

DOLCI BY THE BAY

Concert No. 43

Ted Rust, English horn – Viva Knight, piano

Works for English Horn and Piano

The English Horn is neither: it belongs to the oboe family, not the horns, and originated in Breslau, now part of Poland, about 1720, when members of the Weigel family of oboe makers put a bulb-shaped bell on an *oboe da caccia* and named it the *Engellisches* (angelic) horn. Solo music for the instrument soon became associated with pastoral scenes, at least since Rossini's *William Tell Overture*. Bozza and Carter used it in this vein without apparent irony. Marie de Grandval's prelude and waltz, however, are purely Parisian salon music, without a sign of sheep or thunderstorms in her elegant waltzes and Mazurkas.



Cartoon by Gerard Hoffnung express a richly nuanced, generally cheerful view of the world. This Pastoral was written in 1940 for Josef Marx and performed on a postwar concert tour by Carter and Mitch Miller. Its slow 5/8 outer sections seem an almost reverent walk by two friends above Yosemite Valley, while its jazz-like 2/4 interludes suggest high-spirited banter along the trail, ending in a race, perhaps, back to the Ahwanee bar.

Pastoral

Elliott Carter (1908-2012)

Elliott Cook Carter, Jr. was twice awarded the Pulitzer Prize. He deserves to be remembered for the beauty of his music, notwithstanding its legendary difficulty. Its intricate, many-layered rhythms and harmonies provided him a language to

Prelude et valse lente

Marie de Grandval (1828-1907)

Marie, Vicomtesse de Grandval, was an accomplished and critically acclaimed French composer, and a generous supporter of other composers. To avoid scandalizing her titled family she published mostly under pseudonyms and little of her work is now available. She dedicated this *Prélude and Slow Waltz* to her friend Georges Gillet of the Paris Opera, who was especially renowned for his beautiful tone and expressive playing on the *cor Anglais*. When a Mazurka pops up in the middle of the waltz, she may have been paying tribute to the Polish origins of her teacher Chopin.

Divertissement

Eugène Bozza (1905-1991)

Eugene Joseph Bozza was born in Nice, France, to an artistic and musical French-Italian family. He served as conductor of the Ballets Russe and the Opéra-Comique, and then became director of the Ecole Nationale de Musique. He composed prolifically in most genres and was known for his light and witty but technically demanding recital pieces for winds. This *Divertissement* from 1939 opens with the *cor Anglais* playing its traditional role of peaceful shepherd, harking back to the introduction of Rossini's *William Tell Overture*. Its four short movements get progressively livelier, ending in a romp and a pratfall.

NEXT CONCERT: JANUARY 23 AT AQUATIC PARK