



COLLEGE OF MUSIC

University of North Texas College of Music

Doctoral Lecture | Friday, October 14, 2022 | 6:30 pm | Recital Hall

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**A PEDAGOGICAL GUIDE TO LOWELL LIEBERMANN'S
FOUR ETUDES ON SONGS OF BRAHMS, OP. 88 AND
FOUR ETUDES ON SONGS OF ROBERT FRANZ, OP. 91**

The purpose of this dissertation is to introduce and provide a pedagogical guide for two etude works by Lowell Liebermann (b. 1961): *Four Etudes on Songs of Brahms*, Op. 88 (2004) and *Four Etudes on Songs of Robert Franz*, Op. 91 (2005). These two works are wonderful exercises for pianists desiring to expand their repertoire and to explore a new type of etude, since Liebermann broke away from the general framework of the etude in three ways. First, all his etudes are based on works by other composers: both well-known, Johannes Brahms (1833–1897), and relatively unknown, Robert Franz (1815–1892). Second, Liebermann provides a new possibility by choosing to base his etudes on vocal pieces, which are a completely different genre with no connection to the traditional piano etude: seven songs and one choral work. Last, all Liebermann's etudes are in slow tempos, from *Langsam* to *Andantino*, so performers can experience the new types of technical challenges posed by slow tempos and in works written by a living composer. This dissertation researches why Liebermann was inspired to use these two composers' works and how he created this new concept of etudes in slow tempos.

In addition, this dissertation provides a pedagogical guide on how to approach and prepare Liebermann's two sets of etudes. Based on the technical issues of each set, I include an effective practice method of identifying the specific techniques required in each etude and provide pedagogical suggestions in four areas: articulation, phrasing, voicing of the melodic lines, and fingerings. In particular, the suggested fingerings will be helpful for pianists who want to perform these works, since Liebermann did not provide any.

**One hundred seventeenth program of the 2022–2023 season
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