

White Rock Concerts *Presents*

**ELEKTRA WOMEN'S CHOIR
A TOUCH OF BRASS**



Friday, April 3, 1998

**ELEKTRA WOMEN'S CHOIR
and
A TOUCH OF BRASS**

- PROGRAMME -

ELEKTRA WOMEN'S CHOIR and A TOUCH OF BRASS

Ramona Luengen **Celebremus!**
arranged for brass by David Byrne

J.S. Bach **Ihr Pforten zu Zion (BWV 193)**
arranged by Geoffrey Leader
Susan Ohannesian, organ

ELEKTRA WOMEN'S CHOIR

David MacIntyre **Ave Maria**

Josef Rheinberger **Wie lieblich sind deine Wohnungen**

Two Spirituals

arranged by Marylou India Jackson

Done Foun' My Los Sheep
soloist, Kim Hardy

Joshua Fit de Battle of Jericho
soloist, Catherine Lee

A TOUCH OF BRASS

Victor Ewald **Quintet No. 3**

- i) Allegro Moderato ii) Moderato
iii) Andante iv) Vivo

John Beckwith **Tunes of the Sharon Band**

- i) The Lovesick Frog ii) All Her Ways Are Pleasant
iii) Coburg Waltz iv) How Sweet Are The Flowers
v) Wright's Quick Step

- INTERMISSION -

ELEKTRA WOMEN'S CHOIR

Irish Folk Song

arranged by P. Fletcher

Follow Me Down to Carlow

Igor Stravinsky

two songs from "Four Peasant Songs"

J. Rodrigo

Vos me matasteis

arranged by S. Smith

Albert Roussel

Madrigal aux Muses

Gilles Vigneault

Si les bateaux

arranged by P. Abbott

soloist, Brigid Coult

Quebec Folk Song

J'entends le moulin

arranged by D. Patriquin

A TOUCH OF BRASS

Malcolm Arnold

Quintet

i) Allegro Vivace

ii) Chaconne

iii) Con Brio

Morley Calvert

Suite From the Monterey Hills

i) La Marche

ii) Chanson Melancolique

iii) Valse Ridicule

iv) Danse Villageoise

ELEKTRA WOMEN'S CHOIR and A TOUCH OF BRASS

Gershwin, Meyer and Kahn

Rhapsody in Rhythm

arranged by Mark Brymer and

Tom Shorthouse

Compact Discs of **Elektra Women's Choir**
and **A Touch of Brass** will be for sale
at intermission and after the concert

Renewal for the 1998-99 Season
will be accepted at intermission and
after the concert.

ELEKTRA WOMEN'S CHOIR and A TOUCH OF BRASS

- PROGRAMME NOTES -

Ramona Luengen

Celebremus!

Vancouver composer Ramona Luengen wrote this exuberant piece for Elektra's recent concert at UBC's new Chan Centre for the Performing Arts. The event was "Tapestry - A Celebration of Women's Choirs" and the commission was made possible with a grant from the Canada Council for the Arts. The Latin text is taken from the Carmina Burana:

*This is the time of joy,
today is a celebration!
Everyone shall make music
and their songs shall ring out
with full hearts
and with spirited movement -
who know best how to celebrate*

*For writing instrument and tablet
lend a banquet character
as do the songs of Ovid
or the works of other poets.
Whatever the rest of the world will do,
we youthful ones will love
and with great tumult, together
will celebrate joyfully!*

J.S. Bach

Ihr Pforten zu Zion (BWV 193)

This was completed August 25, 1727 in Leipzig. It was composed for a festive church service celebrating the inauguration of the new mayor of Leipzig.

David MacIntyre

Ave Maria

When the Canadian Music Centre celebrated its 35th birthday, Elektra was invited to premiere four short pieces at a commemorative concert. One of the composers we approached was Vancouver composer David MacIntyre, and he produced this gem which has since become one of Elektra's trademark works. MacIntyre was inspired by news reports of paranormal events taking place in war-torn Bosnia, where young girls were running to the hills each day, claiming that they were visited there by the Virgin Mary. "Ave Maria" reflects their excitement and anticipation.

Josef Rheinberger

Wie lieblich sind deine Wohnungen

The many choral works of 19th Century German composer and organist Josef Rheinberger are enjoying a revival around the world. This is just one of the works Elektra will be recording in May for release on an all-Rheinberger compact disc for German music publisher Carus. The translation is:

*How lovely is your dwelling place,
O Lord Almighty!
My soul yearns, even faints,
for the courts of the Lord;
my heart exults in the living God.
Even the sparrow has found a home,
and the swallow shelter from the storm.
I find a place near your altar,*

*o Lord Almighty, my King and my God.
Blessed are those who dwell in your house;
they are ever praising you.
The Lord loves mercy and truth,
and to those who walk blameless,
he gives grace and splendour,
O how lovely is thy dwelling place.*

Follow Me Down to Carlow

Irish folk song, arr. P. Fletcher

This jaunty Irish folk song describes the joy of a wedding day in Carlow.

Igor Stravinsky

Two songs from "Four Peasant Songs"

Russian composer Igor Stravinsky spent the years of World War 1 in Switzerland, but he was keenly aware of the sufferings of his countrymen and expressed his Russian roots through many pieces of music. He wrote these "peasant songs" (also called "platter songs") in the style of a fortune-telling game enjoyed by young Russian women - peasants and aristocrats. In the game, each girl would place a piece of her jewelry on a platter, which would then be covered with a brightly-coloured scarf. Someone would sing one of the "platter songs", which foretold through allegory of either a happy or an unhappy marriage. Then one piece of jewelry would be drawn at random off the plate. The owner of the piece was to look forward to the fate described in the song.

*Near the Saviour's church in Chigisy
Across the Yauza River...Glory, glory!
There the wealthy farmers live...Glory, glory!
They rake up gold by the shovelful...Glory, glory!
They gather up pure silver by the basketful
... Glory, glory, glory!
Ovsen, Ovsen, Ovsen!
I'm hunting a black grouse...
Ovsen, Ovsen!*

*I'm hunting a black field grouse...
Ovsen, Ovsen, Ovsen!
It hides under a bush, but I grab its tail...
Ovsen!
Its tail stuffed into my hand... Ovsen!
Its tail stuffed into my hand a handful of money.
Ovsen! Ovsen, Ovsen, Ovsen, Ovsen!*

J. Rodrigo, arr. S. Smith

Vos me matasteis

Joachin Rodrigo was a Spanish composer whose songs for solo voice and piano are well known. Vancouver conductor and pianist Stephen Smith arranged the love song "Vos me matasteis" a couple of years ago for women's voices a cappella. The words say "You have destroyed me, child of the long tresses. You have killed me with love. I saw a beautiful maiden by the river."

Albert Roussel

Madrigal aux Muses

In the musical language of the Impressionists, this French composer sets this poem by court poet "Gentil" Bernard in a dreamy and flexible style.

Gilles Vigneault, arr. P. Abbott

Si les bateaux

Quebec songwriter Gilles Vigneault has given us a love song that speaks through a fantasy world of high seas adventure. This arrangement for women's choir and piano was made by Montreal conductor Patricia Abbott for her own women's choir.

Folk song from Quebec, arr. D. Patriquin

L'entends le moulin

Also from Quebec, "J'entends le moulin" comes from a centuries-old French tradition of songs whose lines repeat. What you sing in the last two lines of one verse becomes the first two lines of the next verse. To maintain the relentless rhyme scheme, the songs usually degenerate into nonsense!

*I hear the millwheel (tique tique taque)
My father is having a house built
It's being built with three gables.
There are three carpenters building it.
The youngest is my darling.*

*What do you have in your apron?
It's a pie made of three pigeons.
Let's sit down and eat it.
While sitting down they all lept up,
Causing the sea and fish to tremble,
and the stones on the bottom of the sea.*

ELEKTRA WOMEN'S CHOIR

Morna Edmundson and Diane Loomer, Co-Directors

Eric Hominick, piano

Elektra Women's Choir was founded in 1987 by co-directors Morna Edmundson and Diane Loomer. It is known for its adventurous programming, the choir often commissioning new works as well as seeking out music written specifically for women. For four consecutive years they were the first prize winners of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation National Choral Competition. Their first CD, *Elektra Women's Choir* (1992) was nominated for a Juno award. They have toured extensively and have represented Canada at major international choral festivals. Elektra is frequently heard across Canada on the CBC and on National Public Radio in the United States.

A TOUCH OF BRASS

Tom Shorthouse, trumpet

Steve Woodyard, trumpet

Geoffrey Leader, french horn

Jeremy Berkman, trombone

David Sabourin, tuba

Since its inception twenty years ago, Vancouver's A Touch of Brass has dazzled, educated and entertained over half a million students and adults world-wide. Prize winners in the Canadian Music Competition and Du Maurier Search for Stars Competition, and recipients of Canada Council Career Development grants, A Touch of Brass has toured extensively throughout Canada, the United States, Russia, Hong Kong, Singapore, Australia and India. With two recordings, numerous radio and television broadcasts and appearances with symphony orchestras to their credit, their impeccable playing has inspired critics "...one of the most exhilarating concerts we have heard in a long time!" and "...a concert that thrilled from start to finish!" To hear them in their own arrangements of the great classics and big band tunes, or in first rate original compositions is to hear brass playing at its finest.

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Irene Leviton, *mezzo soprano*
Marcel Van Neer, *tenor*
Doug Devillier, *bass*



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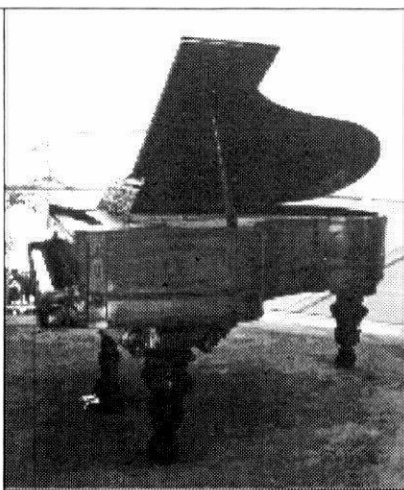
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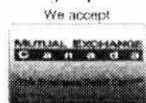
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