

West Chester State College Concert Choir

The West Chester State College Concert Choir, directed by Miss Lois Williams, is a select group of approximately forty singers from the School of Music devoted to the performance of challenging choral literature from a variety of periods and styles. They have performed with the Orchestra Society of Philadelphia, for various organizations in the Philadelphia area, and on television, as well as throughout the Northeastern United States. They concluded a recording session for Golden Crest records some time before this concert performance.

Lois Williams

Lois Williams is an Associate Professor of Music at West Chester State College and the Conductor of the Concert Choir. In addition to her conducting responsibilities, she teaches Voice, Choral Conducting, and Opera History. Her music training was done at Western Michigan University; Columbia University; the Hochschule for Music in Cologne, Germany, as a Fulbright Scholar; and Indiana University.

Since coming to West Chester, she has conducted the Women's Glee Club, the Masterworks Choir, and the Chamber Choir which she organized in 1969. She is very active as a guest conductor, clinician, and choral adjudicator. These included the Delaware All-State Chorus, the Pennsylvania Region VI Choral Festival, the Lebanon/Lancaster Intermediate Choral Festival, and adjudications in Pennsylvania, Delaware, and New Jersey.

Ruth Palmer

Ruth Palmer, piano, has her B. S. degree in Music Education and her M. M. in Accompanying from Manhattan School of Music, New York. She has taught at Westtown and Tatnall Schools and at the Philadelphia College of Performing Arts. She has served as organist-director at churches in West Chester, New York, Philadelphia, and at the Red Clay Presbyterian Church in Wilmington, Delaware. She has also served as accompanist for the Philadelphia Opera Company and accompanist and chorus-master for the Wilmington Opera Society.

Personnel and Notes

Producer and Engineer: Bob Sellman

Recorded at a live concert on April 2, 1982, in Swope Hall, West Chester State College, West Chester, PA.

This Direct-to-Tape Recording was made using two Schoeps microphones. No compression, equalization, or limiting was used during its recording or manufacture.

A CHOIR CONCERT

West Chester State College Concert Choir

Lois Williams, conductor

Ruth Palmer, piano



The West Chester State College Concert Choir opens its program with Haydn's vigorous, classical setting of the Te Deum. Written about 1799/1800 for Empress Marie Therese, the Te Deum was premiered in September, 1800, in Eisenstadt on the occasion of a visit by Lord Nelson and Lady Hamilton. The work is in three sections, with the opening allegro in C major followed by an adagio in C minor and closing with an allegro moderato, again in the major key, with a concluding fugue beginning at the words "In te Domine speravi". Brahms's vast output for solo or concerted voices often includes folksong settings. Most Liedersingers include some of the 49 Deutsche Volkslieder, written at different times and published in 1894, in their repertoires. Indeed, the solo setting of In Stiller Nacht (No. 42) is a favorite. The four-part unaccompanied choral version was published in 1864 as No. 8 of the 14 Deutsche Volkslieder. The music is apparently original material, while the text, long unidentified, has now been traced to the 17th century Jesuit poet named Spee. Brahms did not set the complete poem. Philip Lieson Miller has indicated that the lamenting voice is actually that of Christ. In 1888 Brahms completed five partsongs for mixed chorus which were published the following year as Op. 104. No. 4, Verlorene Jugend (Lost Youth), is for five voices (SATBB). The edition used here is by Maynard Klein. The German text is by Josef Wenzig, who adapted the original Czech tale of squandered youth. The performance may very well be a first recording of Op. 104, No. 4. John Ness Beck, born in Ohio in 1930, came to music full time only after doing some arranging while serving in the

U. S. Army. Teacher, music store owner, publisher, conductor, and composer, Beck is probably best known for his extensive output of sacred choral works. The Three Prophecies heard here represent some of the best writing characteristic of mid-twentieth-century American church music. American secular choral music of the same period is typified in David Foltz's setting of Byron's She Walks in Beauty and Houston Bright's August Noon. Foltz's 1952 work might be considered a modern equivalent of the 19th century partsong. Born in Texas in 1916, Bright was educated there and at UCLA under Halsey Stevens. A teacher and composer of works in various forms, his August Noon is another of the fine American choral works, harmonically sweetly "modern", that appeal to concert audiences. It is a gem for a fine small chorus such as the West Chester State College Concert Choir. Linda Mancken's rhythmic, vitalic song of praise, Halleluyah, might be called a modern "spiritual" suitable for church or concert use. The famed My Lord, What a Mornin' and Deep River are the two best-loved settings of Henry Thacker Burleigh (1866-1949). Born in Erie, Pennsylvania, Burleigh studied with Dvorak and was for some 50 years the soloist in St. George's Church in New York City, where he sang The Palms every Sunday for those 50 years! Hall Johnson (1888- 1970) was world-famous for his Hall Johnson Choir, which functioned in the 1920's and 30's. His singers recorded for RCA Victor, appeared in plays and films, and toured widely. One of his favorites closes this program, the brilliant Ain't Got Time to Die, with Jiselle Thompson singing the incidental soprano solo. —William Marsh

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| 1. Te Deum in C Major 8:20 | 7. Ye Shall Go Out with Joy 1:31 |
| 2. Dem dunkeln Schoss 2:46 | 8. August Noon 4:21 |
| 3. In stiller Nacht 2:26 | 9. Song of the Meadowlark 3:02 |
| 4. Brausten alle Berge 1:52 | 10. She Walks in Beauty 3:11 |
| 5. Cry Aloud 3:22 | 11. Haleluyah 2:11 |
| 6. And In That Day 2:40 | 12. My Lord, What a Mornin' 3:19 |
| | 13. Ain't Got Time to Die 2:29 |
| | Total Time: 41:30 |

Producer & Engineer: Bob Sellman

Recorded April 25th 1982 at Swope Hall, West Chester State College, West Chester, PA.

Recorded using two Schoeps microphones

No limiting, equalization, or compression were used during its mastering or manufacture

Transferred from a 15ips 2 track master

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