A Performance Guide for Thomas Pasatieri’s Bel Canto Songs for Voice and Piano

Identifier
etd-04042016-082257

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Degree
Doctor of Musical Arts (DMA)

Department
Music

Document Type
Dissertation

Abstract
This document is a performance guide to Thomas Pasatieri’s Bel Canto Songs for Voice and Piano. Thomas Pasatieri is a well-known American art song and opera composer, who has also worked extensively as a film score orchestrator for major movie titles. The poet for the text in Bel Canto Songs is English poet, engraver, and artist William Blake, who lived from the mid-Eighteenth century into the Nineteenth century. Chapter One discussed the life and compositional style of Pasatieri. Chapter Two details Blake’s life, writing style, and major themes of his work. Chapter Three provides background information on Bel Canto Songs, including its compositional style, dedications, and details regarding the work’s premiere. Chapter Three also includes analysis of the poetry and music for Bel Canto Songs and musical examples to illustrate significant motives, text-painting, and other important compositional elements. Information provided by the composer for each song is contained herein, and the author’s performance recommendations are given. A Conclusion, Bibliography, and Appendices are included.

Date
2016

Document Availability at the Time of Submission
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Recommended Citation
https://digitalcommons.lsu.edu/gradschool_dissertations/1496

Committee Chair
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Find Thomas Pasatieri biography and history on AllMusic - That Thomas Pasatieri would grow up to be the... As a child, he taught himself the rudiments of music, pecking out tunes on the piano. His primary interest was song – he wrote 400 between the ages of 14 and 18; his formal training came first in a private correspondence course with Nadia Boulanger when he was 15 and, the following year, as a student at Juilliard where he studied with Vittorio Giannini and Vincent Persichetti. His works blended bel canto and verismo traditions, with a slightly updated harmonic sense. His music is so well-tailored to the voice that his operas have been premiered by such high-profile singers as Evelyn Lear, Frederica Von Stade, James Morris, and Jennie Tourel. Thomas Pasatieri (born October 20, 1945) is an American opera composer. Pasatieri was born in New York City, United States. He began composing at age 10 and, as
a teenager, studied with Nadia Boulanger. He entered the Juilliard School at age 16 and eventually became the school's first recipient of a doctoral degree. Pasatieri has taught composition at the Juilliard School, the Manhattan School of Music, and the Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. From 1980 through 1984, he held the post of