

A Lyrical Program Is On Tap

Chamber trio selects 'beautiful' assortment

By Pat Rogers

What do you get when you combine a cello, a vocalist and a pianist with classical romantic music?

Odds makers would predict a concert that's sure to soothe and excite, and that's what is planned for Sunday during "An Afternoon of Chamber Music" to be presented by Annette Perry, Leslie McBride and Martha Campanile at the Southampton Cultural Center.

The program features songs composed by Brahms, Strauss, Mendelssohn, Schubert and Rachmaninoff. And although this is classical music, "songs" is the correct classification: many of the chamber pieces include the word song in the title and most feature a vocalist. Many of the pieces also tell a story.

For 2 Songs, Op. 91, Johannes Brahms (1833-1897) drew inspiration from the poems "Satisfied Longing" and "You Who Hover." Songs by Richard Strauss (1864-1949) are based on lyrical poems that conjure nature, love, fear, longing and heartbreak. Compositions by Franz Schubert (1797-1828) are based on the lyrical poems, "On the River" and "The Shepherd on the Rock."

The program also includes the instrumental Song Without Words, Op. 109 by Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847) and Vocalise, Op. 34 by Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873-1943).

In every case, the music was selected for a lyrical quality that invokes imagery,



Pianist Martha Campanile, cellist Annette Perry and soprano Leslie McBride will perform at the Rogers Memorial Library on Sunday, November 4. PAT ROGERS

according to each of the three performers. For instance, Brahms's Geistliches Wiegenlied suggests a rocking cradle. The Strauss songs conjure pastoral settings where nature is a major character in the work.

"Musically, they are very descriptive," said soprano Leslie McBride. "You can hear the echoes bouncing off the cliffs and can almost see the shepherd overlooking the cliffs. He's happy because the spring is here. You can feel it with the music. It's the music and the imagery fusing together throughout all of the songs in the program that really make it work."

The pieces were also chosen for the interplay between voice, piano and cello, which layers lush melodies over rich harmonies and connects the performers while each gives musical expression to their separate parts. The intended result is a concert that will resonate on many levels with listeners.

"We've put together an afternoon of relaxing and enjoyable music," said pianist Martha Campanile. "Some music will be recognized and others we picked because you hardly ever hear them. All of them are beautiful."

For Ms. McBride, Ms. Campanile and cellist Annette Perry, the concert represents the first time the trio will perform together as a group, although they have played together in concerts staged by larger groups. Each has performed frequently and teaches privately. The fact that the three women are friends makes creating the program and performing it together a special endeavor, all three women said.

Ms. Perry teaches cello at the Southampton Cultural Center and provided the connection between the group

and the newly-renovated venue.

"It's a beautiful venue and it was just constructed, so it seemed like the perfect place for us to play together," Ms. Perry said.

Ms. Perry is a member of the Peconic Chamber Orchestra and North Shore ProMusica. She has appeared with numerous Long Island groups including the Choral Society of the Hamptons, the Long Island Symphonic Choral Society and others. She performed on "Live with Regis and Kathie Lee," and Southampton composer Gary Washington has written several pieces for her.

Ms. McBride is a professional opera singer who has appeared in more than 50 productions as a member of the New York City Opera. She has performed in Vermont and Indiana, where she sang the national anthem and "God Bless America" at the National College Football Hall of Fame.

She has appeared frequently on Long Island, including at the 2007 Brookhaven Choral Festival in July. Her upcoming concerts can be found at her website, www.sopranotes.com.

Ms. Campanile is the director of the Choral Society of the Moriches, the Bay Area Friends of Fine Arts and the Brookhaven Choral Festival. She guest conducts, has been the musical director of the Congregational Church of Patchogue for 25 years, and is an organist for several churches.

"An Afternoon of Chamber Music" will be held on Sunday at 2 p.m. at the Southampton Cultural Center's Levitas Center for The Arts, 25 Pond Lane, Southampton. Tickets are \$15, or \$10 for seniors and students. For reservations, call 287-4377 or email scc@southamptonculturalcenter.org.