

MORNINGSIDE COLLEGE
CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC

PRESENTS

**Morningside
Madrigal Singers**

Donald Morrison, Director



KLINGER FORUM, MAIN HALL

1500 Morningside Avenue

Sioux City, Iowa



MAY 6, 1956—8:00 P. M.

—Sixty-First Season—

Program

— I —

- AUS MEINER SUNDEN TIEFE Lassus (1522-1594)
Though deep has been my falling, profound is yet Thy grace;
O master, I am calling from out this lowly place.
I beg that Thou be near me; pray lend Thy ear sublime;
O do Thou come and hear me, Dear Lord, for it is time.
- ICH WAISS MIR EIN MEIDLEIN Lassus)
I know a young maiden wondrous fair; Oh, take care, and of her kind words
be thou ware! Oh, take care, and trust her not, she fooleth thee!
- IL BIANCO E DOLCE CIGNO Vecchi (1550-1605)
The white swan when dying, intones his song of death, and I weeping approach
the end of my life. Strange and capricious fortune, for it will die unhappy,
and I will die blessed. Death to him is just to die, but fills me completely
with joy and pleasure. If thence to die I feel no other sadness, I would
be content to die a thousand deaths a day.
- JE VOY DES GLISSANTES EAUX Costeley (1531-1606)
I behold the glistening stream, the flowers its verdant bank adorning. Why
do you flee from me? Am I not your slave? Where e'er you go, there is none
more true than I, who would perish at thy command.
- JE NE L'OISE DIRE Certon (1510-1572)
La, la, la, I don't dare say it, but I will say it. There is a man in our town
who is jealous of his wife — jealous with good reason, for he is not at all
handsome. He dresses her up and if he goes to market he takes her with him.

— II —

- REST, SWEET NYMPHS Pilkington (1562-1638)
HOPE OF MY HEART Ward (?-c.1640)
FLORA GAVE ME FAIREST FLOWERS Wilbye (1574-1638)
WEEP, O MINE EYES Bennet (1570-1615)
I TREMBLE NOT AT NOISE OF WAR Gibbons (1583-1625)

— III —

- THE PEACEABLE KINGDOM Randall Thompson
Say ye to the righteous (1899-)
Woe unto them
The noise of a multitude
The paper reeds by the brooks
Have ye not known?
Ye shall have a song

— IV —

FOLK SONGS

- Five Men Wen to Mow (English)arr. Milkey
He's one Away (Southern Appalachian)arr. Lief
Marianne (Creole)arr. Wilson
My Child Is Gone
(Early American Slave Song)arr. Nightingale
Coffee Grows on a White Oak Tree (American)arr. Wilson

Program Notes

The part-song as it passed from Italy to Germany, was ponderous and heavy and often showed rather dull attempts at humor. The best German madrigals were written by foreigners; Lassus was one of these foreigners who wrote beautifully for the German language. Vecchi, the composer of "Il bianco," represents the classical period in Italian polyphonic madrigal composition. The French called their madrigals **chansons** which are principally chordal, but written with exquisite sensitivity to French text-setting.

Outside of Italy, the madrigal was chiefly cultivated in England. Strongly influenced by the Italians, borrowing subject matter, the fa-la-refrain and the polyphonic style, the English soon "naturalized" the madrigal and made it one of England's greatest contributions to the history of music. Wilbye and Gibbons are among the first rank madrigalists. The other three, Ward, Bennet and Pilkington, though lesser known, have written some of the best madrigals of this Elizabethan Period.

Randall Thompson is one of the few American composers to have held both the Prix de Rome and Guggenheim Foundation Fellowships. In 1942 he left the directorate of the Curtis Institute in Philadelphia to join the faculty of the University of Virginia, and in 1948 was appointed professor of music at Harvard. Choral, orchestral, chamber music and opera are all media in which he has written. **The Peacable Kingdom** is a sequence of eight sacred choruses (of which we only are to hear six) based on the Prophecy of Isaiah and derives its title from the painting by Edward Hicks.

Nothing much need be said about the last group, as folk-songs speak so well for themselves. The English folksong is widely sung in this country, the next three are distinctly regional songs, while "Coffee Grows" is found performed in all sections of America.

—D. M.

PERSONNEL

Sopranos:

Mabel Long
Elma Love
Elsie Johnston
Dona Kargas

Altos:

Georgia Hix
Sondra Shields

Tenors:

Gerald Huldeen
Ronald Haddock

Basses:

Tom Canfield
Don Morrison