spurs together.*
6. *Three rosebuds in a row bloom so red; the lad is not forbidden to go to his girl.*
7. *Don't you sometimes think, my love, what you once swore to me? Don't lie, don't leave me; you don't know how I love you.*
8. *Listen, the wind weeps sadly in the branches; sweet beloved, we must say good-bye; good night.*
9. *Far and wide, no-one looks on me, and if they all hate me, what does that matter? Only that my sweetheart should love me.*
10. *Though the moon is darkened, sweetest love, anger stirs me not. For thee glows in my heart, aflame, more than any tongue can ever tell.*
11. *Evening clouds loom red in the heavens. Yearning for you my heart burns, my love. I dream night and day of my sweet beloved, her alone.*

BÉLA BARTÓK (1881-1945)

During the early 1900's Béla Bartók was influenced by the nationalist movement that swept his native Hungary. He came to love the music of the peasants, spending most of his free time in tiny villages recording folk songs on a cylinder phonograph. He became a leading authority on the peasant music of the Magyars, Rumanians, Slovaks, Turks, and the Arabs of North Africa. His other compositions, which included large orchestral works, string quartets, songs and piano works for young musicians and students, were profoundly affected by the folk music he knew so well.

Four Slovak Folk Songs

1. Wedding Song from Poniky
2. Song of the Hayharvesters from Hiadel
3. Dancing Song from Medzibrod
4. Dancing Song from Poniky

THREE 16th CENTURY MADRIGALS (plus one 20th century swing tune!)

Thomas Morley (1557-1803)

Sing We and Chant It

Baldassare Donato (1548-1603)

All ye who music love

Thomas Morley

It was a lover and his lass

Ward Swingle

It was a lover and his lass

Barbara Tull, soprano; Hugo Ciccotosto, bass

Bucks County Chamber Singers

AMERICAN FOLK CLASSICS

arr. Stuart Churchill

Black is the color of my true love's hair

arr. James Erb

Shenandoah

arr. George Mead

Down in the Valley

Men of the Choral Society

arr. John Rutter

Black Sheep

Cheryl Stitzinger, soprano

Sourwood Mountain

Alan Johnson, tenor; David Long, bass

GEORGE GERSHWIN (1898-1937)

Sing of Spring, 1937

From *Girl Crazy*, 1930

Embraceable You

I Got Rhythm

SANDRA CARLOCK, pianist, received her Bachelor of Music degree from Oberlin Conservatory of Music as a scholarship student of Arthur Dann. She did graduate work at Julliard, and was a student of Madame Rosina Lhevinne and Martin Canin. A prize winner of the first Emma Feldman Memorial Competition, she concertized throughout the United States under the management of the National Music League, New York City. She is in demand as a recitalist here and abroad, and is pianist in the Alverthorpe Trio-in-residence at Settlement Music School in Philadelphia. She is presently accompanist for the Bucks County Choral Society. Ms. Carlock is on staff by special arrangement at the Settlement Music School, where she holds the Arthur Judson Distinguished Faculty Chair.

THE NEWMAN & OLTMAN GUITAR DUO, MICHAEL NEWMAN and LAURA OLTMAN, guitarists, have been making music together since they met at the Aspen Music Festival in 1977. Recipients of the 1985 National Endowment for Arts' Recitalist Grant and Ensemble-in-Residence at the Mannes College of Music in New York, Newman and Oltman have established a unique repertoire which ranges from Renaissance and Baroque lute duets to commissioned works and their own transcriptions. A sixteen city tour of concerts in Norway is planned for September.

ELMA HECKLER, Hatfield, now in her thirteenth season with the Choral Society, holds a Bachelor of Music degree from Juniata College and a Master of Music degree from Westminster Choir College where she was a conducting student of Joseph Flummerfelt. She has pursued additional study at Eastman School of Music as well as with conductors Elaine Brown, Robert Shaw, Dale Warland, and Robert Page. Mrs. Heckler maintains active membership in the American Choral Directors Association and Chorus America.

Next years schedule includes:

Pinkham Christmas Cantata

with

The Philadelphia Brass

Brahms Requiem

with

The Lydian Chamber Orchestra

BUCKS COUNTY CHORAL SOCIETY

Now in its seventeenth season, the Bucks County Choral Society is a sixty-member choir of dedicated volunteer singers whose performances win consistent praise from critics and audiences throughout eastern Pennsylvania. Based in central Bucks County, the choir performs a three-concert series each season in addition to regular performances at churches and retirement communities. One of three American choirs selected to sing in the Salzburg Church Music Festival, the Choral Society toured Austria in the summer of 1989, singing in Salzburg, Vienna, and Wildon. Recognized for its varied programming, the Society's repertoire extends from Renaissance motets to 20th century commissioned pieces. In 1988 the choir commissioned and premiered Pennsylvania composer Richard Wargo's *Voices in the Mist*. The choir has performed with the Bucks County Symphony, the Delaware Valley Philharmonic, and the Orchestra Society of Philadelphia. Its concerts are supported by the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, as well as community and business patrons.

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For further information about the Choral Society or to arrange an audition, please call membership chairman Audrey Close at 345-9333. Auditions for next season will be held in June.

INDIVIDUAL PATRONS

THE BUCKS COUNTY CHORAL SOCIETY extends its sincere appreciation to the following individuals who have given their financial support. With their help, we have been able to grow as a choral organization and take our music to a larger segment of the Delaware Valley.

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