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PROGRAM NOTES

A companion piece to Schubert's *Shepherd on the Rock*, *The Shepherd's Lot* is a set of three songs (with an Intermezzo for piano as the third movement) employing three poems by William Blake. The European Concert Trio gave the first three performances in February 2016.

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TEXTS

The Shepherd

How sweet is the Shepherd's sweet lot!
From the morn to the evening he strays;
He shall follow his sheep all the day,
And his tongue shall be filled with praise.

For he hears the lambs' innocent call,
And he hears the ewes' tender reply;
He is watchful while they are in peace,
For they know when their Shepherd is nigh.

Love's Secret

Never seek to tell thy love,
Love that never told can be;
For the gentle wind doth move
Silently, invisibly.

I told my love, I told my love,
I told her all my heart,
Trembling, cold, in ghastly fears.
Ah! she did depart!

Soon after she was gone from me,
A traveller came by,
Silently, invisibly:
He took her with a sigh.

Spring

Sound the flute!
Now it's mute.
Bird's delight
Day and night;
Nightingale
In the dale,
Lark in sky,
Merrily,
Merrily merrily, to welcome in the year.

Little boy,
Full of joy;
Little girl,
Sweet and small;
Cock does crow,
So do you;
Merry voice,
Infant noise,
Merrily, merrily, to welcome in the year.

Little lamb,
Here I am;
Come and lick
My white neck;
Let me pull
Your soft wool;
Let me kiss
Your soft face;
Merrily, merrily, we welcome in the year.

William Blake (1757–1827)

Commissioned by Harald Gibson for the European Concert Trio
in memory of Phyllis J. Gibson

The Shepherd's Lot

for Soprano, Clarinet, and Piano

William Blake
(1757–1827)

Paul Gibson
(b. 1952)

1. The Shepherd

With a gentle lilt ♩ = c. 106

The musical score is arranged in three staves: Soprano, Bb Clarinet, and Piano. The key signature is C major and the time signature is 3/4. The tempo is marked 'With a gentle lilt ♩ = c. 106'. The Soprano part is mostly rests. The Bb Clarinet part begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic, followed by a mezzo-piano (*mp*) section with a triplet of eighth notes. The Piano part starts with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic, featuring a steady accompaniment in the bass and chords in the treble. A large watermark 'Review Copy - Illegal Only' is overlaid diagonally across the score.

13

mf

19

mp Sweet! *mp* How

mp

25

sweet, *mf* how sweet is the Shep-herd's sweet

mp *mf*

2. Love's Secret

Adagio ♩ = 55

Soprano

B♭ Clarinet

Piano

pp *p* *p*

p *mp*

pedal harmonically

7 *mp legato* *mf*

Nev - er seek, nev - er seek — to tell — thy

mp *mp* *mf*

12 *mp* *mf* *mp*

love, — Love that nev - er told can — be; — For the gen -

17

tle wind doth move — Si - lent - ly, in - vis - i - bly, si - lent -

mp *p* *pp*

22

- ly, in - vis - i - bly. I told

pp *p*

27

my love, I told, told my love,

mp

3. Intermezzo

Andante ♩ = 90

Musical notation for measures 1-6. The piece is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The tempo is Andante with a quarter note equal to 90 beats per minute. The first system consists of two staves. The right hand starts with a whole rest, while the left hand plays a series of chords and eighth notes. Dynamic markings include *pp* (pianissimo) at the beginning and *p* (piano) later in the system.

Musical notation for measures 7-11. The right hand features a melodic line with slurs and ties, while the left hand continues with accompaniment. Dynamic markings include *pp* (pianissimo) and *mp* (mezzo-piano).

Musical notation for measures 12-15. The right hand has a melodic line with a slur and a dynamic marking of *mf* (mezzo-forte). The left hand provides a steady accompaniment.

Musical notation for measures 16-18. The right hand has a melodic line with a slur and a dynamic marking of *f* (forte). The left hand continues with accompaniment.

Musical notation for measures 19-22. The right hand has a melodic line with a slur and a dynamic marking of *f* (forte). The left hand continues with accompaniment.

4. Spring

Light, quick, buoyant ♩ = 140

The musical score is written in 3/4 time and consists of three systems. The first system (measures 1-6) features a vocal line with rests and a piano accompaniment with triplets and a mezzo-forte (*mp*) dynamic. The second system (measures 7-12) includes the lyrics "Sound the flute! Now it's mute." with dynamics ranging from *f* to *pp*. The third system (measures 13-18) includes the lyrics "*Birds de-light Day and night; Nigh - night - in - gale In the dale," with dynamics from *mf* to *p* and a *non legato* marking. The piano part features intricate textures with triplets and sixteenth-note patterns.

* The words "Birds," "Nightingale," and "Lark" are intentionally misspelled for musical effect.

