

Benjamin Vanderkruk

Mus Conducting Recital

Airs by

the Stream

Works by

Emma Kent Wine

Igor Stravinsky

Thursday December 8, 2022

6:30 PM

Roy Barnett Hall

Airs by the Stream

Skywriting

Emma Kent Wine

Suite - Histoire du Soldat
(The Soldier's Tale)

Igor Stravinsky

1. Marche du soldat
2. Petite Airs au Bord du Ruisseau
3. Pastorale
4. Marche Royale
5. Petit Concert
6. Trois Danses (Tango-Valse-Ragtime)
7. Danse du Diable
8. Grand Choral
9. Marche Triomphale du Diable

In partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Master of Music degree with a major in Wind Conducting under the direction of Dr. Robert Taylor.

We acknowledge that the University of British Columbia is situated on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the Musqueam people

Ensemble Personnel

Clarinet

Felix Rowe

Calgary, AB

Bassoon

Rio Lagos Davison

Saskatoon, SK

Trumpet

Candice Newberry

Woodstock, ON

Trombone

Erik Larson

Winnipeg, MB

Percussion

Jacob Kryger

St. Albert, AB

Violin

Catie Akune

Vancouver, BC

Double Bass

Yefeng Yin

Vancouver, BC

Program Notes

Skywriting (2017) - Emma Kent Wine

Skywriting was written for the Deviant Septet in January of 2017 and revised in 2022. I've always been particularly drawn to the sky, and I am fortunate to have grown up in Tucson, Arizona under many a spectacular sunset. I live in Texas now, and I continue to be blessed with big skies and Toy Story clouds. This piece evokes everything I love about nature's Great Above, the sky and the sun: colored wisps of vapor high in the ether at dawn to threatening storm clouds that develop before our eyes and expansive formations that transform a sunset; planes gaining speed and taking off into the beyond and the wondrous tranquility that comes from seeing the tops of clouds spread out above the earth as we're suspended above it, traveling somewhere new and undiscovered yet already full of nostalgia for what we've left behind. –Emma Kent Wine

Suite-Histoire du soldat (1918) - Igor Stravinsky

Igor Stravinsky (1882-1971) was born into a very musical family, with his father being one of Russia's most prolific bass-baritone and his mother being an amateur singer and pianist as well. He lived in Russia for 27 years where he grew close with the Rimsky-Korsakov family and studied with Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov (1844-1908), with whom he gained a deep understanding and foundation in Russian music. Stravinsky became interested in the musical happening of Paris and was soon commissioned by Sergei Diaghilev to write for the Ballet Russes where his three major ballets *L'Oiseau de Feu* (1910), *Pétrouchka* (1911), and *Le Sacre du printemps* (1913) came to life. In 1914, Stravinsky moved to Lausanne, Switzerland where he met French-Swiss writer Charles Ferdinand Ramuz (1878-1947) who worked closely with Stravinsky to translate his ballet/cantata *Les Noces* (1914) to French and write the libretto for his opera/ballet *Renard* (1916).

Following the events of the Bolshevik Coup in Russia in 1917, Stravinsky's Russian identity was irrevocably shaken and he decided to compose a theatrical work with Ramuz that would help reconnect him with his roots and express his frustration with the new Russian regime. They used an old Russian folktale by Alexander Afanasyev called "The Runaway Soldier and the Devil," and adapted it into a short theatrical work for a small orchestra and actors that could be performed in smaller performance spaces and with limited budget. With Stravinsky writing the music and Ramuz writing the text, they created *Histoire du soldat* which was premiered on September 28, 1918 at the Théâtre Municipal de Lausanne with Ernest Ansermet (1883-1969) conducting and the set design completed by painter René Auberjonois (1872-1957).

Program Notes

Suite-Histoire du soldat (cont.)

Histoire du soldat was written with two versions in mind: to be performed with Ramuz's full text and all movements of the music, or for the suite of nine movements of music to be performed alone. Ramuz's text depicts the story of a soldier marching home when he stops by a stream to play his fiddle and is approached by the devil, who offers to buy his fiddle in exchange for a book that contains untold wealth. The soldier realizes that the book can show events in the future, so the devil offers to take him home for three days where they can each teach the other the secrets of the fiddle and the book. After the three days, the soldier returns home and finds that instead of three days, he was gone for three years and now seems like a ghost to his family. The devil reminds him that the book can provide all the wealth he needs to make up for him losing his family and loved ones, but the soldier soon finds that the material wealth means nothing compared to the happiness he had before. The devil disguises himself as a peddler and sells the soldier his violin back, only for it to not make a sound, leaving him distraught.

In the second part of the piece, the soldier marches towards a palace where the King's daughter is ill and whoever can heal her will have her hand in marriage. Upon reaching the palace gates, the soldier once again encounters the devil who offers to release his control over him if he loses all his money to the devil in a game of cards. The plan works and the soldier is once again able to play his fiddle and is free of the devil. He runs into the castle and starts to play his violin for the princess who becomes magically healed before the devil appears and attacks the couple. The soldier is able to defeat the devil by playing his fiddle, but before the devil leaves he warns him that if he should leave the palace, the devil would take control of him again. The piece ends with the soldier marching away from the palace, with hopes to truly "have it all" with his princess and his family back home, but the devil is waiting for him and he loses everything.

**You must not seek to add
To what you have, what you once had;
You have no right to share
What you are with what you were.**

**No one can have it all,
That is forbidden.
You must learn to choose between.**

**One happy thing is every happy thing:
Two, is as if they had never been.**