

Poems for Piano

GOULD • PERSICETTI • DIAMOND • BLOCH



MIRIAN CONTI
pianist

MORTON GOULD (1913-1995)

Born in New York, Morton Gould was known primarily for his orchestral works, especially his Latin American Symphonette, American Symphonette and Interplay (which was choreographed by Jerome Robbins). His works have a distinctly American flavor and even his *Pieces of China*, written for solo piano, could be characterized as an American's impressions of China. These pieces composed in 1985, were dedicated to choreographer Jacques D'Amboise and performed at Madison Square Garden for an international event. This work exhibits an almost cinematic character, and as in most of Gould's compositions, his humor, his love for jazzy rhythms and his idiomatic characterizations are clearly evident. Mr. Gould was for many years President of ASCAP while remaining an active composer and conductor until his death.

Vincent Persichetti: (1915-1987) Born in Philadelphia, Persichetti was one of the most distinguished American composers of recent times. He was a member of the Faculty of both The Juilliard School and the Philadelphia Conservatory for several decades. He composed numerous symphonies, a substantial amount of chamber music, and keyboard works including the three volumes of *Poems for Piano*. Volumes 1 and 2 were published in 1947, and volume 3, in 1981. The titles of each of these 16 character pieces are drawn from single lines of various poems, and as in his orchestral work *Night Dances*, each piece reflects the single line of poetry rather than the poem as a whole. Persichetti's highly original compositional style juxtaposes a wide diversity of emotional states in a tightly woven musical structure. Color, rhythm, beauty of tone and a lyricism that is uniquely Persichetti's permeate these works.

clearly project the atmosphere the titles suggest that no further explanation is necessary.

— Mirian Conti

Sources for Vincent Persichetti's *Poems for Piano*

Volume 1

1. "Unroll the flicker's rousing drum" — Louis Untermeyer
Poem: "First Words Before Spring" • Book: *Modern American Poetry* (ed. Untermeyer) • Publisher: Harcourt, Brace and Co., New York
2. "Soft is the collied night" — James Elroy Flecker
Poem: "Fountains" • Book: *The Collected Poems of J.E. Flecker* • Publisher: S.J. Reginald Saunders & Co., Toronto
3. "Gather for festival bright weed and purple shell" — William Watson
Poem: "Songs from Cyprus" • Book: *Modern American Poetry* (ed. Untermeyer) • Publisher: Harcourt, brace and Co., New York
4. "Wake subtler dreams, and touch me nigh to tears" — William Watson
Poem: "The Frontier" • Book: *Odes and Other Poems* • Publisher: The Macmillan Company, New York
5. "Ravished lute, sing to her virgin ears" — Robert Fitzgerald
Poem: "Song after Champion" • Book: *Poems* • Publisher: Arrow Editions, New York
6. "Whose thin fraud I wink at privily" — William Watson

14. "Puffed out and marching upon a blue sky" — Amy Lowell
Poem: "Lilacs" • Book: *Modern American Poetry* • Publisher: Harcourt, Brace and Co., New York
15. "And hung like those top jewels of the night" — Léonie Adams
Poem: "Twilit Revelation" • Book: *Modern American Poetry* • Publisher: Harcourt, Brace and Co., New York
16. "Each gay dunce shall lend a hand" — John Trumbull
Poem: "The Country Clown" • Book: *An Anthology of American Poetry* (ed. Alfred Kreymborg) • Publisher: Tudor Publishing Co., New York

MIRIAN CONTI

The Argentine pianist Mirian Conti enjoys a growing reputation as a musician whose performances combine technical brilliance with striking originality and artistic insight. Stylistically assured in a wide range of repertoire, Ms. Conti is considered a leading exponent of Spanish music; and her rare ability to communicate passion and excitement when playing contemporary scores has won the admiration of leading American and Argentine composers such as Diamond, Ramey, Bowles, Persichetti, Gould, Lees, Broeders, White, Zyman, etc. She premiered Lalo Schifrin's *Piano Concerto No. 2* at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion in Los Angeles. She was invited by the French Cultural Center in Tangier, Morocco to perform a concert in homage to Paul Bowles.

Ms. Conti studied with Genny Blech in Buenos Aires and continued her musical education in New York, earning her Bachelor's and Master's degrees as an award winning William Petscheck Scholarship student at The Juilliard



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ALBANY RECORDS U.S.
915 Broadway, Albany, NY 12207
Tel: 518.436.8814 FAX: 518.436.0643

ALBANY RECORDS U.K.
Box 12, Warton, Carnforth, Lancashire LA5 9PD
Tel: 0524 735873 FAX: 0524 736448

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