ABSTRACT

DISSERTATION: Songs of Hostility, Anguish, and Peace: An Introduction to Select War Repertoire for Singers

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As solo vocal repertoire continues to develop with current trends, institutional settings, including the private studio, continue to gravitate toward standard art songs and arias familiar to the classical-western tradition. In a rapidly changing world, it is important for 21st-century studio teachers to realize the need to connect with students on a global platform rather than focus solely on an established curriculum. As a modern educator and performer, it is important to make connections between the cross-disciplinary relationships of history, domestic/foreign affairs, politics, civil rights, racism, patriotism, social injustice, peace, and socialism through music. War-related repertoire challenges students, teachers, and performers to think beyond the confines of standard repertoire and fosters universal connections. Even with the cross-disciplinary benefits war-related music has to offer, this genre continues to be overlooked in studio teaching.

It is the purpose of this study to introduce select classically oriented war-related repertoire, which reflects various war perspectives. Each chapter includes concise historical information concerning the specific war, poet, and composer of the work under review. Equally important is the inclusion of selected musical analyses, interpretive
textual guidelines, and a discussion of vocal aspects that permit the singer to more fully comprehend the emotional and musical possibilities of the piece. Additionally, suggested songs for further study and sample war-related vocal recital programs are presented as appendices.

The culmination of these efforts manifests itself into a study of thirteen pieces for singers representing the American Civil War, World War I, World War II, and the Vietnam War.