
The Goddess Isis in Song

an original song cycle

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The University of Nebraska at Kearney
Office of Undergraduate
Research and Creative Activity Presents:
The Goddess Isis in Song
an original song cycle
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Fine Arts Livestream

PROGRAM

The Goddess Isis in Song..... Terran Homburg (b. 1999)

The Legend of Ra and Isis

Terran Homburg and Dakota Empfield

Imentet

Grace Lueders and Terran Homburg

Hathor

Rochelle Hazelton and Dakota Empfield

Sopdet

Hannah Petersen and Dr. Anthony Donofrio

The Creator Goddess

Cassie Brown, Hannah Petersen, Terran Homburg,
and Rochelle Hazelton

The Goddess Isis in Song is the culmination of three years of study of Egyptian myth. In the cyclic timeline presented within Egyptian myth, Isis is a central figure. By following several timelines and retellings of Egyptian myths, I found in Isis a woman who has played many roles in her own character arc. She has been portrayed as a mere human, a devout wife, a mother to gods and kings, a fierce warrior bent on revenge, and, finally, the all-powerful supreme sorceress and creator goddess.

In the Egyptian mythical canon, Isis is considered to be the mother of music. Therefore, I found a song cycle to be the perfect medium with which to portray her story. *The Goddess Isis in Song* is a five movement song cycle which follows different aspects of Isis' character journey. Within this song cycle, I use E.A. Wallis Budge's translation of various Egyptian texts as well as my own poetry as a libretto for my compositions. This song cycle utilizes the colors and timbres of the female voice to pay tribute to the various goddesses Isis is conflated with throughout her timeline.

The Legend of Ra and Isis

In this movement, we see how Isis started her journey as a human, and used her sharp wit to trick Ra into becoming a goddess. This movement utilizes the speaking voice instead of the singing voice, with the transition to sung text representing Isis' ascension to the Egyptian Pantheon.

Imentet

Imentet is a funerary goddess, and her primary function was to guide souls through the afterlife. In this movement, Isis and her sister Nephthys mourn the loss of Isis' husband, Osiris. In the mythical canon, Isis and her sister seek out his body, bind it with linen, and bring him back to life.

Hathor

Hathor is often portrayed as the mother of Horus and Ihy (the god of music), and many pharaohs claimed to be descended from her. She is a solar goddess, and represents the ancient Egyptian concept of femininity and motherhood. This movement tells the tale of her son Horus being poisoned.

Sopdet

Sopdet is the personification of the star Sirius, which would appear before the annual Nile floods. Because of this, she was a goddess of the harvest who also nourished souls in the afterlife. In this song, Sopdet guides a soul to the Field of Reeds.

The Creator Goddess

At her most powerful, Isis speaks the world into existence. This movement represents the culmination of all these aspects of Isis, and depicts the creation of Earth.

This project is the culmination of three years of research and creative work as part of UNK's Undergraduate Research Fellowship program. The poster associated with this project was awarded first place in Fine Arts and Humanities division as part of the UNK Student Research Week.
