

Anne-May Krüger – mezzo-soprano
Vera Schnider – harp



Songs from Home and Far Away features a genre that has fascinated composers and performers for generations: the folk song. Be it the popular tunes from Naples or Ravel's refined arrangements, those melodies – passed from mouth to ear – transport the atmospheres of the cultures from which they emerged and touch us deeply. Spirited songs and elegiac tunes from the Mediterranean, arranged by Manuel de Falla and Maurice Ravel, are contrasted with airs from England and Wales set by Benjamin Britten and Johannes Brahms' versions of German Volkslieder. The program mirrors the enchantment that has captivated composers since the Romantic period. In their arrangements the simplicity of folk melodies unfolds in the aesthetics of their time, connecting the archaic with the refined.

Anne-May Krüger

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Songs from Home and Far Away — European Folk Songs

Five popular tunes from Naples

Nu Mazzo de Sciure
La Monacella
Fenesta che Lucevi e mo non Luci

Maurice Ravel

(1875-1937)

from **Chansons Populaires** (1910)

Chanson Italienne
Chanson Espagnole

Manuel de Falla

(1876-1946)

from **Siete Canciones populares Españolas** (1914/15)

El Paño Moruno
Asturiana
Nana
Canción

Benjamin Britten

(1913-1976)

from **Folk Songs Arrangements** (1976)

She Is Like a Swallow
Bonny at Morn
I Was Lonely and Forlorn
David of the White Rock

Maurice Ravel

(1875-1937)

Deux Mélodies hébraïques (1914)

L'énigme éternelle
Kaddisch

Johannes Brahms

(1833-1897)

from **Deutsche Volkslieder** (1858/94)

Guten Abend
Soll sich der Mond nicht heller scheinen
Da unten im Tale

Duration: ca. 60 min

The German-Vietnamese Mezzo-soprano **Anne-May Krüger**, born in Berlin/Germany, studied at the University of Music Karlsruhe, as well as with Rudolf Piernay. Early in her career she appeared at the State Opera in Stuttgart, the Nationaltheater Mannheim and Theater Basel, among others. Anne-May Krüger works with groups such as ensemble recherche (Freiburg), Ensemble Ascolta (Stuttgart), Ensemble Phoenix Basel, and the Mondrian Ensemble (Basel). Together with Christian Zehnder, she has been a guest singer with Ensemble SoloVoices (Basel), performing Karlheinz Stockhausen's *Stimmung* at Lucerne Festival, Stockhausen-Stiftung Kürten, Festival "Imago Dei" (Krems) and ENSEMS (Valencia). Opera productions have led to collaborations with conductors Bernhard Epstein, Michael Wendeborg and Titus Engel, as well as with stage directors Georges Delnon, Hendrik Müller, Massimo Rocchi, Johannes Schmid and Joachim Schlömer. She is a regular guest at renowned festivals, particularly for new music, such as "Wien Modern" (Vienna), "ZeitRäume Basel", "Rümlingen Festival" (CH), "MaerzMusik" (Berlin), "London Ear", "NUNC" (Northwestern University/Evanston) and "Contempuls" (Prague).

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Vera Schnider is a self-employed harpist. During her studies of the modern harp (MA in music pedagogy in performance) in Lucerne and Detmold, Vera focused on the performance of contemporary music. Her interest in historically informed performance eventually led to additional performance studies at the Schola Cantorum Basiliensis, ranging from the Middle Ages to the Romantic period, from where she graduated with a Master's degree summa cum laude.

In her current work, Vera combines her interest in historically informed performance with music from the 14th century until the present day, performing internationally and collaborating with musicians of various genres.

Links

Johannes Brahms: *Da unten im Tale*

<https://youtu.be/RPUA1bBYESI>

Palumella (Neapolitanische Volksweise)

<https://youtu.be/67rDbxj3aes>

Benjamin Britten: *Il est quelqu'un sur terre*

(*Guggisberglied*) <https://youtu.be/-uEKdWlJhEs>