

THE A. W. MELLON CONCERTS

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

Washington, D. C.

587th Concert

Sunday, February 6, 1955

8:00 P. M.

In The West Garden Court

DAVID BAKER, BARITONE

SYLVIA MEYER, HARP

Program

I.

Troubador Songs

In the brief period roughly from 1100 to 1300 A.D., the troubadors of Southern France created a new art of lyric poems sung by a single voice, combining the styles of Gregorian chant and folksong. The name "troubador" comes from "trobare", to find or invent. Using the language of old Provence, they created melodies still unsurpassed in beauty, and began the era of modern expressive song. They were courtly men, if not always by birth, at least by taste, and their poetry expressed the cult of idealized love of woman which was characteristic of the age, and might almost be called the religion of chivalry. The melodies are taken from the collection by Sesini and Mori -- also the arrangements except as otherwise noted.

Cant par la flor - - - - - Bernat de Ventadorn (1145-1195)
When the flowers appear and I hear the song of birds, my heart
is restored.

Lo roseignolet - - - - - Gaucelm Faidit (1180-1226)
The wild nightingale, who rejoices in love, makes me die with envy,
for she whom I love I do not see. Go to her quickly, my song, and
tell her the great love I bear.

Pos tornaz sui en Proensa - - - - - Peire Vidal (1175-1206)
Since I have returned to Provence and have been accepted by my lady,
I should sing a happy song!

La lauzeta - - - - - Bernat de Ventadorn-arr.Baker
When I see the lark soar in joy, what envy I feel for those who are
happy. Beside my lady, nothing else has value and so I go unhappy
into exile - I know not where.

Jamais nulz tems - - - - - Gaucelm Faidit-arr.Baker
Love has never given me sorrow that it did not make up for in full.

Fort chausa ojatx - - - - - Gaucelm Faidit-arr.Simmons
(Lament for the death of Richard the Lion Heart, 1199)
A grave thing hear ye - such that I should tell it weeping -- that
Richard, King of the English, is dead. Ah God, what a loss!

Ja nos cuich hom - - - - - Folquet de Marseilha (1180-1231)arr.Baker
Let no one think I change heart, for if I have joyed in love,
I am proud of it; yet love holds me in balance and does not want
me to die, so it can kill me more often.

Per dan - - - - - Peirol (1180-1220)arr. Simmons
In spite of the harm love inflicts, I shall preserve joy and
song as long as I live.

I N T E R M I S S I O N

II.

Hebrides Folksong Cycle

The following set of folksongs from the Hebrides Islands was taken
from the Kennedy-Frazer collection and arranged to tell a connected thread
of experience. Arrangements are very nearly as in the collection, except
as otherwise noted.

Altar Isle of the Sea
Mingulay Sea-Rapture
Birlinn of the White Shoulders (a seaman's
song to his boat)
Smuggler's Song
Island Herdmaid (The yarrow is the plant one pulls
on May Day to see how the love course is running)
Skye Fisher's Song
The Wild Swan - arr.Baker
Benbecula Bridal Procession

Land of Heart's Desire
Herdman Night
Uist Cradle Croon
Kishmul's Galley
Caristiona
Sea Longing
Isle of St. Donnan

This concert is broadcast by Station WGMS
and The Good Music Network.