



Fifteen Minutes of Fame for Eugène Van Itterbeek by Georgeta Stoleriu and Violetta Stefanescu

GEORGETA STOLERIU soprano studied piano at the Music High School "Dinu Lipatti" and graduated from the Bucharest Music Academy in the class of Professor Iolanda Marculescu. Since the beginning of her career was devoted to interpreting vocal-symphonic and chamber music. She has toured in Poland, Bulgaria, Hungary, Yugoslavia, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland, Holland, Germany, Italy, Czech Republic, Moldova, Morocco, USA, France, Portugal, Austria, Sweden.

Pianist VIOLETTA STEFANESCU holds a Ph.D. in MUSICOLOGY Lect. Degree - The National University of Music BUCHAREST, with a thesis: "The exoticism in French Piano Music from the 1st half of the 20th Century. Violetta studied piano at the National University of Music, Bucharest with Constantin Ionescu, Vovu and Veronica Gaspar; chamber music with Serban Nichifor at the G. Enescu and D. Lipatti High School of Music, Bucharest and has participated in master classes with Alain Planes, Claude Bessmann, and Dalton Baldwin in France and Romania Violetta Stefanescu has recorded: The complete piano music of Gabriel Fauré; The complete piano music of Francis Poulenc ; The complete piano music of Darius Milhaud

The music and lyrics will be based on the poem BIENTOT by Eugène Van Itterbeek.

Suddenly, On the Ground Misty (Unsolicited)

Rodrigo Baggio a guitarist and composer from Brazil, has been performed in many cities around the world such as São Paulo, Brasilia and Tatuí (Brazil), Paris (France), Quebec (Canada), Bremen (Germany), London (England), New York and Vermont (USA). As a performer, he has played concerts in different countries of the globe. Piece written from a parallel format of the poem from Eugène Van Itterbeek, using some phrases and words in repetition, in order to demonstrate the outcry of a person who is dying but does not accept that situation.

9 Syllable Elegy

A prize-winning pianist based in New York, David Brooks has performed across Europe and North America, and is especially known as a champion for new music. As a composer and transcriber, he works to bring the next generation of piano and chamber music to audiences all over the world. 9 Syllable Elegy concentrates on only the first line of Van Itterbeek's poem, obsessing over and re-ordering the words. This Vox Novus submission became the seed which eventually became a complete song cycle: First Steps, where each song therein is based exclusively upon the opening lines of poems.

Bientôt

Sheila Forrester is a Canadian composer who received a D.Mus in Composition and Ph.D. in Music Theory from Florida State University. Sheila's musical awards include First Prize in Jihlava's International Choral Competition, Leo M. Traynor's Search for New Viol Music, and a Recording Grant in the Contemporary Record Society. "Bientôt" is an adaptation of Eugène Van Itterbeek's poem of the same title. I chose to set the beginning and end portions of the poem because they seemed coherent and represented my understanding of the poem: a person's last thoughts before passing away.

Première laine

Only quite recently I started to take my composition activities further. Until now this resulted in a number of commissionings, and two prizes: in a Dutch national contest for choir a capella (2011), and the first prize of the 'Oberon Spring Composition Contest 2013', Richmond (VA). I decided to concentrate on the longing of the soul, that precipitates from above to reunite itself with its other half (or self), in the total innocence and surrender van Itterbeek depicts so beautifully.

Dans le Silence

Fermino Gomes (Patos, PB, Brasil) studied theory with Gazi Sa and João de Barro at Caipira University of Paraíba (UNICPB), Brazil. As well as an active composer, Fermino performs on the viola (Brazilian 10 string-folk guitar) regularly. Fermino currently lives in New York City. Dans le silence explores the setting of Van Itterbeek's poem, its time and place; the ultimate corporeal sensation before departing from this world to the next: the sound of bells, a fanfare to the opening of the gates of heaven. In the morning silence bell sounds At the first dawn

And Sleep Once More

Collin Gosper is studying a Bachelor of Music (Composition) at the University of Sydney Conservatorium of Music. Originally a songwriter he has furthered his love for music into the realm of Composition. He believes in the honesty and beauty that the intricacies of music provide. This piece is based on the mournful nature in which ones soul is deferred. As White Angels watch through pure moonlight we see pure life yet when we feel resignation to what we hold dear, the beauty of life fades in its shades of white to grey and to black.

Soon

I'm a self-taught 22 years old composer and amateur singer. I like opening up performers' soul through compositions inspired by their individuality. It's amazing how great musicians can bring listeners closer to higher things through beautiful music. I hope this piece will make listeners want to read more Eugène Van Itterbeek's poems and keep its beauty in their hearts. I imagined Georgeta expressing the deepest feelings of every single line through her breathtaking voice and Violetta perfectly creating a magical atmosphere of this poem (english translation).

Méditation

Francis Kayali is a Franco-American composer currently living in the San Francisco Bay area. Recent performances include Croquis du Nil by the Charleston Symphony Orchestra and "Ravenous" by the Parhelion Trio. The subject matter and imagery of Eugène van Itterbeek's poem seemed to readily call for a musical setting that would evoke French nineteenth century chansons – the music of Gabriel Fauré in particular – which is the style I sought to emulate here.

Mon Âme

Alexander Kuszyk started taking piano lessons when he was 4 years old. He has composed for piano since elementary school. Now, at 19 years of age, Alexander is pursuing a career as a professional road cyclist as well as a degree in both art history and music. Mon Âme is a waltz based on Eugène Van Itterbeek's poem, Bientot. The powerful first two measures set the piece in motion. It is an emotionally stirring piece with moving verses from the poem.

Bientot

While studying electronics in Tokyo on a Japanese Government scholarship, composer-vocalist Akmal Parwez studied composition with Yasushi Akutagawa and Klaus Pringsheim. After completing his university studies (B.E., M.E.), he felt compelled to devote his life to composing, singing and teaching music. In the U.S. he studied composition with Florence Jolley, Leo Kraft, Samuel Adler (M.A., Queens College; Ph.D., Eastman School of Music). This short setting of 'Bientot' by the late Flemish expatriate Eugene Van Itterbeek - who was a professor of French literature in Romania for a number of years - is composed specifically for soprano Georgeta Stoleriu and pianist Violetta Stefanescu.

BIENTÔT

ADRIAN POP (b. Cluj, Romania, September 10, 1951) An outstanding personality of the Romanian musical life, Adrian Pop studied composition at the Music Adacemy in Cluj, Romania. Recipient of numerous prizes and distinctions in his native land and abroad, among which: Romanian Academy Prize (1996), Cultural Merit Ordre (2008), the French Ordre des Arts et des Lettres (2012). The pentatonic melody, the breathing phrases and the consonant harmony – here and then slightly altered by dissonant notes: a morning feeling, where the sense of imminent death is quietly dissolved in the image of the soul passing to the hands of the beloved, like a distant ringing of bells.

Misty

Dave Ramsey graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Parkside in 2009 with a degree in voice. Since then he has been composing for ensembles of all sizes, and teaching voice and piano at the University of Wisconsin-Rock County, where the Rock Prairie Chamber Orchestra has premiered several of his works. What complements the french language better than impressionistic harmonies? The concept that stuck out in this poem was not the sense of urgency, but the juxtaposed concept of suspension. Lying on the ground misty."

Soon

Canadian composer Jana Skarecky has written music for solo voice, choir, a variety of instruments, and orchestra. Her music has been performed on four continents. Her opera "Emily, the Way You Are" about artist Emily Carr continues to be enthusiastically received by audiences. Jana is also a visual artist. Death is coming – but there is no fear in returning to the source of one's being. The sound of the bell at dawn can evoke many feelings – a solemn remembrance of a soul passing, a transformation, a celebration of what is to come.

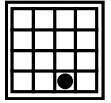
Bientôt

Pasquale Tassone was a resident at the Atlantic Center for the Arts, where he worked with the composer, Olly Wilson. In June 2004, some of Tassone's choral music was performed at the Artama Choral Festival in the Czech Republic. Currently Tassone is working on his first opera. Perceived as an Impressionistic soliloquy, my setting of Eugène Van Itterbeek Bientot utilizes the following lines from his poem.

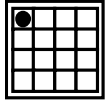
Bientôt

Christopher M. Wicks holds a MM in Composition from the University of Montreal, and is a Fellow of the American Guild of Organists. His music has been extensively performed in North America, besides performances in Europe and Korea. He is the organist at Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Salem, Oregon, USA. The language of van Itterbeek's poem is deeply evocative, oblique and deliciously unpredictable. I have sought to mirror these qualities in the musical language of my setting of four lines of the poem "Bientot," ending with a thrilled glimpse of the dawn ("aube...").

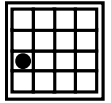
Rodrigo Baggio



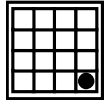
David Brooks



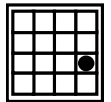
Sheila Forrester



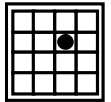
Paul Gelsing



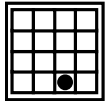
Fermino Gomes



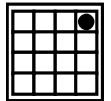
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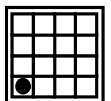
Anna Imaykina



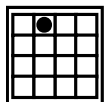
Francis Kayali



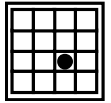
Alexander Kuszyk



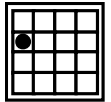
Akmal Parwez



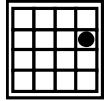
Adrian Pop



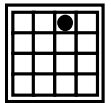
Dave Ramsey



Jana Skarecky



Pasquale Tassone



Christopher M. Wicks

