

6-2-78

The Seattle Arts Commission

and

The Seattle Chamber Singers

present

CONTEMPORARY CHORAL MUSIC

by

SEATTLE COMPOSERS

and

GIAN CARLO MENOTTI

University Unitarian Church -- Friday, June 2nd - 8 p.m.

-PROGRAM-

Out Upon It	Carol Sams
The Long Road	Robert Kechley
Sing No Sad Songs	Gerald Kechley
Night Crow	Murl Allen Sanders
Falling Hills	Huntley Beyer

Gian Carlo Menotti's

THE UNICORN

THE GORGON AND THE MANTICORE

or The Three Sundays of a Poet

A Madrigal Fable for Chorus and Instruments

The Unicorn: "No hunter can catch him, but he can be trapped by the following stratagem: a virgin girl is led to where he lurks and there she is sent off by herself into the wood. He soon leaps into her lap when he sees her and embraces her, and hence he gets caught."

The Gorgon: "It is a beast all set over with scales like a dragon, having no haire except on his head, great teeth like Swine, having wings to fly and hands to handle, in stature betwixt a Bull and a Calfe."

The Manticore: "It has a three-fold row of teeth. . . the face of a man with gleaming blood-red eyes. . . a tail like the sting of a scorpion, and a shrill voice which is so sibilant that it resembles the notes of flutes."

(from *The Book of Beasts*)

This is the story of a strange Man in the Castle who was shunned by the Townsfolk for his peculiar ways. When he is seen on Sunday with his Unicorn, the Man in the Castle is mocked by the Townsfolk. But soon, following the lead of the Count and Countess, they imitate him. On the second Sunday, the Man in the Castle appears at a picnic with a Gorgon. To the queries of the Townsfolk as to the fate of the Unicorn, he answers that he grew tired of him and "peppered and grilled him." Soon shocked surprise turns to envy and Gorgons are the rage. On the third Sunday, the Man in the Castle appears with the Manticore and tells the scandalized Townsfolk that the Gorgon died of murder. They again bow to his influence and having secretly disposed of their Gorgons they bring the Manticore into fashion.

When the Man in the Castle is seen no more, the Townsfolk, sure that his Manticore has met the same fate as his other animals, form a committee and march on the Castle to stop the crimes. There they find the Man dying in the company of his three animals. To him, the animals represented the dreams of youth (The Unicorn), manhood (The Gorgon) and old age (The Manticore). These creations were easily adopted and discarded by the Townsfolk as passing whims, but for the Man in the Castle they were the very essence of his life.

INTRODUCTION

INTERLUDE I: *The Dance of the Man in the Castle*

1ST MADRIGAL

INTERLUDE II: *Promenade*

2ND MADRIGAL: *The Townsfolk*

3RD MADRIGAL: *The Man in the Castle with the Unicorn*

4TH MADRIGAL: *The Count and Countess*

INTERLUDE III: *As the Count and the Countess appear with a Unicorn, the Townsfolk stare at them in surprise. Soon everyone in town imitates them until every respectable couple is seen promenading with its own Unicorn.*

5TH MADRIGAL: *The Man in the Castle with the Gorgon*

6TH MADRIGAL: *The Townsfolk and the Man in the Castle*

7TH MADRIGAL: *The Countess has just secretly poisoned her Unicorn.*

INTERLUDE IV: *As the Count and the Countess appear at a picnic with a Gorgon, the Townsfolk stare at them in great surprise. Soon all the Unicorns in town are killed and every respectable couple is now seen promenading a Gorgon.*

8TH MADRIGAL: *The Man in the Castle with the Manticore*

9TH MADRIGAL: *The Townsfolk and the Man in the Castle*

INTERLUDE V: *The Countess secretly stabs her Gorgon*

10TH MADRIGAL: *The Count and Countess*

INTERLUDE VI: *As the Count and the Countess appear with a Manticore, the Townsfolk stare at them in great surprise. Soon all the Gorgons in town are killed and every respectable couple is now seen promenading a Manticore.*

11TH MADRIGAL: *The Townsfolk*

THE MARCH TO THE CASTLE

12TH MADRIGAL: *As they enter the Castle, the Townsfolk see the Man in the Castle lying on his deathbed, surrounded by the Unicorn, the Gorgon and the Manticore.*

SOLOISTS

Carol Sams, soprano

Ann Duncan, second soprano

Nancy Shasteen, alto

The Seattle Chamber Singers

George Shangrow, director

Sopranos

Polly Detels
Ann Duncan
Sue Erber
Carol Sams

Altos

Elizabeth MacWilliams
Nancy Shasteen
Kay Shirey
Kay Verelius

Tenors

Rick Russell
Jerry Sams
Steve Stevens
Dennis Van Zandt

Basses

Bob Crisafulli
Peter Kechley
Robert Kechley

Instrumental Ensemble

Scott Goff	Flute
Peter Velikonja	Oboe
Bob Ingalls	Clarinet
Mark Eubanks	Bassoon
Rick Pressley	Trumpet
Phyllis Allport	Cello
Steve Kerns	String Bass
Beverly Statter	Harp
Dan Dunbar	Percussion

Performance of the Menotti work is by agreement
with the Belwin-Mills Music Publishers.

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