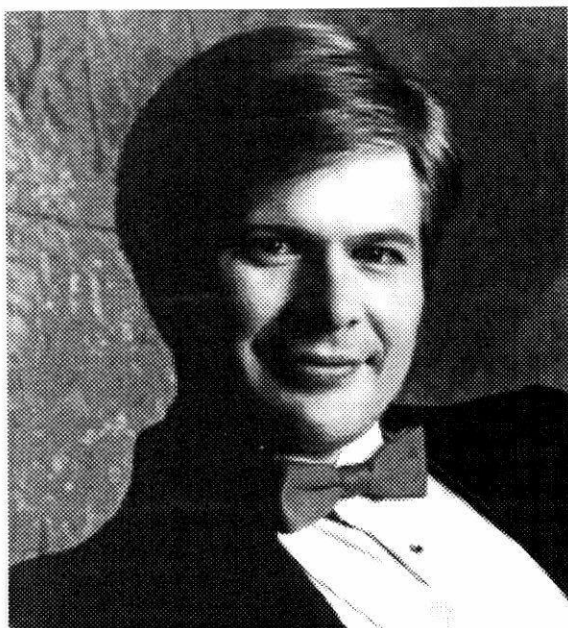


**White Rock
Concerts
*Presents***

KEVIN McMILLAN



Friday, January 29, 1999

KEVIN McMILLAN, Baritone

Rena Sharon, Pianist

Programme

Let the dreadful engines Henry Purcell (1659-1695)

Fidelity Franz Joseph Haydn (1732-1809)
She never told her love
The Sailor's Song

*In honour of the 250th Anniversary of the birth
of Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (1749 - 1832)*

Erlkönig Václav Jan Krtitel Tomášek (1774-1850)
Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)
Franz Schubert (1797-1828)
Carl Loewe (1796-1869)

Intermission

My own Country Peter Warlock (1894-1930)
Away to Twiver
The Night
Roister Doister

Lord! I married me a wife *arr.* Benjamin Britten (1913-1976)
She's like the swallow
David of the White Rock
Bird Scarer's Song

Drink to me only *arr.* Roger Quilter (1877-1953)
Since first I saw your face
Ca' the yowes
"Tis sweet to think
Over the Mountains

Programme Notes

*In honour of the 250th Anniversary of the birth
of Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (1749 - 1832)*

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, was celebrated throughout 18th century Europe as the *Dichter fürst* - "The Poet Prince". Born in 1749, he lived until 1832, straddling the classical worlds of Mozart, Haydn, Beethoven and Schubert. He is to German what Shakespeare is to English, but in fact he was much more than a poet...a reality far less understood in the English speaking world.

Goethe was a true "man of all seasons". From his summer house in Weimar, he turned out poems, plays, novels, essays, philosophical treatises, and scientific discourses. His subject matter was unlimited. His vast knowledge of humanity (and "the humanities") was unequalled by any other figure of his time. Whether writing of philosophy, politics, romance, geology, anatomy or astronomy, he was the personification of 18th century achievement.

Indeed, short of being an inventor himself, Goethe paralleled Da Vinci in the immense scope of his interest and knowledge.

As a practical man of affairs, Goethe served the Duke of Saxe-Weimar in the role of "Geheimrat" - a personal (and slightly secretive) consultant on matters of State. From this secure position he was able to write freely, and emerging as the greatest teacher of life in Europe as it was in those days. Through his vast output,

Goethe discovered a new and idealistic image of the world which still is as valid today as it was then.

But the "Poet Prince" is still best known for his writings, in all forms. Plays and novels have inspired generations of great composers to create the world's best loved Operas - Faust, Mignon, and Werther are all based on works of Goethe. Goethe, who was not as cued in to music as he was to the other arts that surrounded him, innocently believed that Mozart should have written an Opera based on the "Faust" story.

His poems have been set to music by countless great composers. It is no surprise that the Erlkönig, a mini music-drama, with its pressing rhythm of horseback riding, caught the imagination of so many composers of that era.

It is probably also useful to consider that Goethe proves that more than one great artist of the 18th century carried the name of Wolfgang.

Der Erbkönig (The King of the Alder Trees)

translated by Erika Bennedik

Late night, through the darkness and wind
Rides a father, his child held securely and warm in his arms.

Father: My child, why are you hiding your face in fear?

Son: Father, don't you see the Alder King with his
gleaming crown?

Father: My son, you are only seeing the mist and the fog.

A. King: Dear child, come with me. I have wonderful toys
for you. There are flowers in my fields. My mother
wears gowns of gold.

Son: Father, Father: don't you hear what the Alder King
is telling me?

Father: Be quiet son: you are hearing the murmur of trees
in the wind.

A. King: My lovely boy, are you coming with me?
My daughters are waiting for you. They dance all
night, and will sing and gently rock you to sleep.

Son: Don't you see the King's daughters lurking in the dark?

Father: I can only see the old willow trees.

A. King: I love you, I crave you. If you don't
succumb I must use force!

Son: Father, Father. He is touching me. He has hurt me!

The father shudders. He urges the horse forward.
The child in his arms is moaning.
He finally reaches the house.
In his arms a dead child.

Our Next Concert -

**The Lafayette
Quartet**
String Quartet

Friday, April 9, 1999



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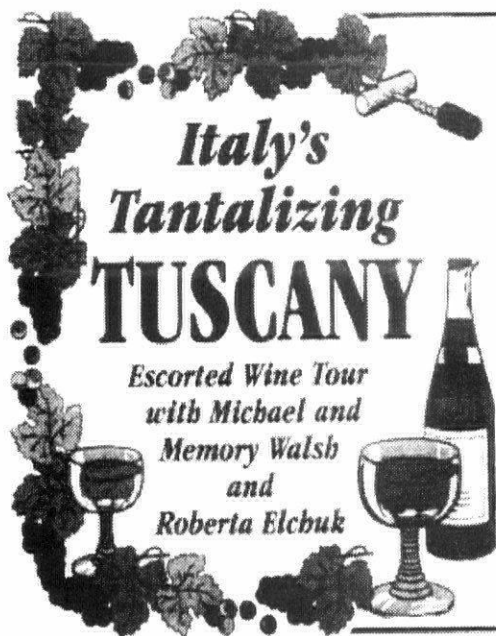
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