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Faculty Recital: After Dinner Mint: Baroque & Blue

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After Dinner Mint
faculty showcase recital series

Baroque & Blue

Tamara Acosta, soprano
Dann Coakwell, tenor
Rebecca Gilbert, flute
Steven Mauk, alto saxophone
Christin Schillinger, bassoon
Mary Holzhauer, harpsichord and piano
Diane Birr, piano

Hockett Family Recital Hall
Monday, September 18th, 2017
7:00 pm
Program

Ciaccona

*Mary Holzhauer, harpsichord*

Bernardo Storace (fl. 1664)

“Rosa del ciel”
from *L’Orfeo* (1607)

“Fere selvaggie”
from *Le Nuove Musiche* (1602)

“Nigra sum"
from *Vespro della Beata Virgine* (1610)

*Dann Coakwell, tenor*

*Mary Holzhauer, harpsichord*

Claudio Monteverdi (1567–1643)

Giulio Caccini (1551–1618)

Claudio Monteverdi (1567–1643)

“Sposa son disprezzata”
from *Bajazet* (1735)

*Christin Schillinger, bassoon*

*Diane Birr, piano*

Antonio Vivaldi arr. Albie Micklich (1678–1741)

“Ombra mai fù”
from *Serse* (1737)

*Tamara Acosta, soprano*

*Diane Birr, piano*

Georg Friderich Händel (1685–1759)
Aria (1936)  
Eugène Bozza  
(1905-1991)

Steven Mauk, alto saxophone  
Diane Birr, piano

Suite in A minor  
Élisabeth Jacquet de la Guerre  
(1665–1729)
from Pièces de clavessin (1687)
I. Preludio  
II. Allemande  
VI. Gigue  
VII. Chaconne

Mary Holzhauer, harpsichord

Suite for Flute and Jazz Piano (1973)  
Claude Bolling  
(b. 1930)
I. Baroque & Blue  
IV. Fugace  
V. Irlandaise  
VII. Véloce

Rebecca Gilbert, flute  
Mary Holzhauer, piano
Program Notes

The goal of tonight’s program is to explore the different stylistic aspects of what we refer to as “baroque” music. Many of the pieces on the program are compositions from the early-17th century through the early-18th century, the time period we commonly associate with the Baroque Era, although there are a few compositions from the 20th century also included that were heavily influenced by baroque style.

Storace’s Ciaccona opens the program, an example of dance music and ground bass patterns—two of the largest influences on music of that time period. The influence of dance music can also be found in the movements of the Suite in A minor by Élisabeth Jacquet de la Guerre and in Bolling’s Suite for Flute and Jazz Piano at the end of the program.

One of the most important aspects of baroque music was the development of a vocal style which was both dramatic and lyrical, with the middle portion of the program including some of the earliest examples of Italian monody by Giulio Caccini and Claudio Monteverdi (whose 450th anniversary of birth we celebrate this year), including the famous “Nigra sum.” In this music, we hear the first instances of lyrical vocal singing, or what developed into bel canto style, paired with the dramatic influence of rhetorical style and the desire to stir heightened emotions in the listener. The idea of expressing extreme ranges of emotion in a musical outlet is also heard in “Sposa son disprezzata,” (likely by Geminiano Giacomelli, and not Vivaldi) which delves into the complex combination of pain, suffering, and sadness, while Händel’s “Ombra mai fù,” explores the serenity of comfort and consolation. In the 20th century, Eugène Bozza followed in the tradition of these passionate but lyrical arias when composing his Aria, with its haunting melody supported by a steady, harmonically rich accompaniment.

The last two selections may seem entirely different at first, but have several aspects in common, with the most noticeable similarity being that they both feature lilting, swung rhythms. The Suite in A minor is a classic example of French baroque dance music, beginning with an unmeasured prelude and including dances full of graceful agréments and lilting notes inégales. In Claude Bolling’s Suite for Flute and Jazz Piano, similar swung rhythms in the spirit of French jazz are found throughout, while the composer also employs baroque techniques of counterpoint, fugal subject entrances, and ground bass patterns.