

THE BEAUTY *of the* SONG RECITAL

a short introduction to this special type of chamber music



Schubert accompanying the singer Vogel

A concert of music for voice and piano is one of the most engaging and intimate chamber music occasions a person can attend.

The pianist and singer work closely together to deliver to you delicate pieces of music of the greatest beauty, that in their humour, poignancy, tragedy or pathos touch the soul more directly than any other art form.

The song recital has its origins in German, French and English drawing rooms and parlours in the 19th century, where people would gather round to hear favourite, well-known poetry played by their composer friends at the piano.

Even in the relatively recent past in Canada, it was common to have someone who could play the piano and sing in almost every family, and people regularly gathered together after dinner or on a special Friday or Saturday night to hear beautiful or amusing music played live by their friends around the piano at home.

Today, professional singers and pianists continue this tradition in a chamber music concert setting, drawing their audience close to them and taking them on a special, intimate musical and poetic journey unlike any other.

Kathryn Whitney loves giving song recitals and takes special pleasure in touring to different places to sing for local people. She works hard in rehearsal with her pianist, Charlotte Hale, poring over the text and its accompaniment, trying many different interpretations until they get to the very essence of the song. Kathryn and Charlotte imagine the composer sitting in a study, poem in hand, mulling over the message or story in the text, and they try to reconstruct the second when the poem spoke directly to the composer's heart, causing a flood of beautiful music in the imagination – the magical moment that is hidden in every song.

Whether they are performing music by Schubert, Mahler, Britten, Vaughan Williams, R. Murray Shafer or the parlour music of Flanders & Swann, Kathryn and Charlotte offer audiences the very best in art song performance and interpretation. Their concerts mix tight ensemble playing, expert

musicianship and technical virtuosity with a seemingly limitless spectrum of musical nuance and incredible beauty of sound.

In her friendly spoken introductions to the songs in concert, and in her heartfelt musical delivery, Kathryn Whitney keeps the audience as close as possible to the text, and to the special history behind every song. In this way, her performances remind us of the profundity and complexity—as well as the humour and the lightness—experienced in every life across the centuries, a universality that is nowhere better expressed than in music, and in particular in song.

Described in the press as “sensitive”, “compelling”, “impressive” and “prophetic”, a song recital by Kathryn Whitney is the perfect addition to any chamber music or concert series.

Don't miss this opportunity to spend an evening with some of the world's greatest poetry, set to music by some of the world's greatest composers, interpreted in a special performance in your community by one of Canada's brightest new stars.

Further information:

on Kathryn Whitney

www.kathrynwhitney.net

on art song

<http://www.lottelehmann.org/artsong/>

<http://www.hampsong.com/foundation/>

a wonderful on-line repository of the texts of almost any song

<http://www.recmusic.org/lieder/>

on Canadian composers

<http://www.musiccentre.ca/>