

GINIA DAVIS, soprano

Notes on the Songs

I. French Art Songs

SIDE TWO

1. AU ROSSIGNOL (GOUNOD) Recorded in 1957

O celestial voice in the woods, you do not know that as you sing I listen, hardly daring to breathe or to move. Like worship in the night, your divine song rises to heaven easier than our weak human prayers.

(Lamartine)

2. NOCTURNE (FRANCK) Recorded in 1957

O fresh, transparent night, mystery without obscurity.
Life is dark and devouring, give me your placidity.
O beautiful, starry night, you look toward me,
Light my troubled soul, put your smile in my thoughts.
O holy, taciturn night, full of peace and sweetness,
Bring silence to my storm ridden heart.
O great, solemn night, take my being under your wing.
Pour sleep on my eyes.

(L. De Fourcaud)

3. INVITATION AU VOYAGE (DUPARC) Recorded live in 1961

My child, my sister, dream of the sweetness of going there to live, loving and dying in the country that resembles you. The moist suns of these misty skies, have, for my spirit, the mysterious charm of your traitorous eyes shining through their tears. There, all is order and beauty, luxury, calm and voluptuousness. See, asleep on the canals the vessels whose spirit is vagabond. To satisfy your least desire, they come from the ends of the world. The setting suns reclothe the fields, the canals, the town with hyacinth and gold. The world sleeps in a warm light.

(Baudelaire)

4. PHIDYLÉ (DUPARC) Recorded live in 1959

The grass is soft for sleeping under the fresh poplars, by the slopes of the mossy springs, that spreading by a thousand paths into the flowering fields, are lost in the dark thickets. —Rest, O Phidylé. Noon shines on the leaves and invites you to sleep. The fickle bees sing by the clover and the thyme, in full sunlight. Warm odors circulate about the paths, the wheat's red flower bends, and the birds seek the shade of the sweetbriar. —Rest, O, Phidylé, rest. But when the sun inclined on its brilliant curve sees its ardors abating, then may your most beautiful smile and your best kiss recompense me for the waiting.

(Leconte de Lisle)

5. L'OMBRE DES ARBRES (DEBUSSY) Recorded in 1961

The shadow of the trees in the misty river dies like smoke, while in the air, among the branches, the turtle-doves are mourning. How much, O voyager, this bleak landscape mirrors you, and how sadly, in the high foliage, weep your drowned hopes.

(Verlaine)

6. GREEN (DEBUSSY) Recorded live in 1961

Here are fruits, flowers, leaves and branches, and here is my heart that beats only for you. Do not tear it with your two white hands, and to your beautiful eyes let this humble gift seem sweet. I arrive all covered with dew which the wind has turned to frost on my forehead. Let me, resting at your feet, dream of dear relaxing moments. On your young breast, let my head rest, still sonorous from your last kisses. Let it there calm itself from the good tempest, and let me sleep a little since you are resting.

(Verlaine)

7. NOEL DES ENFANTS QUI N'ONT PLUS DE MAISONS (DEBUSSY) Recorded in 1963

We have no more homes. The enemy has taken everything, even our little beds. They burned the school and our teacher, the church and Mr. Jesus, and the old beggar who could not get away. Papa is at the war. Mama died before all this. What shall we do? Christmas, don't go to them, punish them! Avenge the children of France, Serbia, Belgium, Poland. Don't bring us any toys - just try to give us again our daily bread. Listen Christmas, we have no more shoes, but bring Victory to the children of France!

(Henry Harris at the piano)

GINIA DAVIS. In 1961, after her first concert of A "Ginia Davis brought a degree of fervor and authenticity to the best days of Maggie Teyte and Bidu Sayao."

Before this time, Miss Davis had been known for her traits in Song. Samples of her art in this field came from a pupil of two great artists, Povla Frijsh and Madel the Grand Prize in the contest for the Interpretation concert and opera with Pierre Monteux, and has since in such places as London, Hamburg, Wichita and appearances in a wide ranging repertoire, both in French composers in their own works.

Hubert Doris at the piano

SIDE ONE

1. **DI QUESTA CETRA (GLUCK)** Recorded live in 1961
Come and listen, God of Love, to my lute full of sweetness and agreeable fancies. And so arresting will be the harmony that every sigh will be immersed in your passionate ardor.
"Parnasso Confuso"
2. **BEL PIACERE (HANDEL)** Recorded live in 1961
Real happiness is to enjoy faithful love. This makes the heart content. The splendor of beauty is without value if it comes not from a faithful heart.
"Agrippina"
3. **MEIN SCHÖNER STERN (SCHUMANN)** Recorded in 1961
My lovely star, I beg you, let not your radiant light be dimmed by my darkness, rather bring my darkness into light. Do not sink to earth because you see me here below, lift me rather into heaven where you already are.
(Franz Rückert)
4. **VIEL GLÜCK ZUR REISE, SCHWALBEN (SCHUMANN)** Recorded in 1961
Much luck on your journey Swallows! You hurry, a long way, to the lovely warm south in joyful, daring flight. I'd like to make the trip once with you, to see the thousand wonders that every country has to show. Still I would always return, no matter how fine each land.
(Elizabeth Kulmann)
5. **IMRE STIMME (SCHUMANN)** Recorded in 1961
Let me read deep in you, conceal nothing from me of the charmed creature who speaks with your voice! So many words press on one's ear without meaning and while they fade are already over. But your voice is heard from far away. I listen to it so eagerly, I forget it with such difficulty. I tremble, catch fire from an all too quick passion. My heart and your voice understand each other perfectly.
(Platen)
6. **DER SCHWAN (GRIEG)** Recorded live in 1959
My swan, my quiet one, with white feathers, your wondrous song betrays no sound. Anxiously worrying about the watersprites below, you circle around and around, listening constantly, and finally you overcome all my doubts at the separation. Yes, then you sing. You leave this earth singing. You were a swan.
(Ibsen)
7. **MIT EINER WASSERLILIE (GRIEG)** Recorded live in 1959
See, Maria, this lily I bring you plucked dreaming from the stream. Wear it near your heart, there on the throne of quiet waves will it blissfully rest. Beware of dreaming by the stream. Fearfully the floods can rise. Watersprites pretend to sleep, lilies play in the depths. Like the stream, your breast is clear, there it is dangerous to dream, lilies play in the depths, watersprites pretend to sleep.
(Ibsen)
8. **DE LOS ALAMOS VENGO, MADRE (RODRIGO)** Recorded live in 1962
I come from the birches mother, to see how the wind blows - the birches of Seville, where my sweet friend lives.
9. **ROMANCE DE LOS PELEGRINITOS (OBRADORS)** Recorded live in 1962
Two pilgrims travel towards Rome to be married by the Pope. The little fellow wears an oilcloth hat, and she, one of velvet. The Pope asks them their names - he is Pedro, she Ana. He asks if they have sinned; she answers she has kissed her sweetheart! The Pope replies, "Marry him quickly, he is a saint, they don't make them like that any more!" The bells of Rome ring for the marriage. - One step between two kisses make the road short!

Songs in New York, the Herald Tribune wrote, testify to the fragile chansons, not heard since the

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... distinctive programs of folk music called "Portraits" be heard on ML 7108. Miss Davis was a favorite of the Grey. In 1958, when living in Paris, she won the French Song. She has sung Melisande both in giving a dozen other orchestra concerts with Monteux in Pittsburgh. She has made many other orchestra appearances in the USA and abroad. She has sung with leading artists, Landowski, Milhaud, and Canteloube.

... recital "a very gifted singer whose voice is