

# The University Musical Society

of  
The University of Michigan



Presents

## BIRGIT NILSSON

*Soprano*

JOHN WUSTMAN at the piano

THURSDAY EVENING, NOVEMBER 14, 1968, AT 8:30  
HILL AUDITORIUM, ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

### P R O G R A M

"Dich theure Halle" from <i>Tannhäuser</i>	}	. . . . .	WAGNER
Träume			
Schmerzen			
Gretchen am Spinnrade	}	. . . . .	SCHUBERT
Auflösung			
Die junge Nonne			
Befreit	}	. . . . .	RICHARD STRAUSS
Wiegenlied			
Zueignung			

### INTERMISSION

Höstkväll . . . . .	SIBELIUS		
Var det en dröm . . . . .	SIBELIUS		
Morgonsång . . . . .	MELARTIN		
Gieb mir dein Herze . . . . .	MELARTIN		
Det förste möde	}	. . . . .	GRIEG
En svane			
En dröm			
"Ebben, ne andro lontana" from <i>La Wally</i> . . . . .	CATALANI		

London, Deutsche Grammophon, Angel, RCA Records  
Steinway Piano

PROGRAM NOTES

“Dich theure Halle” from *Tannhäuser* . . . . . RICHARD WAGNER

The scene is the Hall of Song in the Wartburg. Elisabeth enters, joyous because of Tannhäuser's forthcoming return and sings a greeting to the Hall: “Oh, Hall of Song, I give thee greeting! All hail to thee, thou hallowed place!”

Träume . . . . . RICHARD WAGNER

Whence come these radiant dreams all my soul enchanting; visions ever brighter growing mighty in their holy power, and rapturously creating a beloved image.

Schmerzen . . . . . RICHARD WAGNER

If the sun must find a setting, if the sun must e'en depart; and if death engenders living, and if grief can lead to bliss; Oh then, I thank thee, Nature, for giving me such pain as this!

Gretchen am Spinnrade . . . . . FRANZ SCHUBERT

My peace is gone—no rest can be mine! I watch for him in the street, for the way he walks, the sound of his voice, his hand in mine. I long to be with him, for his arms to enfold me.

Auflösung . . . . . FRANZ SCHUBERT

Hide yourself, sun, for the glowing warmth of joy scores my frame. Music, be dumb; beauty of spring, begone and leave me alone. Yet from every corner of my soul there spring delectable influences that surround me with heavenly song. Perish, O world, and disturb not the sweet ethereal choirs.

Die junge Nonne . . . . . FRANZ SCHUBERT

The tempest rages, but here there is peace. Here the heart finds release too from life's storms. The Vesper bells intone the sacred hour of prayer.

Befreit . . . . . RICHARD STRAUSS

Oh, do not weep, love. Bid me farewell and fondly kiss me. I shall return your gaze and kiss. You will leave me your soul and our children. Life is ebbing fast. Then you will come to me only in dreams, to bless me and to weep with me.

Wiegenlied . . . . . RICHARD STRAUSS

Dream, dream, blossom of my love, of that silent, holy night when the flower of his love made this world paradise for me.

Zueignung . . . . . RICHARD STRAUSS

I give you my thanks, not only for love's merry moments, its peace and comfort, but for love's pain as well.

Höstkväll . . . . . JEAN SIBELIUS

The sun is setting, the clouds float away. The day's murmuring farewell dies sadly away in the deepening shadows. A wayfarer stands entranced. Is his soul aware of being in harmony with the song raised by the starless night? Does his grief die away as a gentle sound in the tremendous elegy of autumn?

Var det en dröm . . . . . JEAN SIBELIUS

Was it a dream that once I was your beloved? Was it a dream, as short-lived as a spring flower? Many nights, with tears deep inside, I keep the sweet memory of my most beautiful dream.

Morgonsång . . . . . ERKKI MELARTIN

My beloved spake, and said unto me: Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away . . . .  
(Song of Solomon, 2:10)

Gieb mir dein Herze . . . . . ERKKI MELARTIN

"Give me thy heart, I give thee mine." "I cannot, my heart can never be thine." "Give me thy hand, I give thee mine." "I cannot, this ring is the sign of my pledge."

Det förste möde . . . . . EDVARD GRIEG

The first meeting is like a song in the wood. It is like a song on the waves in the sun's last blushing.

En svane . . . . . EDVARD GRIEG

My swan, my pale one, of silence unbroken! As death was o'ertaking, thy silence now breaking, thou gavest thy song.

En dröm . . . . . EDVARD GRIEG

In a wondrous lovely dream a tender love was mine. The buds awoke, the brooklet gushed, afar we heard the village chime. We stood entranced in bliss sublime. But fairer far than was my dream, the bliss one waking hour displayed.

"Ebben, ne andro lontana," from *La Wally* . . . . . ALFREDO CATALANI

La Wally is a strange, wild creature. Her father has bid her marry a man whom she does not love, and she revolts. Whereupon her father threatens to disown her. It is then she sings "Ebben, ne andro lontana:" "I will go away, up into the white-capped mountains. O Mother dear, your Wally will ne'er again return—she will wander homeless and alone."

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BIRGIT NILSSON was born at Svenstad in the township of West Karup, Sweden. She received her musical training at the Royal Musical Academy in Stockholm, making her debut at the Stockholm Opera in 1946. Her successes in Berlin, Vienna, Bayreuth, Glyndebourne, Florence, Naples, and South America, were followed in 1956 by her first appearances in America, at the Hollywood Bowl and the San Francisco Opera. On December 18, 1959, she made her debut at the Metropolitan Opera as "Isolde." Her first appearance in Ann Arbor was at the 1961 May Festival. She sang here again in a recital in March, 1963. In private life she is the wife of a Stockholm restaurateur, Bertil Niklasson. They maintain homes both in Stockholm and Zurich.

# 1968—INTERNATIONAL PRESENTATIONS—1969

## Hill Auditorium

YEHUDI MENUHIN, *Violinist*, and  
HEPHZIBAH MENUHIN, *Pianist* . . . . . (2:30) Sunday, November 24  
*Program*: Sonata in A major No. 2, Op. 100 . . . . . BRAHMS  
Sonata No. 1 . . . . . BARTÓK  
Sonata in A major ("Kreutzer") . . . . . BEETHOVEN

GREGG SMITH SINGERS . . . . . (2:30) Sunday, January 12  
HAGUE PHILHARMONIC . . . . . Friday, January 24  
WILLEM VAN OTTERLOO, *Conductor*

ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATRE . . . . . Saturday, February 8  
"CARMEN" (Goldovsky Opera Co.) . . . . . (8:00) Saturday, February 15  
BALLET FOLKLORICO OF MEXICO . . . . . Wednesday, February 26  
RUDOLF SERKIN, *Pianist* . . . . . Wednesday, March 5  
MOSCOW STATE SYMPHONY . . . . . Thursday, March 13

*Tickets*: \$6.00—\$5.50—\$5.00—\$4.00—\$3.00—\$2.00

(Tickets at \$6.00 and \$4.00 sold out for "Carmen", Serkin, and the Menuhins)

## Rackham Auditorium

JANET BAKER, *English Mezzo-Soprano* . . . . . Sunday, January 5  
MUSIC FROM MARLBORO . . . . . Saturday, February 1  
ISRAEL CHAMBER ORCHESTRA . . . . . Monday, February 10  
COLOGNE CHAMBER ORCHESTRA . . . . . Saturday, February 22  
ORCHESTRA MICHELANGELO DI FIRENZE . . . . . Sunday, March 23

*Tickets*: \$5.00—\$4.00—\$3.00

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# Messiah

GEORGE FREDERICK HANDEL

December 6 and 7, 8:30; December 8, 2:30

In Hill Auditorium

THE UNIVERSITY CHORAL UNION

MEMBERS OF THE INTERLOCHEN ARTS ACADEMY ORCHESTRA

SUSAN BELLING, *Soprano* . . . . . HENRY NASON, *Tenor*

ELIZABETH MANNION, *Contralto* . . . . . DAVID CLATWORTHY, *Bass*

MARY McCALL STUBBINS, *Organist*; CHARLES FISHER, *Harpsichordist*

LESTER McCOY, *Conductor*

*Tickets*: \$3.00—\$2.00—\$1.50—\$1.00

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Office Hours: 9:00 to 4:30, Monday through Friday; Saturday 9:00 to 12:00

Also 1½ hours before performance at auditorium Box Office—Phone: 665-3717