

Song Cycles by Women Composers: Part Three



Sharon Mabry

The last two installments of *New Directions* have focused on song cycles written by women composers. As previously mentioned, there is widespread interest in this subject among singers and voice teachers. Sources for acquisition of materials and information about composers have been listed in each of the previous articles. Though this is the final article in the series on this subject, there is much more wonderful music available from archival, private, and published sources. It is hoped that the works suggested here will merely be a starting point for the establishment of song cycles by women as a staple in the twenty-first century vocal repertoire of today's young singers and their teachers. The previously established alphabetical listing of composers and their works continue with the following suggestions:

Alice Samter (German, 1908–) Based in Berlin, her works date from childhood, but all works written before 1945 were destroyed in the war. Composes in varying styles though strongly influenced by the music of Stravinsky. Numerous commissions. *4 Lieder* (C. Morgenstern), 1954; *Ode an Singer* (P. van Ostaïjen, for s, spkr, pf), 1969; *8 Oboenlieder* (1v, trbn, org), 1986.

Rhian Samuel (Welsh, 1944–) Early training in Great Britain, M.A. and Ph.D. at Washington University, St. Louis. She has won a number of important awards, including the ASCAP/Nissim Composers Award, and has received numerous commissions from major orchestras, such as the BBC National Orch. of Wales. Her vocal works display both Welsh and American influences and successfully combine lyricism, intimacy, and dramatic import. *Songs of Earth and Air* (mez/bar), 1983; *3 Songs with Guitar* (1v, guitar), 1985; *The White Amaryllis* (med. v, orch/pf), 1988–91. Principal publisher: Stainer and Bell.

Ruth Schonthal (German, 1924–) American composer and pianist born in Germany. Toured extensively as a pianist,

often playing her own compositions. Prolific composer, drawing on a variety of styles. *6 Early Songs* (Rilke), s, 1939–42; *9 Lyric-Dramatic Songs* (Yeats), mez, 1960; *Totengesänge* (Schonthal), s, 1963; *By the Roadside* (Whitman), s, pf, 1975; *Ingrid's Lieder* (Olbricht), mez, pf, 1993; *Trompeten Gesänge* (Schonthal), med v, tpt, vn, vc, pf, small drum, 1993. Numerous others. Principal publishers: Cornucopia, Fine Arts Music, Carl Fischer, OUP.

Nancy Van de Vate (American, 1930–) Doctorate in composition, Florida State University. Taught at various American universities and was founder of the International League of Women composers. Has resided in Vienna since 1985. Her music is influenced by extensive international travels and exposure to a variety of cultures. *4 Somber Songs*, 1970; *Songs for the Four Parts of the Night*, 1983.

Elizabeth Walton Vercoe (American, 1941–) D.M.A. at Boston University, studying with Gardner Read. Numerous awards, fellowships, commissions, and grants. Her song cycles are often in the form of monodramas built on a character or poetic theme. *Herstory I* (texts by American women po-

ets), s,vib, pf, 1975; *Herstory 11: 13 Japanese Lyrics* (s, perc, pf), 1979; *Irreveries from Sappho* (s, pf), 1981; *Herstory 111: Jehanne de Lorraine* (monodrama, mez, pf), 1986; *A Dangerous Man: a Monodrama on John Brown* (bar, pf), 1990. Principal publisher: Arsis Press.

Persis Vohar (American, 1937-) Numerous ASCAP and Meet the Composer Awards. Excels at coloristic vocal writing and tongue in cheek humor. Works performed internationally by major artists and organizations. *Three from Emily* (t/s, cello, pf), 1984; *Women, Women* (s/mez, pf), 1978. Principal publisher: Leyerle Publications.

Judith Weir (British, 1954-) Studied with John Tavener and Robin Holloway. Many awards and Composer-in-Residence fellowships. Commissions from the BBC, Boston SO, and major international festivals. Her musical style mixes the exotic with folk music and the experimental with the traditional. *Scotch Minstrelsy* (5 songs) t/s, 1982; *The Braes of Yarrow; Lovers, Learners and Libations*, scenes from 13th c. French life (mez, t, bar), 1987; *Songs from the Exotic* (mez, pf), 1987; *A Spanish Liederbooklet* (s, pf), 1988. Principal publisher: Novello/Chester.

Marilyn Ziffrin (American, 1926-) Composer, teacher, musicologist. Degrees from University of Wisconsin, Columbia University, and University of Chicago. A fellow at the MacDowell Colony. Received many

Florida State University School of Music

Jon R. Pierson, Dean

announces audition dates for 2000 in Tallahassee, Florida:
January 3, January 22, February 26, March 18, March 25 (graduate)
Two-day music theatre auditions: Jan. 22-23, Feb. 12-13 & 26-27

The FSU School of Music offers comprehensive training in voice, opera, and music theatre performance, pedagogy, choral conducting, accompanying, opera direction, opera coaching, and choral music education. BM, BME, BA, MM, MME, DM, Ph.D. and Artist Certificate programs are available. Undergraduate scholarships including out-of-state tuition waivers plus graduate assistantship and fellowship awards of up to \$10,000 per year are available.

Voice, Opera, Choral, and Accompanying Faculty

Judy Bowers, choral music education
Carolyn Bridger, Director of Accompanying
Claritha Buggs, mezzo-soprano
Yvonne Ciannella, soprano
Roy Delp, bass, Coordinator of the Voice Area Faculty
Rodney Eichenberger, choral conducting
Douglas Fisher, conductor/Director of Opera Activities
Barbara Ford, soprano
Larry Gerber, tenor

Janice Harsanyi, soprano
Timothy Hoekman, vocal coach
Michael McConnell, opera stage director
Stanford Olsen, tenor, Shelfer Eminent Chair
Jerrold Pope, baritone,
Natalia Rivera, vocal coach
Gayle Seaton, Director of Music Theatre
André Thomas, Director of Choral Activities
David Wingate, baritone

For more information, contact School of Music Admissions at
Graduate: (850) 644-5848; Undergraduate: (850) 644-6102; Web site: <http://www.music.fsu.edu>

"Sing in Italy"

Sessione Senese per la Musica e l'Arte

Perform — Language — Travel — Study

SIENA (Florence)

Thirtieth year July 17 - August 19, 2000

- University of Siena - S./ Professionals
- American Universities / Credit - Non-credit



Perform solo and with small and large instrumental ensembles in concerts, master classes and workshops, while living in Italy. The Institute is designed for all post graduates, teachers, students. Internationally famous voice faculty. New York City, CT., live auditions or mail in tapes for registration.

Program cost for the summer is \$1,885.00. Offered is room-board plan, culture trips, special Area classes with conductors. Libretto seminars, study facilities, Museums, Diploma, Italian course, Rome/3-day trip to Switzerland, Venice, Puccini Opera, more.

For Application & Brochure call or write:

Director, S.S.M.A., U.S. Office • 595 Prospect Road, Waterbury, CT 06706
(203) 754-5741 • Fax (203) 753-8105

<http://www.sienamusic.org>

* Non-profit organization

New Directions

awards from ASCAP and others, such as the Delius competition. Though her works involve dissonance, there is elegance present in the lyrical writing for the voice. *Haiku* (s, va, hpd), 1971; *Three Songs of the Trobairitz* (s/ mez, pf), 1991. Principal publishers: Editions Orphee, Music Graphics.

Sharon Mabry first received national recognition in the 1980 National Public Radio "Art of Song" series, when she was a featured recitalist. She has performed at international music festivals and is in demand as a recitalist and master teacher of vocal techniques. Her three recordings on the Owl and Coronet labels have received outstanding critical acclaim and international air play on public radio. She will have two new CDs available in 1997-1998. One features music by American composers Persis Vohar and Christina Kuzmich, and the other includes works by Tennessee composers Kenton Coe, Jeffrey Wood, and Michael Rose.

In 1986, she made her critically acclaimed New York recital debut in Merkin Concert Hall, Abraham Goodman House. In 1988, she was awarded a Solo Recitalist Fellowship by the National Endowment for the Arts to perform recitals of twentieth-century music. In 1990, she received a recording grant from the NEA to record works by Vercoe, Goossen, and Barber.

In addition to her concert career, Dr. Mabry is professor of music at Austin Peay State University, Clarksville, Tennessee. She holds the Bachelor of Music degree from Florida State University, where she studied with Elena Nikolaidi, and the Master of Music and Doctor of Musical Arts degrees from George Peabody College for Teachers, where she studied with Louis Nicholas. As a scholarship recipient to the Franz-Schubert-Institut in Austria, she studied with Walter Moore, Erik Werba, Hans Hotter, Norman Shetler, and Brigitte Fassbaender.

Daniel Ferro VOCAL PROGRAM

*Intensive study of
vocal technique as
applied to the literature
for active singers*

July 19 - August 9, 2000
Greve in Chianti, Italy

Under the patronage of the Comune di Greve in Chianti

**Master Classes • Private Voice Lessons
Coachings • Public Performances
Italian Language Study**

Distinguished International Faculty Headed By:

DANIEL FERRO
The Juilliard School

Janice Harper-Smith, Germany

Alessandra Molletti, Italy

Robert Kopelson, U.S.A.

Giovanni Reggioli, Italy

Jan Philip Schulze, Germany

Gaët Sirguy, France

Auditors, Voice Teachers, Coaches and Conductors Welcome

Limited Financial Assistance Possible

575 Madison Avenue • Suite 1006 • New York, NY 10022
Tel: 212-605-0594 • Fax: 212-724-6435 • E-mail: ferrovoce@aol.com
www.ferrovocalprogram.org

12th ANNUAL OPERA ARTS TRAINING PROGRAM

Blanche Thebom, Co-Founder/Director

July 2 - 21, 2000

**Taught solely by leading professionals,
for gifted young female singers 12 through 17**

"O.A.T.P. has helped me to uncover and unleash my passion for opera."



If you want an opera career, we'll show you what it takes.

OPERA ARTS TRAINING PROGRAM
c/o S.F.G.C.
P.O. Box 15397
San Francisco, CA 94115-0397
Tel: 415-673-1511 Fax: 415-673-0639
www.citysearch.com/sfo/sfgirlschorus
email: sfgc@worldnet.att.net

Sponsored by the San Francisco Girls Chorus, Sharon J. Paul, Artistic Director