



December 25, 2013 - Merry Christmas!

Classical

Season of serenity

By Lee Hartman Tue, Dec 24, 2013



The lobby of Visitation Catholic Church was nearly full as the casual lunch-time audience

gingerly snacked on their vittles during the Lyric Arts Trio's performance for Venue Visitation on Thursday afternoon.

Clarinetist Elena Lence Talley encouraged listeners to forget their troubles and to simply find peace, even if only for a brief time. It was an easy directive with which to comply as Talley, pianist Dan Velicer, and soprano Sarah Tannehill Anderson gave beautiful performances of non-traditional musical fare.

A Gordon Jacob vocalise evoked the gentle swirling of ice skating in its light waltz feel. Though it was light music akin to that of Leroy Anderson, the trio shaped each gesture gracefully and carefully. Canada's "Huron Carol" was performed admirably especially by Tannehill, whose diction never suffered in the unforgiving space.

A selection from the 1856 *Weihnachtslieder* by Peter Cornelius, sung in an English translation, showcased more of Schubert's influence than those of his contemporaries Liszt and Wagner. The first was about a Christmas tree, and was forgettable, but the second and third were delightful. The second, about shepherds, was performed with mysterious open harmonies by Velicer and the third about the Infant Jesus allowed for more chromaticism and interesting line negotiated deftly by Talley.

Giving his partners a break, Velicer performed Vince Guaraldi's "Skating" from *Charlie Brown Christmas* with panache. The speed at which he took the work was impressive as the parallel motions are nightmarish for the fingers. It also tied in nicely with the opening work.

The final two works were rapturous. Norman Dello Joio's "A Christmas Carol" was a clever mix of ancient and modern harmonies. Tannehill's luminous soprano (kept in the lower portions of her considerable range for much the concert) was in finest form here. The final setting of "A Christmas Rose" had the audience leaning forward for each note. Here, Talley and Tannehill performed with more abandon, bringing the concert to a close.

Mission accomplished, Lyric Arts Trio. I, and the others in attendance, were captivated for the full concert and I was especially thankful for being introduced to unfamiliar pieces that broaden the spectrum of holiday music.

REVIEW:

Venue Visitation

Lyric Arts Trio

Thursday, December 19, 2013

Visitation Catholic Church

5141 Main St., Kansas City, MO

For more information, visit <http://www.venuevisitation.net/> and <http://lyricartstrio.com/>

Top Photo: Lyric Arts Trio (Photo by Jennifer Feldman)