Spring 4-30-2016

Senior Recital: Ruby Pierce, soprano

Ruby Pierce

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Senior Recital

Ruby Pierce, *soprano*

assisted by

David Alpher, *piano*

Saturday, 30 April 2016
1:30 PM
Martel Recital Hall
Skinner Hall of Music
Please silence all cellphones and refrain from using handheld devices during the performance. Use of these instruments may disturb other audience members and will cause interference with in-house recording and webcasting.

Program

Orpheus with his Lute          Arthur Sullivan  
                                 (1842-1900)

Weep You No More               Hubert Parry       
                                 (1848-1918)

There be None of Beauty’s Daughters  Parry

Fünf Lieder, Op. 48           Richard Staruss   
                                   (1864-1949)

Freundliche Vision
   Ich schweben
   Kling!
   Winterweihe
   Winterliebe

INTERMISSION

Chansons de Ronsard          Darius Milhaud    
                                (1892-1974)

   À une fontaine
   À cupidon
   Tais-toi, babillarde
   Dieu vous gard’

“Où va la jeune Hindoue?” from Lakmé  Léo Delibes     
                                        (1836-1891)

Acknowledgements

Oh golly, where to begin? I suppose with the two weirdos responsible for my existence, Kim and Wayne Pierce. Thanks for being here today, you two. You’re lookin’ great. I love you more than I could ever express. Remember all those times I annoyed you with my over-active imagination and dramatic tendencies? Well, I confess there weren’t quite as many tornadoes and fires in my kindergarten class as I said there were. And it’s possible that some number of my childhood injuries were milked for theatrical effect. Not choking on all my food, though -- that was legit. But look at me now, folks! Your little theatrical Rubeast has blossomed into a full-fledged Drama Queen, and I think we’re all the better for it. Thank you for always lifting me up and nudging me forward, always loving me without end, and always being there when I needed you. A human being could not possibly have better parents than you two. This recital is as much yours as it is mine. I love you. (P.S. I’ll be pooped when this is done -- can we go get some dinner?)

The next person I must acknowledge is the incomparable Drew Minter. Drew, you have taught me more in these four years than I could have ever imagined was possible. When I got here, I did not know the meaning of the word “aria.” And now I’m here, getting ready to dive into the real world and pursue opera full-force, and that is because of you. Your energy and imagination, your detailed instruction and passion for music, and your constant support and friendship have completely changed my life. Lessons with you have been the highlight of my time here. Thank you for giving me a thousand tools and colors, a million ideas about musical meaning and the purpose of every performance, and most importantly, the confidence to share my voice. My horizons have expanded exponentially in my time with you, and I will always be infinitely grateful for that. I’m really going to miss you. The thought of leaving makes me so hideously sad, but I keep reminding myself that this isn’t goodbye. Just “see you later.”

And now, we must take a moment to acknowledge the enormous feat that David Alpher has accomplished in playing this recital. Let it be known that this has been described as “the most difficult recital ever” by some of those involved in it’s production. Darius Milhaud is not the kindest of composers, nor the most forgiving. Dear old Strauss isn’t much better. David, thank you for everything you have done over these past four years. Thank you for your patience and your encouragement, and your wonderful sense of humor. I am so glad that we got to work together. And, last but not least, thank you for working so hard on this program. To put it mildly, it’s a doozy.

I would also like to give my sincerest thanks to the Music Department here at Vassar. I can hardly do them all justice, but the faculty and staff here have been some of the most supportive, encouraging, and inspiring people I’ve met at Vassar. Thank you Christine Howlett, for being such a strong role model and for your constant kindness and support. Thank you to the professors who have widened my lens and inspired me to pursue this art, among them Michael Pisani, Kathryn Libin, Eduardo Navega, Richard Wilson, and Jennifer Church. And thank you to Amy Kawa and Jane Podell, for your kindness and caring, and for coordinating absolutely everything in Skinner. You make all of this music possible.

Thank you all so much for taking the time to come hear this recital today. Your presence means everything to me. I sincerely hope that you enjoy hearing this music as much as I have enjoyed making it, and that when you leave, you do so feeling better than you did when you came in.