

MSU Music

WKAR PRESENTS:

The College of Music
Faculty Artist Recital Series

“COUNTRY” ROADS A Classical Trip to Denver

Richard Fracker, tenor
Dr. Elden Little, piano

Tuesday, March 17th, 2015 at 7:30 p.m.
Fairchild Theatre, MSU Auditorium

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

College of Music

Program

Grandma's Feather Bed...

It happened at the court of Eisenach *The Tales of Hoffman* Jacques Offenbach
(1819-1880)

Ripplin' Waters...

Das Wandern *Die Schöne Müller* Franz Schubert
Danksagung an den bach (1797-1828)
Der Neugierige

On the Road...

The Vagabond *Songs of Travel* Ralph Vaughn Williams
The Roadside Fire (1872-1958)
Whither Must I Wander

Sunshine on my Shoulder...

O sole mio Eduardo di Capua
(1865-1917)

Intermission

The Cowboy and the Lady...

Ch'ella mi creda libero *La Fanciulla del West* Giacomo Puccini
(1858-1924)

A Wild Heart Looking for Home...

Sole amore Giacomo Pucci
Casa mia, casa mia
Terra e mare

I'm in the Mood to Be Desired...

Mattinata Ruggero Leoncavallo
(1857-1919)
A'vuchella Paolo Tosti
(1846-1916)
La Danza Gioacchino Rossini
(1792-1868)

Mother Nature's Son...

They Call the Wind Mariah *Paint Your Wagon* Frederick Loewe
(1901-1988)
Shenandoah *Traditional* arr. Jay Althouse
(b. 1951)
Into the Fire *The Scarlett Pimpernel* Frank Wildhorn
(b. 1959)

I Guess He'd Rather Be in Colorado...

Addio, fiorito asil *Madama Butterfly* Giacomo Puccini

Translations

Act I

Das Wandern

Wandering is the miller's joy,
Wandering!
He must be a miserable miller,
Who never likes to wander.
Wandering!

We've learned this from the water,
From the water!
It does not rest by day or night,
It's always thinking of its journey,
The water.

We see this also with the wheels,
With the wheels!
They don't like to stand still,
And turn all day without tiring.
With the wheels.

The stones themselves, heavy though they are,
The stones!
They join in the cheerful dance,
And want to go yet faster.
The stones!

Oh, wandering, wandering, my joy,
Oh, wandering!
Oh, Master and Mistress,
Let me continue in peace,
And wander!

Danksagung an den Bach

Was this, then, what you meant,
My rushing friend?
Your singing and your ringing?
Was this what you meant?

To the Millermaid!
it seems to say...
Have I understood?
To the Millermaid!

Has she sent you?
Or am I deluding myself?
I would like to know,
Whether she has sent you.

Now, however it may be,
I commit myself!
What I sought, I have found.
However it may be.

After work I ask,
Now have I enough
for my hands and my heart?
Completely enough!

Der Neugierige

I ask no flower,
I ask no star;
None of them can tell me,
What I so eagerly want to know.

I am surely not a gardener,
The stars stand too high;
My brooklet will I ask,
Whether my heart has lied to me.

O brooklet of my love,
Why are you so quiet today?
I want to know just one thing -
One little word again and again.

The one little word is "Yes";
The other is "No",
Both these little words
Make up the entire world to me.

O brooklet of my love,
Why are you so strange?
I'll surely not repeat it;
Tell me, o brooklet, does she love me?

O sole mio

What a wonderful thing a sunny day, the serene air after a thunderstorm. The fresh air, and a party is already going on. What a wonderful sunny day.

But another sun that's brighter still. It's my own sun that's in your face. The sun, my own sun, it's in your face. It's in your face!

When night comes and the sun has gone down, I start feeling blue; I'd stay below your window when night comes and the sun has gone down.

But another sun that's brighter still. It's my own sun that's in your face. The sun, my own sun, it's in your face. It's in your face!

Translations

Act II

Ch'ella mi creda libero (Let her think I'm free)

Let her think I'm free and far away, on my way to a new life of redemption! She'll wait for me to return and the days will pass, and I won't return. Minnie, only flower of my life . . . Minnie, you who have loved me so much! Ah, you, the only flower of my life!

Sole e amore (Sun and love)

The sun joyfully taps at your windows; love softly, softly taps at your heart and one calls to the other. The sun says: "Oh sleeper, show yourself for you are beautiful!" Love says: "Sister, with your first thought think of the one who loves you! Think!"

Casa mia, casa mia (My home, my home)

My home, my home . . . Although you may be small—you are like an abbey to me . . .

Terra e mare (Land and Sea)

The poplars, bent by the wind—moan in long lines. In the dark, half-asleep, I hear them—and dream of the voice of the sea. And I dream of the deep voice with its calm powerful rhythms, and mirrored in the waves—the stars in the sparkling heaven gaze at me.

Mattinata (Morning)

The dawn, dressed in white, has already opened the door to the sun and with pink fingers caresses the myriads with flowers. A mysterious trembling seems to disturb all nature, yet you will not get up—and vainly I stand here sadly and sing. Dress yourself, too, in white and open the door to your serenader! Where you are not, all is dark! Where you are, love is born!

A vuchella (A sweet mouth)

Yes, like a little flower, you've got a sweet mouth a little bit withered. Please give it to me; it's like a little rose. Give me a little kiss, give Cannelletta! Give one and take one, a kiss as little as your mouth—which looks like a little rose a little bit withered.

La danza (The Dance)

Already the moon is above the sea, "mamma mia" how we will leap, the hour is perfect for dancing, anyone in love will not miss it. Swiftly dance around and around. My ladies, come here, a handsome and lighthearted lad will dance with everyone. As long as there is a star in the sky and the moon shines. The most handsome boy with the most beautiful girl will dance the entire night. Mamma mia, mamma! Already the moon is high over the sea. Mamma mia, mamma mia. Strum, strum, strum, strum "mamma mia" how we will leap. Jump, jump, turn, turn—every couple goes in a circle, now advancing, now retreating and attack once again. Hug the blonde girl tightly, go here and there with the brunette, with the redhead follow after her—leave the dull one standing. Hooray for the dancing! I am a king! I am a pasha! It is the most beautiful pleasure in the world, the most dear delight!

Addio, fiorito asil! (Goodbye, flowered refuge)

Goodbye flowered refuge of joy and love. Always its lovely appearance with dreadful agony I will see it before me. Goodbye flowered refuge . . . I cannot bear the squalor. I flee, ah! I am a coward!

Artist Bio

Tenor **Richard Fracker** has performed regularly in opera houses and concert halls throughout the world, including ten seasons and over 160 performances with the New York Metropolitan Opera. Fracker made 15 appearances in Texaco's "Live from the MET" international and national radio and television broadcasts, encompassing 17 roles and the tenor lead in Philip Glass's MET debut opera *The Voyage*. Known for his versatility both vocally and dramatically, Fracker has enthusiastically explored both traditional and contemporary repertoires. Traditional highlights include national and international leading tenor performances in *Tosca*, *La Bohème*, *La Fille du Régiment*, *Rigoletto*, *La Traviata*, *Les Pêcheurs de Perles*, and *La Rondine* among others. Contemporary highlights include world debuts of Philip Glass's *Hydrogen Jukebox* and *Orphee*, as well as Fracker's critically acclaimed Carnegie Hall leading tenor debut in Glass's demanding *Civil Wars*. A member of Columbia Artist's revival of the *Bel Canto Trio*, Fracker toured throughout the United States and Canada in the role originally performed by Mario Lanza. In March, 2014 Fracker traveled to Norway for three performances of Calaph in Puccini's *Turandot*.

Elden Little has worked as a pianist/coach in operatic productions that range from baroque operas to contemporary works by composers such as Jonathan Dove, Carlise Floyd, Philip Glass, Jake Heggie, and Andre Previn. While at Austin Lyric Opera, he worked as a pianist/coach, music administrator, orchestra manager, and orchestra librarian. Additional collaborations include Des Moines Metro Opera, where he has been a member of the music staff, Opera Birmingham, Kentucky Opera, and San Antonio Opera. He has accompanied numerous singers, most notably internationally acclaimed soprano Gilda Cruz-Romo, in recitals in Texas and Guadalajara, Mexico. He went on several tours with the Austin-based choral ensemble Conspirare, and can be heard as a featured soloist on their recording "Through the Green Fuse," available on the Clarion label. He has accompanied the master classes of Mattiwilda Dobbs, Ezio Flagello, Denyce Graves, Brenda Harris, Marilyn Horne, Catherine Malfitano, Elizabeth Mannion, Samuel Ramey, Martial Singher, David Small, Pamela South, Gerard Souza, and Todd Thomas. His educational training includes a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of California at Santa Barbara in piano performance, and Master's and Doctorate degrees in applied piano from the University of Texas at Austin. His collaborative piano studies were with noted accompanists Eugene Bossart, David Garvey, and Gwendolyn Koldofsky.