In Memoriam: Garth Eppley

(Airs: May 30, 2006, 10:12pm)

Good Evening, I’m ________________, and I welcome you to the fourth in a series of memorial programs remembering the lives of the five Indiana University Jacobs School of Music graduate students whose lives were cut tragically short by a plane crash on the evening of April 20th as they returned to Bloomington from a rehearsal in Lafayette, Indiana.

In this program, we honor the life and music of Garth Alan Eppley. Garth was born to William and Laura Eppley, on February 7, 1981, in Wabash, Indiana. He studied vocal performance at Anderson University, graduating with honors in 2003. At Indiana University, Garth was pursuing a Masters degree in vocal performance. During his time at IU, he appeared as a soloist with the Contemporary Vocal Ensemble and in several opera productions. His musical activities away from campus included the Festival of Sacred Choral Music, the Charley Creek Vocal Workshop, and the Lafayette Bach Chorale.

Throughout his life, Garth was a committed artist, yet also an engaging and down-to-earth person. In addition to being a gifted singer, Garth was a guitarist and avid motorcyclist. He is remembered for his adventurous spirit and sense of humor, as well as his warmth and generosity. Over the next hour, we remember Garth, through some of the recordings he made during his time at Indiana University.

(2:00)
We begin with a recording made during Garth’s first semester at IU. In the Fall of 2003, he appeared as tenor soloist in a performance of Daniel Pinkham’s *Wedding Cantata*. He was joined by soprano Lauren Greer, pianist Marcello Urias, and the IU University Chorale, all under the direction of William Jon Gray.

**MUSIC: Burned CD, T. 1, 3:23**

Tenor Garth Eppley and soprano Lauren Greer, with William Jon Gray and the IU University Chorale, in a 2003 performance of Daniel Pinkham’s *Wedding Cantata*.

During the 2005-2006 season, Garth took two roles in IU Opera Theater productions. He portrayed Lysander in the fall production of Benjamin Britten’s *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, and in the spring he participated in the world premiere of Ned Rorem’s opera *Our Town*. Here are selections from both of these performances.

**MUSIC: Burned CD, T. 2 and 3, 6:23**

Two selections featuring tenor Garth Eppley. First, we heard Eppley as Lysander, in Benjamin Britten’s *A Midsummer’s Night Dream*. He was joined by Sarah Mabary as Hermia, with the IU Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of David Effron. Then, we heard Garth as one of the three friends of George Gibb in the world premiere of Ned Rorem’s *Our Town*. He was joined by Carolina Castells as Emily Webb, Cody Fosdick as George, and Elizabeth Baldwin as Mrs. Webb. George's other friends were sung by Daniel J. Yarzebinsky and Daniel Shirley. They were accompanied by the IU Philharmonic Orchestra, under the direction of David Effron.
Garth’s powerful tenor voice had been praised for its “ringing clarion high notes” and “beautiful color”. One of his most striking performances at IU came in the winter of 2005. He sang the role of Pilate, in the Contemporary Vocal Ensemble’s performance of Arvo Pärt’s *Passio*. Here are selections from that performance.

**MUSIC: Burned CD, T. 4, 25:13**

Selections from Arvo Pärt’s *Passio*, a setting of The Passion According to St. John. Garth Eppley sang the role of Pilate, with David Swain as Jesus; Anna Jacobs, John-Bede Pauley, Eric Knechtges, and Paul Pisano as the Evangelists; and the IU Contemporary Vocal Ensemble, all under the direction of Carmen Helena Tellez.

(26:20)
(total pgm=40:20)

In April of 2005, Garth returned to the opera stage, portraying one of the men in armor who guide Tamino through Sarastro’s trials in Mozart’s *The Magic Flute*. Here he is in a duet with fellow man in armor, Adam Cioffari. The IU Concert Orchestra is led by Uriel Segal.

**MUSIC: Burned CD, T. 5, 8:47**

Garth Eppley and Adam Cioffari as the two men in armor from Mozart’s *The Magic Flute*. Jordan Bluth sang the role of Tamino, and Vera Savage was Pamina. They were accompanied by the IU Concert Orchestra under the direction of Uriel Segal.

(9:15)
(total pgm=49:35)
We conclude our program with a performance of Sven-David Sandström’s *Es ist Genug*, from a performance that took place in Auer Concert Hall on April 17, 2006, less than a week before the accident. Garth Eppley is the tenor soloist, with the IU Contemporary Vocal Ensemble led by Carmen Helena Tellez.

**MUSIC: Burned CD, T. 6, 8:44**

We heard Sven-David Sandström’s *Es ist Genug*, “It is enough”. Garth Eppley was tenor soloist with the IU Contemporary Vocal Ensemble, under the direction of Carmen Helena Tellez.

(9:26)

(total pgm=58:41)

Over the past hour, we have paid tribute to the life and musical gifts of Garth Eppley, through the legacy of his recordings.

Our program was written by Mona Seghatoleslami and Adam P Schweigert. Our executive producers are Christina Kuzmych and Cary Boyce. Our engineer is John Shelton. Special thanks to Dean Gwyn Richards, Alain Barker, Konrad Strauss, and William Jon Gray, for the IU Jacobs School of Music, as well as Ann Elizabeth Sauder and Courtney Crouse, who assisted in the preparation of the musical excerpts for this program.

(1:00)

(total pgm=59:41)