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Senior Recital: David Piwarski, piano and composition

David Piwarski

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Senior Recital

David Piwarski, piano and composition

Saturday, 26 April 2014
1:30 PM
Martel Recital Hall
Skinner Hall of Music
The View in Spring
Andrew Murphy ’15, baritone

~Original Chinese text by Du Fu (712-770)~
A kingdom smashed, its hills and rivers still here,
spring in the city, plants and trees grow deep.

Moved by the moment, flowers splash with tears,
alarmed at parting, birds startle heart.

War’s beacon fires have gone on three months,
letters from home are worth thousands in gold.

Fingers run through white hair until it thins,
cap-pins will almost no longer hold.

Enko Bushi
Piwarski

Seven Little Pieces for Alcohol
Piwarski

Vodka
Irish Whiskey
Gin
Tequila
Absinthe
Ouzo
Rum

Building Safety: Please be aware of the fire exits at the front and rear of the Recital Hall. In the event of an emergency, Vassar College fire watch personnel will direct you.
**Program Notes**

*The View in Spring*

Sophomore year, I once had a class on Chinese and Japanese Literature as a requirement for my Japanese major. During our section on the poet Du Fu, I came across this famous poem about the time of his imprisonment during the An Lushan rebellion. I remember it being quite an impactful work, and was delighted come across it once again. In the piece, I focused more of the resonance of notes and extremities of range to give it a ringing aura.

*Enko Bushi*

Literally translated as “Song of Relations” this piece is based of the Japanese folk song of the same name. The folksong talks of different villages and the love stories that have happened there. Seemingly joyous and tragic, but all sung with ambiguity of what truly happened (at least in the English translation). The original melody is stated once near the beginning of the piece, then quickly dissolves into this mess of melodic fragments, only to die down into a breathy silence.

*Seven Little Pieces for Alcohol*

Now I know what your thinking, and you’re kind of right. This was quite an interesting compilation to put together, and the process consistently changed (I did not drink the whole time). However, in the end I decided to tie each drink, more or less, to its regional roots. As a result, the songs are representative to folksongs and musical styles loosely based on the countries or cultures the alcohol originated in. Some are dark, others are quite humorous, and all are portrayed as an altered state.

**Acknowledgements**

I would like to thank my wonderful piano teacher Anna Polonsky for showing me the magic behind the music that I play and how to express it. I know that I would not be at my current caliber without her. Thank you to the faculty of the music department for the years of teaching the helped to influence my style of performance and composition. I would also like to thank Claire Grosel, Elena Horvit, and Andrew Murphy for being a part of this. It was very difficult to find performers at the last minute and am extremely grateful for their dedication and graciousness to perform my pieces. Lastly, I would like to thank my partner Andrew Murphy for all his love and support whenever I felt stressed or doubtful.

There will be a reception following the recital in Thekla. Party.