Art Music, Folk Music and Opera of Israel

Orit A Eylon, University of Texas at El Paso
Music

Presents

UTEP Faculty Recital Series

Art Music, Folk Music, Opera of Israel

Influence from the Eastern and Western World

Dr. Orit Eylon, mezzo-soprano

Elvira Spector, piano

Sunday, October 14th, 2007
Fox Fine Arts Recital Hall
2:30 p.m.
Two Arias from Alexandra
Act I Scene 2
Alexandria appears, accompanied by Rabbi Avdimon. They discuss the final plans for the revolt. Rabbi Avdimon reads the letter in which Alexandra asks the Parthian king, sworn enemy of the Romans and of their servant Herod, to waste no time in sending her the promised military aid.

Rabbi Avdimon has doubts as to the success of the venture, so Alexandra describes the country’s suffering and distress in moving words—“oh my woeful, hopeless land!” There can be no more delaying. Alexandria prepares for the last night of Chanuka to be the beginning of the revolt.

Alexandria then commands that all the household be gathered together for the ceremony of the lighting of the first Chanuka candle.

Text
Umahu cheshbon kol Yisrael, Rabi
What remote disaster can rebellion bring?
Kama avarot uchfarim hayu letilei choravot!
A score of my hamlets and towns were razed by the tyrannous king
Geverim venashim nimkeru lishfachot
and the people were sold in the market-place as slaves!
Benei neichar yoshvim beneita haaretz
The cruel stranger rules in my wretched homeland.
Ho, artsi haumla
Oh, My woeful, hapless land!
La tinok nae sheyad aritisim
O lovely babe, belaboured by knaves!
hitila oto lisvach shel ketsim
O fountain of life, filled up with our graves!
Kotsim bayadayim baraglayim
Your torments have pierced my heart with anguish.
Besifti behe bishmurot hacinayim
They are painful thorns under which I must languish.
Halo higi mayim ad nefesh, banai
I cannot bear their pain any longer—not I.
Eich nisa zot vead matai
Why then be patient and not reply,
Imru li, ad Matai
Why then, why? Tell me why?
Dr. Orit Eylon, Mezzo soprano, is an Assistant Professor of Voice and received a Doctorate of Musical Arts degree from the University of Texas at Austin and her MM and BM degrees from Indiana University.

In 2005 Dr. Eylon was invited by the University of Texas at El Paso as a visiting assistant professor of voice, pedagogy and voice class. Since her relocation, Dr. Eylon became a frequent performer with the El Paso Opera. The Roles she performed with EPO include Antonia's Mother and Flora. Her Flora was considered by the El Paso Times, “A First-rate contribution to the success of La Traviata” in October of 2006. Other operatic roles performed include First and Second Lady in The Magic Flute, Antigone in Carl Orff’s Antigonae, Zita in Gianni Schicchi, Larina in Eugene Onegin, and Arnalta in Coronation of Poppea to name a few.

With the Austrian American Mozart Academy in Salzburg, Austria, she performed the leading roles of Countess in Marriage of Figaro and Vitellia in Clemenza di Tito and recently served as faculty for the 2006 program. In addition to Austria, Dr. Eylon has performed extensively as a recitalist in Italy and Germany and was recently invited to present this recital and as well as teach master classes at the Academy of the Performing Arts (Hong Kong) and Hong Kong University in the fall of 2007.

Elvira Spector (piano) was born in Minsk, Belarus in the former Soviet Union. She received her B.A. and M.A. from the University of Minsk cuma sum laude. Mrs. Spector worked for eleven years as an accompanist for the Opera Theatre and as piano teacher at the University of Minsk. In 1989 she immigrated to Israel and continued her career as accompanist, performer, and piano teacher. As of 2001 she resides in El Paso, Texas and continues teaching, performing and as accompanist at the UTEP voice department.
Opera and Art Song of Israel. Historical overview and Eastern Mediterranean style of composition

Two Arias from Alexandra (1952) ................................................................. Menachen Avidom
Four Songs of Eilat (1956) ................................................................. Menachen Avidom (1908-1995)

Intermission

Folk genre of Israeli music

Twelve Songs of Land ................................................................... arranged by Menachem Wiesenber (b.1950)

1. Caravan
2. To the Desert
3. Lights out
4. What say your eyes
5. Fallen Leaves
6. My Beloved Is Mine
7. Whither your Beloved
8. Song of Land
9. Charm of Lullabies
10. Night by Night
11. Eli Eli
12. The Hyacinth