A PERFORMANCE GUIDE: AN ANALYSIS OF RICHARD FAITH’S SETTINGS OF MOTHER GOOSE

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Abstract
This study provides a performance guide to the nine song settings of Mother Goose Lyrics and Mother Goose Lyrics II by American composer Richard Faith (b. 1926). Included is a biography of the composer. The primary purpose is to provide analysis that shows that these nine songs are accessible to undergraduate singers and that these are arguably Faith’s most approachable songs for the young singer. As is pertinent to each individual song the discussion may include information on the poetry, musical form, textual support, pedagogical issues, harmonic progressions, melodic ideas, rhythmic devices, character analysis, as well as information on text setting devices. This is accomplished through the author’s own analysis and study of Faith’s songs, interviews with the composer, and references to the three other dissertations covering Faith’s song compositions. This performance guide will provide an introduction to Richard Faith and his musical style, as well as provide a tool for teachers and singers seeking performance practice guidance.

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