An Afternoon Remembrance of
Benjamin F. Ward, Jr.
August 2, 1948-December 14, 2013

Vier letzte Lieder (Four Last Songs)

Richard Strauss
(1864-1949)

Frühling (Hermann Hesse) [4'05]
September (Hermann Hesse) [4'54]
Beim Schlafengehen (Hermann Hesse) [6'18]
Im Abendrot (Joseph von Eichendorff) [7'04]

Tod und Verklärung, op. 24 (Death and Transfiguration) [26'59]

[49'33]

Dear Friends: two works by Richard Strauss are being heard this afternoon at Benjamin Ward’s request. These renditions of Vier letzte Lieder and Tod und Verklärung, op 24 (Four Last Songs and Death and Transfiguration) were profoundly meaningful for Ben. The performers: Gundula Janowitz, soprano, and Herbert von Karajan leading the Berlin Philharmonic in 1996. Sometimes Ben listened to these recordings during chemotherapy, and sometimes he played them, in rather dim light in his Edens apartment, alone, or for visitors. Our friend, who lived and taught philosophy, and who was a humane musician, pointed out that Death and Transfiguration was an early work, while Four Last Songs was Strauss' last; and that at the close of “Im Abendrot” the elder Strauss quotes the transfiguration theme from Death and Transfiguration, written in his youth, nearly sixty years before. In spare language and in music beyond the reach of language, Strauss’ Four Last Songs explore death’s meaning as no other work in musical literature.

Our dear colleague carefully specified that there was to be no speech at his memorial service, only this music, in this order. To an intimate, Ben communicated his intention for this moment: “I want my friends to listen to the music, and I’ll write some notes.” And then he left, notes unwritten. From his tears and bearing we can speculate that the music touched the very essence of his being, and sense of being alive, indeed, of having lived, and that he wanted to share what music alone can communicate.

For us, he left the notes unwritten.

Stephen Jaffe, friend and colleague
Reception to Remember  
Benjamin F. Ward  
Penn Pavilion, Duke University  
January 18, 2014

'Dreamin' with a Broken Heart' - John Mayer  
arr. N. Gelman '11, KC Steedle '10

'Change in my Life' – The Angels of Mercy  
arr. R. Stacy '92

Robert and Debbie Rosenstein, Kurt '82 and Carol Uphoff

'Some Kind of Wonderful' – The Trenchcoats  
arr. T. Bains '97

Wade Weast, Dean of Music, University of North Carolina School of the Arts

'Quartet in C Major, KV 157, Andante Movement' performed by the UNCSA String Quartet  
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

William Griffith, Vice President for Student Affairs Emeritus (1991), Duke University

'Fix You' – Coldplay  
arr. C. Waybill '14

Patrice Nelson, Executive Director, Urban Ministries of Durham

'Thank you' – Boyz 2 Men  
arr. J. Park '00

Sean-Patrick Oswald '11, Duke Men's Varsity Track and Field

'Let Her Go' – Passenger  
arr. C. Waybill '14

Arnold Dennis, Rights of Passage, Durham, NC

'With or Without You' – U2  
arr. KC Steedle '10

Rick Laub '83

Scott Lindroth, Vice Provost for the Arts, Duke University

'Wagon Wheel' – Old Crow Medicine Show  
arr. N. Gelman '11

Scott Strickland, Head Groundskeeper, Durham Bulls

'Angels' – Robbie Williams  
arr. C. Waybill '14

Joseph Landau '95, Associate Professor of Law, Fordham University

'O Magnum Mysterium' performed with Out of the Blue  
Morten Lauridsen
Marcus Montano '16, Co-Founder and Co-President, Black Men's Union, Duke University

No More Running Away – Air Traffic

Christopher Tweed-Kent '12, Duke Men's Varsity Soccer

Surfer Girl – Beach Boys

Sue Wasiolek '76, Dean of Students, Duke University

Carolina – James Taylor

Tom Walter, Head Baseball Coach, Wake Forest University

Hallelujah – Leonard Cohen

Anthony Kelley, Director of Undergraduate Studies, Department of Music, Duke University

Use Somebody – Kings of Leon

Robert Rosenstein

Simple Gifts

arr. B. F. Ward

Richard Brodhead, President, Duke University

Dear Old Duke

arr. R. S. Clarke '82

The Pitchforks of Duke University

Neil Krishnan '14 Chris Waybill '14 Martavious Parrish '14 Adam Abelson '15
Stefan Fertala '15 Eric Wu '15 Kevin Wu '15 Alvin Kang '15
Justin Eckerson '15 Jay Kennedy '15 Tyler Pease '15 Josh Kalejaye '16
Yemi Adewuyi '16 Jay Attys '16 Ethan Dunn '16 Kyle Alderdice '16
Evan Murray '17 Ben Allen '16 Nicholas Wetherbee '16 Charlie Sutherland '16
Will Want '17 Allen Jones '17 Max Duncan '17 Alex Brunson '17
Matt McCarty, M.D. '12

The University of North Carolina School of the Arts String Quartet

Lucia Kobza, violin Bennett Astrove, violin Rachyl Duffy, viola Emily Grissing, cello

Out of the Blue

Abigail Glackin '14 Marissa Medine '14 Erica Zeno '15
Margaret Morrison '15 Allison Dorogi '15 Nancy Zhu '17