

Eleven Songs On Poems Of Anne Bradstreet, for Soprano and Cello
By James Kallembach

The hardest decision in setting these autobiographical poems of Anne Bradstreet was to truncate some of them due to length. Her poetry, especially these later, private, poems, is by all means enjoyable to the reader in its rambling, epistle like tone. However, songs that were too wordy or too long would not do justice to the profound sentiments expressed. I decided to shorten some of her poems because I felt compelled to set these particular words. I was so drawn to this woman's real and intimate account of the most fundamental tragedies of life. Most of us in the present day are desensitized to things such as the separation caused by "public employment." What is more, many of us are several times removed from the fear of death in childbirth, the dangers of travel overseas, rampant infection and the threat of hunger and malnutrition.

Bradstreet was, to a tiny degree, removed from these things by a relatively good public standing. However, the harsh reality of colonial America and her unforgiving Puritan religion put these squarely in her lap. Indeed, she seemed to struggle with all her being and throughout her whole life to see God in all of these things: both the beautiful and the terrible.

For biographies of the composers and performers, media links, and to follow our blog please visit www.diagenesishduo.com.

diagenesis duo

CPMC Concert Hall

Feb. 6, 2012

12noon

Stravinsky
Salkind-Pearl
Myers
Ordway
Kallembach



Program

(*notes a world premiere)

The Owl and the Pussycat Igor Stravinsky

Hands and Lips of Wind Mischa Salkind-Pearl

- I) Nightfall
- II) In the Lodi Gardens
- III) Exclamaciòn
- IV) Con Los Ojos Cerrados
- V) Madrugada al Raso/Daybreak

Two Songs from the Diagenesis American Folksong Project

* Black is the Color of my True Love's Hair Scott Ordway

* Just Lonesome Aaron Jay Myers

Excerpts from *Eleven Songs On Poems Of Anne Bradstreet* James Kallembach

1. The Prologue
2. Another
- 6a. Recit. "It pleased God to keep me a long time without a child"
- 6b. Upon My Son Samuel His Going for England, Nov. 6, 1657
- 6c. Interlude
- 6d. On My Son's Return Out of England, July 17, 1661
9. Recit. and Song Here Follows Some Verses Upon the Burning of our House July 10th, 1666. Copied Out of a Loose Paper.
10. "While on the stealing stream I fixt mine eye,"
11. As Weary Pilgrim

Program Notes

The Owl and the Pussycat

By Igor Stravinsky

This short twelve tone setting of Edward Lear's poem *The Owl and the Pussycat*, was Stravinsky's last composition. The piece was originally for voice and piano but we have arranged the piece for voice and cello.

Hands and Lips of Wind, for Soprano and Cello

by Mischa Salkind-Pearl

This piece was commissioned in 2010 by the Diagenesis Duo (soprano Heather Barnes and cellist Jennifer Bewerse).

Octavio Paz' poems often display enormously evocative imagery contained in few words. I wanted to bring that spirit to my setting of the five poems in this piece. In particular, these poems move effortlessly between images of light and darkness, motion and stillness. These ideas are potentially very musical. My settings approach the poems as complete entities, emphasizing the prevailing affect of each poem.

Diagenesis American Folksong Project

For our 2012-2013 season we commissioned arrangements for American Folksongs from five different composers. Today you will hear the world premiere of two: *Black is the Color of my True Love's Hair* by Scott Ordway and *Just Lonesome* by Aaron Jay Myers. The remaining songs by Michael Evans, Sidney Samberg, and Ben Irwin will be premiered in Boston in March.