

JACQUES OFFENBACH

BARCAROLLE

(“*Belle nuit, ô nuit d’amour*”)

Piano Solo

ARRANGED BY
CHARLES T. GRIFFES

Edited by Donna K. Anderson

Recording: Naxos 8.559023

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The impulse to create something new from something pre-existing is not rare. Composers have been doing it for centuries. A work based on another composer's creation is often a way to pay homage to that composer. New works based on a composer's own creation often result from a commission or an opportunity for performance. And, sometimes, as perhaps is the case with Griffes' arrangement of Offenbach's "Belle nuit," the composer simply does it for the pleasure of it.

Griffes had a talent for transferring works of his own as well as works of other composers from one medium to another, whether from orchestra to piano, as in "Belle nuit," or from orchestra to two pianos, as in the arrangement of the overture to Humperdinck's opera *Hänsel und Gretel*, or that of his own *Symphonische Phantasie*. Griffes also transcribed several of his own solo piano pieces for orchestra, including *The Pleasure-Dome of Kubla Kahn, Clouds*, and *The White Peacock*, and for chamber ensemble, as in *Three Tone-Pictures*, Opus 5.

Griffes' "Belle nuit," dating from ca. 1910, is a charming and sophisticated composition, as natural and idiomatic in Griffes' piano version as it was for orchestra in Offenbach's original. It is a composition that will be a fine addition to any pianist's repertoire. Griffes himself, a gifted pianist, premiered "Belle nuit" (as an encore) on March 15, 1910 at one of his Elmira College, New York concerts. It has recently been recorded for the first time by Boston-based pianist, Michael Lewin, on Naxos/Marco Polo, as part of a 2-CD set of Griffes' complete piano works.

Donna K. Anderson

Der Impuls, etwas Neues zu schaffen, das schon vorher existiert hat, ist nicht selten. Komponisten haben es seit Jahrhunderten getan. Ein Werk, das auf der Schöpfung eines anderen Komponisten beruht, hat öfters den Sinn, diesem Ehrerbietung zu erweisen. Neue Werke, die auf einem eigenen Werk des Komponisten basieren, sind oft auf einen speziellen Auftrag oder eine besondere Gelegenheit einer Aufführung zurückzuführen. Manchmal tut es der Komponist auch einfach aus Vergnügen, wie es vielleicht mit Griffes Arrangement von Offenbachs "Belle nuit" der Fall ist.

Griffes hatte eine Begabung dafür, seine eigenen Werke und auch die anderer Komponisten von einem Medium in ein anderes zu übertragen, ganz gleich, ob von Orchester zu Klavier, wie in "Belle nuit", oder von Orchester zu zwei Klavieren, wie in dem Arrangement der Ouvertüre zur Oper *Hänsel und Gretel* von Humperdinck, oder dem seiner eigenen *Symphonischen Phantasie*. Griffes hat auch mehrere seiner eigenen Solo-Klavierstücke für Orchester umgeschrieben, darunter *The Pleasure-Dome of Kubla Khan, Clouds, The White Peacock* und *Three Tone-Pictures*, Opus 5, die er zu einem Kammerensemble umwandelte.

"Belle nuit" von Griffes, das um 1910 entstand, ist eine reizende und anspruchsvolle Komposition, die ebenso natürlich und idiomatisch in der Fassung für Klavier von Griffes ist wie das Original von Offenbach für Orchester. Es ist eine Komposition, die eine wertvolle Bereicherung des Repertoires jedes Klavierspielers sein wird. Griffes war selbst ein begabter Pianist, und er gab die Premiere von "Belle nuit" (als Zugabe) am 15. März 1910 bei einem Konzert am Elmira College im Bundesstaat New York. Vor kurzem wurde es zum ersten Mal von der Plattenfirma Naxos/Marco Polo von dem in Boston lebenden Michael Lewin aufgenommen, und zwar als Teil einer Gesamtaufnahme der vollständigen Klaviermusik von Griffes auf Doppel-CD.

Donna K. Anderson
Übersetzung von Kurt Michaelis

L'envie de créer du nouveau à partir de l'ancien n'est pas rare. Les compositeurs l'ont fait depuis des siècles. Une création basée sur l'œuvre d'un autre est souvent une façon de rendre hommage à ce compositeur. De nouvelles œuvres se référant à une œuvre reconnue résultent souvent d'une commande ou d'une opportunité de représentation publique. Et parfois, comme peut-être dans le cas des arrangements que fit Griffes de "Belle nuit" d'Offenbach, le compositeur ne fait simplement qu'écouter son plaisir.

Griffes avait le talent de transposer ses propres œuvres aussi bien que celles des autres d'une forme à l'autre, que ce soit de l'orchestral au piano, comme dans le cas de "Belle Nuit", ou de l'orchestral au double piano, comme pour son arrangement de l'ouverture de l'opéra *Hänsel und Gretel* de Humperdinck, ou de sa propre *Symphonische Phantasie*. Griffes transforma aussi plusieurs de ses propres pièces pour piano en pièces orchestrales, notamment *The Pleasure-Dome of Kubla Khan, Clouds*, et *The White Peacock*, ou pour musique de chambre, comme *Three Tone-Pictures*, Opus 5.

La "Belle Nuit" de Griffes, circa 1910, est une composition charmante et sophistiquée, qui est aussi naturelle et idiomatique dans sa version pour piano qu'elle l'était dans la version originale d'Offenbach, pour orchestre. C'est une composition qui sera un ajout de choix dans le répertoire de tout pianiste. Griffes lui-même, un talentueux pianiste, joua "Belle nuit" pour la première fois (en guise de bis) le 15 Mars 1910, à l'un de ses concerts au Elmira College, à New York. Cette œuvre a récemment été enregistrée pour la première fois par le pianiste basé à Boston, Michael Lewin, sur Naxos/Marco Polo, comme partie d'un enregistrement sur double CD de l'œuvre complète pour piano de Griffes.

Donna K. Anderson
Traduction par Sébastien Brault

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("Belle nuit, ô nuit d'amour")

from
Offenbach's *Les contes d'Hoffmann*

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Arrangement by CHARLES T. GRIFFES

Moderato

Piano

una corda

5

mf

10

pp

14

mf

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18

pp

20

mf

22

pp

24

mf

tre corde

27

f

diminuendo

2 2

30

rit.

a tempo
quasi arpa

(dim.)

sempre pp
l'accompagnamento

34

sempre arpeggiato al fine

p
cantando

sim.

*

38

ff

mf

* In the middle staff, notes with their stems pointed upward are played by the right hand, those with downward pointed stems by the left.

42

A musical score page featuring three staves. The top staff is treble clef, the middle staff is treble clef, and the bottom staff is bass clef. The key signature is two sharps. Measure 42 consists of four measures of music. The first measure shows a sustained note followed by a sixteenth-note pattern. The second measure shows a sustained note followed by a sixteenth-note pattern. The third measure shows a sustained note followed by a sixteenth-note pattern. The fourth measure shows a sustained note followed by a sixteenth-note pattern.

46

A musical score page featuring three staves. The top staff is treble clef, the middle staff is treble clef, and the bottom staff is bass clef. The key signature is two sharps. Measure 46 consists of four measures of music. The first measure shows a sustained note followed by a sixteenth-note pattern. The second measure shows a sustained note followed by a sixteenth-note pattern. The third measure shows a sustained note followed by a sixteenth-note pattern. The fourth measure shows a sustained note followed by a sixteenth-note pattern.

50

A musical score page featuring three staves. The top staff is treble clef, the middle staff is treble clef, and the bottom staff is bass clef. The key signature is two sharps. Measure 50 consists of four measures of music. The first measure shows a sustained note followed by a sixteenth-note pattern. The second measure shows a sustained note followed by a sixteenth-note pattern. The third measure shows a sustained note followed by a sixteenth-note pattern. The fourth measure shows a sustained note followed by a sixteenth-note pattern.

54

Musical score page 54. The score consists of three staves. The top staff has a treble clef, the middle staff has a treble clef, and the bottom staff has a bass clef. The key signature is two sharps. Measure 54 starts with a forte dynamic. The middle staff has a crescendo dynamic. The bass staff has eighth-note patterns. Measures 55-56 show sustained notes with sixteenth-note patterns above them. Measures 57-58 show eighth-note patterns with sixteenth-note patterns above them.

58

Musical score page 58. The score consists of three staves. The top staff has a treble clef, the middle staff has a treble clef, and the bottom staff has a bass clef. The key signature is two sharps. Measures 58-59 show eighth-note patterns with sixteenth-note patterns above them. Measures 60-61 show eighth-note patterns with sixteenth-note patterns above them. Measure 62 starts with a ritardando dynamic, followed by a tempo dynamic. The middle staff has a molto cantabile dynamic. The bass staff has eighth-note patterns with sixteenth-note patterns above them.

62

*rit.**a tempo*

Musical score page 62. The score consists of three staves. The top staff has a treble clef, the middle staff has a treble clef, and the bottom staff has a bass clef. The key signature is two sharps. Measures 62-63 show eighth-note patterns with sixteenth-note patterns above them. Measures 64-65 show eighth-note patterns with sixteenth-note patterns above them. Measure 66 starts with a dimissio dynamic, followed by a piano dynamic. The middle staff has a molto cantabile dynamic. The bass staff has eighth-note patterns with sixteenth-note patterns above them.

66

mf

70

cresc.

74

f

dim.

78

82

86

89