Florestan Recital Project presents:

Barberfest: The Complete Songs of Samuel Barber

September 25-27, 2009

Florestan Recital Project is pleased to present this 3-concert festival celebrating one of America’s most important song composers, Samuel Barber. Many of Barber’s songs have been enjoyed for decades as well-known American repertoire, and it was a wonderful surprise to discover a large amount of unpublished songs in manuscript form that had neither been heard often nor recorded. Florestan is thrilled to feature rare performances of these unpublished songs in the festival, obtained by special permission from the U.S. Library of Congress and Barber’s estate.

Samuel Osborne Barber III began composing out of sheer love for the music and musicians that were around him when he was a child, and that love shaped his collaborations with fellow musicians throughout his life. He was not looking to be part of a vanguard of new composers, he was not attempting to explode ideas of lyricism or tonality, and one of his most important influences was his uncle Sidney Homer (see picture at right) rather than a contemporary “school” of technique. However, he was one of the first American composers to be commissioned by major conductors, and he quickly became known throughout the U.S. and Europe as an example of American artistic promise.

The melody that pervades his songs, as well as his ever-maturing appreciation for poetry and lyricism, seem strong and sure contrasts to the many innovations and experiments which have occurred in American music’s history. As 21st-century artists, we thrill to the infinite variety of voices in America today, and we celebrate Samuel Barber as a passionate and important contributor to a continually expanding landscape.
Barberfest: Concert #1

Distler Performance Hall
tufts University
Friday, September 25, 7pm

Nuvoletta, opus 25 (1947) James Joyce (1882-1941), from Finnegans Wake
Sarah Pelletier, soprano & Shiela Kibbe, pianist

The Daisies, opus 2 (1927) James Stephens (1882-1950)
With Rue my Heart is Laden, opus 2 (1928) A.E. Housman (1859 – 1936)
Bessie Bobtail, opus 2 (1934) James Stephens
Shadi Ebrahami, soprano & Linda Osborn-Blaschke, pianist

Of that so sweet imprisonment (10 Early Songs; 1935) James Joyce (from Chamber Music)
Love at the door (10 Early Songs; 1934) words by Meleager (Greek),
trans. by John Addington Symonds (1840-1893)
Joe Dan Harper, tenor & Anne Kissel, pianist

Au Clair de la Lune (unpublished; 1926) manuscript inscription: “A modern setting of the old Folk-tune”
La Nuit (unpublished; 1925) Alfred Meurath (dates unknown)
Sarah Pelletier, soprano & Shiela Kibbe, pianist

Mélodies Passagères, opus 27 (“To Francis Poulenc and Pierre Bernac”; 1950-51)
Puisque tout passé Rainer Maria Rilke (1875-1926)
Un cygne
Tombeau dans un parc
Le clocher chante
Départ
Joe Dan Harper, tenor & Anne Kissel, pianist

Strings in the earth and air (10 Early Songs; 1935) James Joyce (from Chamber Music)
My Fairyland (unpublished; 1924) Robert T. Kerlin (dates unknown)
Monks and Raisins, opus 18 (1943) José García Villa (1908-1997)
Thy Love (unpublished; 1926) Elizabeth Barrett Browning (1806-1861)
Shadi Ebrahami, soprano & Linda Osborn-Blaschke, pianist

Dere Two Fella Joe (unpublished; 1924) manuscript inscription: “An Encore
Song in French-Canadian Dialect”
Ask Me To Rest (unpublished; 1926) Edward Hicks Streeter Terry
(exact dates unknown; late 19th century)
Joe Dan Harper, tenor & Anne Kissel, pianist

A Nun Takes the Veil, opus 13 (1937) Gerard Manley Hopkins (1844-1889)
Slumber Song of the Madonna (10 Early songs; 1925) Alfred Noyes, (1880-1958)
October Weather (unpublished; 1923) words attributed to Barber
Shadi Ebrahami, soprano & Linda Osborn-Blaschke, pianist

Three Songs, opus 45 (1972)
Now Have I Fed and Eaten up the Rose James Joyce, after German of Gottfried Keller (1819-1890)
A Green Lowland of Pianos Czeslaw Milosz (1911-2004),
trans. from the Polish by Jerzy Harasymowicz (1933-1999)
O Boundless, Boundless Evening Christopher Middleton (b. 1926)
Sarah Pelletier, soprano & Shiela Kibbe, pianist

Pause

Ask Me To Rest (unpublished; 1926) Edward Hicks Streeter Terry
(exact dates unknown; late 19th century)
Joe Dan Harper, tenor & Anne Kissel, pianist

A Nun Takes the Veil, opus 13 (1937) Gerard Manley Hopkins (1844-1889)
Slumber Song of the Madonna (10 Early songs; 1925) Alfred Noyes, (1880-1958)
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trans. from the Polish by Jerzy Harasymowicz (1933-1999)
O Boundless, Boundless Evening Christopher Middleton (b. 1926)
Sarah Pelletier, soprano & Shiela Kibbe, pianist
Barberfest: Concert #2

Distler Performance Hall
Tufts University

Saturday, September 26, 7pm

Nursery Songs (unpublished, “To Sara”; 1920-1923)  Traditional
Jack and Jill
God Bless You
I Do Not Like Thee, Dr. Fell
Tom, Tom, the Piper’s Son
I Love Little Pussy
Two Old Men
The Rockaby Lady

Janna Baty, mezzo-soprano & John McDonald, pianist

Three Songs, the words from Old England (unpublished; 1925-1926)
Lady, When I Behold the Roses  John Wilbye (1574-1638)
An Earnest Suit to his Unkind Mistress  Sir Thomas Wyatt (1503-1542)
Hey Nonny No!  words from Christ Church Manuscript

Aaron Engebreth, baritone & Alison d’Amato, pianist

Two Songs of Youth (unpublished; 1925)
Invocation to Youth  Laurence Binyon (1869-1943)
I Never Thought that Youth Would Go  Jessie B. Rittenhouse (1869-1948)

Peace (unpublished; 1935)
from the Sanskrit of Bhartrihari (ca. 570–651)

Janna Baty, mezzo-soprano & John McDonald, pianist

Fantasy in Purple (unpublished; 1925)  Langston Hughes (1902-1967)
Watchers (unpublished; 1926)  Dean Cornwell (dates unknown)

Aaron Engebreth, baritone & Alison d’Amato, pianist

The Secrets of the Old, opus 13 (1938)  William Butler Yeats (1865-1939)
The Queen’s Face on the Summery Coin, opus 18 (1942)  Robert Horan (b. 1922)
Sure on this Shining Night, opus 13 (1938)  James Agee (1909-1955)

Janna Baty, mezzo-soprano & John McDonald, pianist

Pause

There’s nae lark (10 Early Songs; 1927)  Algernon Swinburne (1837-1909)
Night Wanderers (10 Early Songs; 1935)  William Henry Davies (1871-1940)
In the dark pinewood (10 Early Songs; 1937)  James Joyce (1882-1941), from Chamber Music
Love’s Caution (10 Early Songs; 1935)  William Henry Davies

Janna Baty, mezzo-soprano & John McDonald, pianist

Despite and Still, Opus 41 (1968)
A Last Song  Robert Graves (1895-1985)
My Lizard  Theodore Roethke (1908-1963)
In the Wilderness  Robert Graves
Solitary Hotel  James Joyce, from Ulysses
Despite and Still  Robert Graves

Aaron Engebreth, baritone & Alison d’Amato, pianist
Barberfest: Concert #3
Distler Performance Hall
Tufts University Sunday, September 27, 1:30pm

Beggar’s song (10 Early Songs; 1936) words by William Henry Davies (1871-1940)
Stopping by woods on a snowy evening (unpublished; 1935) words by Robert Frost (1874-1963)
   Aaron Engebret, baritone & Alison d’Amato, pianist

Music, When Soft Voices Die (unpublished; 1926) words by Percy Bysshe Shelley (1792-1822)
Two Poems of the Wind (1924) words by “Fiona Macleod,” pseudonym of William Sharp (1855-1905)
   Joe Dan Harper, tenor & Anne Kissel, pianist

Mother, I can not mind my wheel (10 Early Songs; 1927) words by Walter Savage Landor (1775-1864)
Man (unpublished; 1926) words by Humbert Wolfe (1885-1940)
   Sarah Pelletier, soprano & Shiela Kibbe, pianist

Serenader (10 Early Songs; 1934) words by George Dillon (1906-1968)
   Aaron Engebret, baritone & Alison d’Amato, pianist

I hear an army, opus 10 (1936) words by James Joyce, from Chamber Music
   Aaron Engebret, baritone & Alison d’Amato, pianist

Nocturne, opus 13 (1940) words by Frederic Prokosch (1908-1989)
   Joe Dan Harper, tenor & Anne Kissel, pianist

Hermit Songs, opus 29 (1952-1953)
   At Saint Patrick’s Purgatory 13th C., trans. by Sean O’Faolain (1900-1991)
   Church Bell at Night 12th C., trans. by H. M. Jones (1892-1980)
   St. Ita’s Vision attributed to St. Ita, 8th C., trans. by Chester Kallman
   The Heavenly Banquet attributed to St. Brigid, 10th C., trans. by Sean O’Faolain
   The Crucifixion text from The Speckled Book, 12th C., trans. by H. M. Jones
   Sea-Snatch 8th-9th C.
   Promiscuity 9th C.
   The Monk and His Cat 8th-9th C., trans. by W.H. Auden (1907-1973)
   The Praises of God 11th C., trans. by W.H. Auden
   The Desire for Hermitage 8th-9th C., based on a trans. by Sean O’Faolain

   Sarah Pelletier, soprano & Shiela Kibbe, pianist