

Voice Recitals Planned for Weatherford and Norman

02.22.2008

Joyce Adams Curtis

Dr. Robert Jones

Joyce Adams Curtis, vocal/choral instructor at Southwestern Oklahoma State University, will perform a voice recital with colleague Dr. Robert Jones, associate professor at North Dakota State University, on Friday, February 29, in Weatherford and again on Sunday, March 2, in Norman.

The Weatherford concert will be at 8:15 p.m. in Room 101 of the Winnie Ola and Ed Berrong Music Hall on the SWOSU campus. The recital in Norman will be at 2 p.m. at McFarlin United Methodist Church in Norman. Admission is free and the public is invited to both concerts.

The recital will be accompanied by Dr. Dennis Widen, assistant professor of music at SWOSU where he teaches piano and directs the graduate program.

While at SWOSU, Curtis has performed many solo recitals. She is a member of the Canterbury Choral Society and will conduct a selection on their March 29 concert. She has appeared as soloist with Canterbury and as oratorio soloist in Oklahoma City, Dallas and Memphis. Two years ago she performed solo roles in Canterbury's production of opera scenes, which were accompanied by the Oklahoma City Philharmonic.

Jones has kept an active performance schedule with recitals in North Dakota, Minnesota, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Texas and Indiana. Most recently he was a featured performer in a Bolivian Chamber Music Society concert at the Palacio di Simon I. Patino in Cochabamba, Bolivia. He has appeared as soloist with the Winnipeg Philharmonic Choir, Royal Winnipeg Ballet and the Nebraska Chamber Orchestra. He has presented numerous lecture-performances on 20th century music at regional and national College Music Society conferences.

Curtis will sing the Samuel Barber "Knoxville: Summer of 1915" originally written for soprano and orchestra with a piano reduction by the composer. The text is based on prose of James Agee in which he describes growing up as a child in the early part of the 20th century.

Jones will perform the song cycle "Songs of Travel" by Ralph Vaughan Williams. The texts were written by Robert Louis Stevenson in 1893, one year before his death. The character in the beginning songs are of youthful vigor and optimism. In later songs the traveler confronts nature and finds love. Loneliness and regret are also explored, and the cycle ends with an affirmation of life, with its peaks and valleys.

The two singers will perform the Pergolesi "La Serva Padrona" (The Maid Mistress) which is an opera in two acts for soprano and bass soloists. The comic opera will be

performed in English. Dr. Pandolfo, Mr. Jones, is head of his household. His maid Zerbina, Ms. Curtis, is determined that they shall be married. Scapin, Christopher Curtis, is Dr. Pandolfo's servant. Each of the singers has four arias and then combine to sing two duets. Scapin is a non-singing role. Pergolesi composed "La Serva Padrona" in 1733. He composed for the church and the stage.