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MUSIC AT A GLANCE
Posted by Michael Huebner September 03, 2008 2:04 PM

Seigel recital at Birmingham-Southern College powerful and vivid

Who performed: Baritone Daniel Seigel and his pianist dad, Lester, performed a recital of mostly art songs at Birmingham-Southern College's Hill Recital Hall.

The singer: Seigel the younger sang with power and confidence in German, French and English. His training grounds at the Peabody Institute, BSC and professional opera serving him especially well in Herbert Howells' melancholy "King David" and four surrealist, all-too-vivid songs by Francis Poulenc. The singer's deep low notes and lustrous middle register were his strongest assets, though his high range was a bit too penetrating for the intimate hall.

The pianist: Lester Seigel is a superb collaborative pianist, subdued when required, prominent when needed.

The premiere: BSC's Dorothy Hindman wrote "Is This Then a Touch?" in Rome two years, but had Seigel in mind. Its visceral text, from Walt Whitman's "Leaves of Grass," translated to a biting, dissonant score with a stinging catharsis.

Lizbie's encore: In an encore, a setting of Thomas Hardy's "To Lizbie Browne," Seigel brilliantly exuded the tender passion in the text's account of unrequited love.

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