

DOLCI BY THE BAY, CONCERT NO. 3

March 8, 2013

Ted Rust, oboe — Viva Knight, piano

Italian Dance (1960)

Madeleine Dring's artistry embraced a unique blend of highbrow and lowbrow from the start. Her father, an amateur pianist, was a skilled improviser, and encouraged her taste for "wrong-note humour" in which unexpected notes are added to conventional chords. She became fluent in the idioms of jazz, pop and musical theater. She received a privileged education and became a skilled classical composer as a student of the eminent Ralph Vaughan Williams, and was influenced by the work of Francis Poulenc. While still a student she met the soon-to-be-famous oboist Roger Lord to accompany him for an audition. They married, she wrote many pieces that showcase his lyrical and technical gifts, including this Italian Dance (technically, a *Giga*) and he in turn tirelessly promoted the publication of her compositions after her early death.

Madeleine Dring (1923-1977)



Broadway Medley

- I Got Rhythm (Girl Crazy, 1930)*
- Embraceable You (Girl Crazy, 1930)*
- Oh, Lady Be Good (Lady Be Good, 1924)*
- 'S Wonderful (Funny Face, 1927)*

George Gershwin dropped out of high school at fifteen and began his career as a "song plugger," on New York's Tin Pan Alley, playing sheet music for prospective customers, and writing his own music on the side. Already trained in classical piano and music theory, he loved the popular styles of his era and wrote songs, often with his brother Ira as lyricist, for a string of successful Broadway musical comedies, including the four quoted here. He became the most highly paid musician of his time and tried to establish himself as a classical composer with orchestral pieces like *Rhapsody in Blue* and the opera *Porgy and Bess*. When he asked Maurice Ravel for composition lessons, Ravel asked him how much he earned and then replied that Gershwin should be giving *him* lessons.

George Gershwin (1898-1937)

