



Annika Bäckström



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Doctoral Recital

A Music Festival
Vara Konserthus, September 19, 2006



ANNIKA BÄCKSTRÖM soprano
LENNART BÄCKSTRÖM baryton
JENNY TIDQVIST-KARLSSON piano

'The Demands of My Bones'



Annika Bäckström soprano
Nancy Cornell piano
David Johnston narrator

Annika Bäckström

Live in Concert



Susanna in Le Nozze di Figaro



SCHOOL OF MUSIC AND DANCE

Beall Concert Hall Monday evening
6:30 p.m. June 1, 2009

DOCTORAL RECITAL
ANNIKA BÄCKSTRÖM, soprano

Susanna Elizabeth piano/vocalist, Catherine Olson soprano, Craig Ericson guitar, Amanda Christensen mezzo-soprano, Stefan Walle violin, Thomas Harley bass, Tara Schwarz flute, Elizabeth Stein

This recital is presented in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Doctor of Musical Arts in Voice Performance
Annika Bäckström is a student of Hilmar Vester

O UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

The Marriage of Figaro

Univ. of Oregon Lyric Opera

2006



Annika Bäckström as Susanna

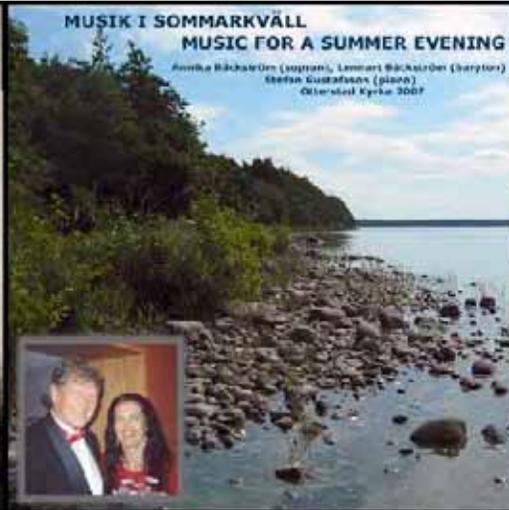
**Musik i Tranemo Kyrka
10 September 2006**



**Annika Bäckström, sopran
Lennart Bäckström, baryton
Stefan Gustafsson, piano**

**MUSIK I SOMMARKVÄLL
MUSIC FOR A SUMMER EVENING**

**Annika Bäckström (sopran), Lennart Bäckström (baryton)
Stefan Gustafsson (piano)
Österstad Kyrka 2007**



**Русские Песни
Russian Songs**



Annika & Lennart Bäckström

Annika Bäckström, soprano

A native of Sweden, Annika was always interested in music and sang in high school concerts and musicals. She played the viola in a chamber music quartet and was a founding member of the legendary '*Octo Puellae*', a women's vocal double quartet at Skara Katedralskola ('gymnasium'). Throughout gymnasium she also showed a great interest and talent in language education in accordance with the European tradition of multilingual skills, and after 'studentexamen', she enrolled at the University of Gothenburg as a language major in French and linguistics.

When Annika's family later moved to USA and faculty positions at the University of Illinois, she added music (vocal performance) and theater to her college studies, and she completed Bachelor's and Master's degrees of fine arts at the U of I in music (with John Wustman, Birgit Nilsson's and Luciano Pavarotti's accompanist) and theatre (Robert Graves). She also spent two years at the "Malmö Opera and Musikteater" in Sweden, studying with maestro Gunnar Staern and actress/director Adrienne Lombard.

During her years in the U of I Master's program, she had a teaching assistant fellowship through the Department of Germanic languages and taught all levels of Swedish. She has also taught Swedish, German and French at the Berlitz Language Institute in Chicago.

In the early 90s Annika returned to Sweden as a lecturer in Swedish as a second language at the Stockholm University. She also worked with Marianne Häggander at the Royal Opera and was featured in numerous recitals and church concerts throughout Sweden. Upon returning to the US she established herself as a free lance opera and concert artist in the Midwest and West, working with Ilona Kombrink and Karlos and Melinda Moser at the University of Wisconsin and James Koenig and Heinz Blankenburg in Los Angeles. In 1995, she studied 19th and 20th Italian opera vocal traditions at the upstate New York Bell Canto Institute under founder Jane Backend Klavier, Metropolitan opera prompter and assistant conductor. She also sang frequently in the San Fransisco Bay area at the same time as she worked as an ESL (English as a second language) lecturer at Berkeley 1999-2003.

In 2003 Annika was appointed to a faculty position in voice, lyric diction and opera workshop at the Humboldt State University in Arcata, California, where she mixed teaching with numerous recitals and concerts in the area. She was voted best regional director of the year for her work in *Camelot*. In 2005, she was offered a doctoral fellowship in vocal performance and ethnomusicology at the University of Oregon in Eugene, where she has been studying voice with Milagro Vargas, and taught individual voice, voice classes for non-music majors, lyric diction as well as music in world cultures. Annika completed her Doctor of Musical Arts degree in June 2010.

Annika's repertoire includes operas such as *La Traviata*, *Rigoletto*, *Carmen*, *Falstaff*, *Roméo et Juliette*, *The Magic Flute*, *The Marriage of Figaro*, *Così fan tutte*, *The Ballad of Baby Doe*, *Susannah*, and the world premiere of *Carla Lucero's Wuornos*. She also has an impressive repertoire of oratorios and art and folk songs from the Scandinavian countries, Germany, France, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Russia, England and the USA, all in the original languages. She speaks seven languages and she translates most of the songs to English in her program textbooks.

CD Poster: Annika sang several times with the University of Illinois Russian Folk Orchestra when she was a student at Urbana/ Champaign. She also was a soloist in Madison at the BDAA Convention in 2001 and at other occasions with other Russian folk music groups. One of her CDs features Russian songs together with her father Lennart while the others feature Annika as Susanna in *The Marriage of Figaro*, in selected opera arias and art songs ("*Annika Live in Concert*"), in concerts and recitals in Sweden 2006-08, and in doctoral recitals for her Doctor of Musical Arts degree at the University of Oregon. All CDs were recorded live at the concerts.