

University of Texas at El Paso

From the SelectedWorks of Elisa Fraser Wilson

November 9, 2006

Faculty Recital

Elisa Fraser Wilson, *University of Texas at El Paso*



SELECTEDWORKS™

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THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO DEPARTMENT OF

Music

PRESENTS

Faculty Recital Series

Dominic Dousa, composer/piano

with

Elisa Fraser Wilson, mezzo-soprano

Lesley Chen, violin

Thursday, November 9th, 2006
Fox Fine Arts Recital Hall 7:30pm

PROGRAM

Winter in the Country (1999)

Dominic Dousa (b. 1973)

- I. Rubato, molto moderato
- II. Allegro energico
- III. Poco andante
- IV. Brillante
- V. *Evening Song*. Con moto, tranquillo
- VI. Allegretto con spirito
- VII. Rubato, moderato

Dominic Dousa, piano

INTERMISSION

Dream Land (2000)

- I. Echo
- II. A Birthday
- III. Remember
- IV. Dream Land

Poetry by Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)

Elisa Fraser Wilson, mezzo-soprano
Dominic Dousa, piano

Views from the Hills and Valleys (2002)

Lesley Chen, violin
Dominic Dousa, piano

PROGRAM NOTES

Winter in the Country

Composed Winter 1996-1997, December 1998-January 1999; Ames, IA / Rochester, MN / Mt. Pleasant, MI
Performance Time: Approximately 28 minutes

Though parts or all of the second, third, and fourth pieces in this suite were written independently as early as the winter of 1996-97, much of the suite was composed between Christmas of 1998 and the first week of the following new year. During this time, I spent my days hiking and driving through my beloved countryside — the river valleys and prairies of southeast Minnesota — and working on the pieces at night. The music reflects the various feelings inspired by my experiences of the country in wintertime, as well as the sentiments I associate with the rural Midwest: a sense of simple beauty, nostalgia, goodness, reassurance, and optimism.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Dominic Dousa, a native of Rochester, Minnesota, joined the faculty of the University of Texas at El Paso Department of Music in August of 2004. He holds degrees in music from Ball State University (D.A., 2003), Central Michigan University (M.M., 2000), and Harvard University (A.B. summa cum laude, 1995) and in statistics from Iowa State University (M.S., 1998). He also has studied composition in Prague (1995-96). His primary composition teachers include Jody Nagel, David Gillingham, Craig Weston, and Milan Slavický. Before coming to UTEP, Dr. Dousa held teaching positions at St. Mary's University in Winona, MN (aural skills, music appreciation) and Rochester (MN) Community and Technical College (business & economic statistics).

Dr. Dousa's compositions have received performances in the U.S., Canada, Mexico, Peru, China, the Czech Republic, and Finland. Events where his works have been presented include the 2006 College Music Society National Conference in San Antonio, the 2000 World Saxophone Congress in Montreal, the 7th Annual Bach Festival in Trujillo, Peru (2000), and a concert series in Toluca, Mexico that was sponsored in part by the Mexican Institute of Culture (2001). Two of Dousa's song cycles, *With a Song in My Heart* and *Six Songs on the Poetry of Langston Hughes*, have been recorded by baritone Gerald J. Blanchard (with Dousa at the piano) and released on the CD "With a Song in My Heart" by Blue Griffin Recording. This CD features art songs set to texts of African American poets. Currently, Dousa is Composer-in-Residence for the El Paso Symphony Youth Orchestras.

This past September, Dousa presented a lecture-recital at Texas Tech University for the international conference *Schumann Perspectives: A View Across the Disciplines*, which commemorated the 150th anniversary of Robert Schumann's death. His presentation included an explanation of an original theoretical technique for analyzing key relationships, along with an analysis and performance of Schumann's suite for viola and piano, *Märchenbilder*, Op. 113.

In addition to his activities as teacher and composer, Dousa has remained active as an accompanist and chamber musician.

Elisa Fraser Wilson is Assistant Professor of Voice and Music Theatre at UTEP, where she teaches applied voice and directs both the Women's Glee Club and the Music Theatre Company. Dr. Wilson holds a doctoral degree in choral conducting and literature from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, as well as degrees in music education and performance from the University of Illinois and Wichita State University (KS).

Prior to moving to El Paso in 1998, Dr. Wilson taught choral music at Champaign Central High School in Champaign, Illinois. She has worked with young people in music since 1986, directing summer musical theater programs and community youth choirs and providing individual voice instruction. Former employers include the Decatur, Illinois Recreation Department, Millikin University (IL), and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Dr. Wilson is also an active performer with experience in a variety of musical styles, including opera, musical theater, jazz, and popular music. Since moving to the El Paso area, she has appeared with the UTEP Union Dinner Theater, the UTEP Theater and Opera Departments, the UTEP jazz bands, the El Paso Chamber Choir, and the El Paso Opera Company. Noteworthy appearances include performances with the El Paso Opera Company as Annina in *La Traviata*, and with the UTEP Union Dinner Theater as Eva Peron in *Evita* and Victoria Grant in *Victor/Victoria*.

Lesley Chen was born and raised near Boston, Massachusetts, and enjoys a diverse musical career. She holds a Bachelor of Music degree and a Graduate Performance Diploma in violin performance from the Peabody Conservatory of Music, and a Master of Music degree in violin performance from the University of California at Santa Barbara. Her principal teachers include Yuval Yaron, Shirley Givens, Marylou Speaker-Churchill, Magdalena Richter, and Melba Sandberg. Also a composer, she has studied with Rodney Lister and Chen Yi.

For three years, Ms. Chen was a member of the Young Artists String Quartet at UC Santa Barbara. An active advocate of new music, she has collaborated with and premiered works by many contemporary composers, and has been a performer with the Peabody Camerata in Baltimore as well as the Ensemble for Contemporary Music and the Current Sounds New Music Consortium in Santa Barbara. As an orchestral musician, she has held positions in the Santa Barbara Chamber Orchestra, the Santa Barbara Symphony, and the Annapolis Symphony Orchestra.

Currently, Ms. Chen teaches at the El Paso Conservatory of Music and performs with the El Paso Symphony, El Paso Opera, and the Las Cruces Symphony. She is also Administrative Director of the El Paso Symphony Youth Orchestras.

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