

Three by May Sarton (1989)**
poems by May Sarton (1912-1995)

- I. Definition
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Christine Seitz, soprano and Jon Ensminger, piano

I. Definition

This fullness that is emptiness,
This hunger that is food;
This union, solitariness,
This wild air, this warm blood;
This poverty, and rich sensation,
This haste, this slow growing.
True marriage, separation,
All-knowing that is not knowing;
Late fulfillment, early death,
This huge passion,
This small breath.

II. Lullaby

If you deny
Love, ah then
Lie down, lie
With a ghost
And be well lost
To living men.

Pillow your head
On the bare floor
On the clean wood.
Stifle your tears
And years and fears
And close the door.

Someone will cry,
"Despair, despair,"
And your dry eye
Shiver for love
Though nothing move
And no one there.

Ghosts never die
Nor can be hurt;
So lie down, lie
Alone, asleep,
But you'll not keep
Love out, lost heart.

Someone will knock
In the late dark
To sigh or mock,
A ghost be there
Upon the stair
Before the lark.

Paul Seitz

III. Canticle

We sat smoking at a table by the river
And then suddenly in the silence someone said,
"Look at the sunlight on the apple tree there shiver;
I shall remember that long after I am dead."

Together we all turned to see how the tree shook,
How it sparkled and seemed spun out of green and gold.
And we thought that hour, that light and our long mutual look
Might warm us someday when we were cold.

And I thought of your face that sweeps over me like light,
I like the sun on the apple making a lovely show.
So one seeing it marveled the other night,
Turned to me saying, "What is it in your heart? You glow."

Not guessing that on my face
He saw the singular reflection
Of your grace like fire on snow
And loved you there.

"Who is this man?/Why did you have to dance with me" (2010)*
(from the musical, *Trust Me*) words and music by John Peiffer

Christine Seitz, soprano; John Peiffer, baritone; Jon Ensminger, piano

John Peiffer, horn and voice, has been Assistant Principal Horn of the Kennedy Center Opera House Orchestra in Washington, DC since 1999. He has been coming to the U.P. to play Principal Horn with the Pine Mountain Music Festival since 2001. Enjoying the unique environment and the superb opportunities for skiing, kayaking and music making, he now divides his time between his residence in Maryland and his home in the Copper Country. Impressed by the diversity of talent, John has been particularly inspired by recent opportunities to play with some of the Copper Country's fine local musicians.

*Indicates world premiere performance.

** Michigan premiere performance.