

CURT CACIOPPO

Songs With & Without Words

Mary Bonhag, soprano
Paul Orgel, pianist

*a cycle of 8 songs
for Sharon Lamb and Paul Orgel
in memory of their son Julian Emil (1992-2018)
on texts by Lamb, Cacioppo and Chekhov*

duration ca. 27 minutes

CURT CACIOPPO: *Songs With & Without Words*

I. Sharon's Song (piano alone)

II. The Heron

The heron stands
In the middle of the driveway.
Great. Blue.

You, still here.

The mouse jumps on the couch
For popcorn.
Brave. Alert.

You, still here.

The crow wakes me in the morning.
I slept in your bed.
A joke. Caw.

You, still here.

You can't be gone.
You must be here.

-- Sharon Lamb
(*versification: Curt Cacioppo*)

III. God will pity us

What can we do?
We must live out our lives.
Yes, we shall live.
We shall live through the endless procession of days ahead of us,
and through the long evenings.
We shall bear patiently the burdens that fate imposes on us.
We shall work without rest for others, both now and when we are old.
And when our final hour comes, we shall meet it humbly,
and there beyond the grave, we shall say that we have known
suffering and tears, that our life was bitter.
And God will pity us.

-- Chekhov
(*Sonya's monologue in Uncle Vanya,*
TCG Classic Russian Drama Series translation)

IV. Julian's Song (piano alone)

V. The Stone

The stone – chosen, set, engraved,
naming you forever,
to your time granting permanence – weeps.
Tears drain from its base. Wasserflut.

Your friends leave smiling signs of remembrance;
your mother etches today's orison on a bough of driftwood.

A fawn – nimble, trusting, affable,
prances toward us,
offers its blithesome company – lifts
for a moment the weight of our woe,
the always of gone,
the soon of same once briefly irreplaceable.

Wasserflut.

-- Curt Cacioppo
(after a post of Sharon Lamb)

VI. Useless things

There's his furniture in the garage and his clothing in his room.
The book of warnings and encouragements I made for him when he was 17.
His wallet. A cigarette stub. A guitar pick.
How can these useless things live on?
And music.

-- Sharon Lamb
(versification: Curt Cacioppo)

VII. father sounds the chord

your father sounds the chord
your father sounds the chord
your father
your father
your father sounds the chord
sounds the chord
your father sounds the chord
sounds the chord
sounds the chord
father sounds the chord
sounds the chord
sounds the chord

pulling away
voice pulling away
voice pulling away
 away
 away

the chord
sounds your father
the chord
your father
the chord sounds
your father

-- Curt Cacioppo

VIII. Carmina fiant (piano alone)

Recorded at University of Vermont School of the Arts Recital Hall, Burlington, VT
December 19-20, 2023. Engineered, mixed and edited by Dan Rome with additional post-
production by Curt Cacioppo. About the performers:
<http://www.marybonhagsoprano.com/> <http://www.paulorgel.com/>

Score:



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