A Survey of Songs for the Flute

PRESENTED BY:
RACHEL BALDWIN
INSTRUMENTAL STUDIES
UNT COLLEGE OF MUSIC

FACULTY MENTOR:
DR. MARY KAREN CLARDY
PROFESSOR OF FLUTE
UNT COLLEGE OF MUSIC

UNT
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS
Discover the power of ideas.
Vocal Transcriptions for the Flute: Why are they important?

- The flute-voice connection:
  - Both lack resistance from a mouthpiece
  - Resonance determined by shape of oral cavity, larynx, tongue and lips

- Melodies develop musical phrasing

- Virtuosic passages develop technical skills

- Awareness of larger musical canon
Gabriel Faure’s *Mai* (1862), transcribed for flute by Dr. Mary Karen Clardy

Score, mm 13-18

- Faure (1845-1924): master of Romantic French art song
- Stepwise motion in melody encourages continuity through musical line
- Exact transcription, with octave displacement
- Inclusion of text in the score helps determine phrasing
Joseph Schwanter’s *Black Anemones* (1991)

**Excerpt from *Black Anemones* by Aquedo Pizarro**

Mother, you watch me sleep
and your life
is a large tapestry
of all the colors
of all the most ancient
murmurs,
knot after twin knot,
root after root of story.

Score, mm 9-10
Franz Schubert’s *Der Lindenbaum* (1873), arranged for flute by Theobald Boehm (published 1980)

-Schubert (1797-1826): master of Romantic German lied, sought to unify poetry and music

-Studying piano and text necessary to understand story progression

-Thick piano texture requires good projection

-Boehm elaborates each stanza, adding modest embellishments

-Techniques include:
  * contrast between duple and triple meter
  * Scales/arpeggios
  * Trills/ornaments

Score, mm 47-50
Theobald Boehm's
_Nel cor piu: Introduction et Variations_

-Boehm (1794-1881): flutist, flute maker, inventor, composer

-Variations of love song from Paisiello’s opera _La Molinara_ (1740)

-Piano provides harmonic support, flute carries musical line

-Must bring theme out of texture

-Single variations may be useful as etudes to target specific techniques

Variation 2, mm. 79-80

Variation 5, m. 149

Variation 6, mm. 175-176
Closing Thoughts

- Intrinsic similarities between flute and voice make transcriptions important
- Other composers include: Beethoven, Bartok, Beaser
- Attaching text to music facilitates phrasing and understanding emotional context
- Arrangements and variations provide opportunities to improve technique
- “Singing” through the flute
Consulted Works


