

Anaconda: “This titan of his race: in water waits and watches—graceful giant of the Amazon.”

Green Grass Snake: “A sunlit emerald shimmering to tease the eye; a parting of the grass—this ribbon passes by.”

Asp: “Regal viper of the Nile, whose kiss was once the mode of death for Egypt’s queen.”

Johannes Brahms, the great German Romantic composer, wrote these songs in 1886, after his fourth and last symphony. He devoted the remaining decade of his career mainly to songs and chamber music.

Salamander, text by Carl von Lemcke

A salamander sat on a cool rock;
Then a malicious girl threw it into the fire.
She thought it would burn up
But it just began to feel good –
Just as I, a cool devil, get a good feeling
From fiery love.

The Girl Speaks, text by Otto Friedrich Gruppe

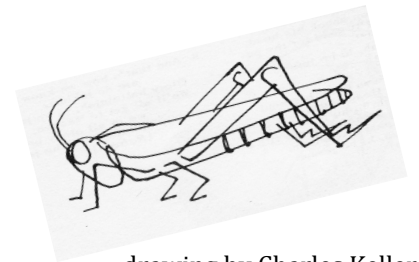
Swallow, tell me, was it with your old husband
That you built your nest,
Or was it just recently that you entrusted yourself to
him?
Tell me, what do the two of you twitter about?
Tell me what do the two of you whisper so
confidentially in the morning?
I bet you haven’t been married long either!



DOLCI BY THE BAY
CONCERT NO. 9

Music of Gardens and Creatures
April 19, 2013

Ted Rust, oboe — Viva Knight, piano



drawing by Charles Keller

PROGRAM

Gardens (1968) Peter Schickele (1935-)
Morning
Noon
Night

Insect Pieces Benjamin Britten (1913-1976)
The Grasshopper
The Wasp

Serpent Music Michael Kibbe (1945-)
Python
Cobra
Anaconda
Green Grass Snake
Asp

From Five Songs, opus 107
Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)
#2. Salamander
#3. The Girl Speaks (To a Swallow)

**Coming this Fall —
9 Friday Concerts at 12:30 pm (new time!)
September 13-November 8**

**First Concert September 13, 2013:
Piano Jazz Selections by Glenn Woodruff and
Alec Wilder Oboe Sonata**

PROGRAM NOTES

Peter Schickele composes serious classical music in addition to his satirical performances as “PDQ Bach.” *Gardens* describes a garden at three times of day. In “Morning” birds sing in random alignment with each other, each player disregarding the other’s tempo. At “Noon” the oboe’s warmly colored middle register sounds over repeated chime-like figures from the piano — dozens of clocks signaling lunch time. In “Night” the piano’s low D resonates in velvety darkness as the oboe quietly laments the end of day.

Benjamin Britten composed in many genres, from chamber music to opera. Early in his career he wrote scores for children’s shows on BBC Radio. His first concert piece to receive wide public attention, the *Phantasy Quartet* for oboe and strings, was premiered by oboist Sylvia Spencer in 1932. The *Insect Pieces*, written for her in 1935, tell stories of tiny creatures interacting with enormous humans.

Michael Kibbe is a Southern Californian freelance composer and oboist. He premiered *Serpent Music* in 1977. A troupe of interpretive dancers writhed snakelike on the floor around the two players. In the score, Kibbe describes each serpent:
Python: “In the dark lethargic passage through his jungle realm, this serpent offers final cold embrace.”
Cobra: “With mesmerizing glance and fixed stare, this hovering hooded viper strikes its hapless prey.”