



**IGOR STRAVINSKY  
L'HISTOIRE  
DU SOLDAT**

2

CALHOUN COLLEGE

presents

L'HISTOIRE DU SOLDAT

text by

C. F. Ramuz

music by

Igor Stravinsky

music director

Paul Gacek

translated and directed

by

Thomas Maciolek

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programs

December 2 & 3, 1966

Calhoun College Hall

8:30 pm

PROGRAM NOTES

by

Igor Stravinsky

I received the idea of Histoire du soldat in the spring of 1917, but I could not develop it at the time as I was still occupied with Les Noces and with the task of preparing a symphonic poem from The Nightingale. The thought of composing a dramatic spectacle for a théâtre ambulant had occurred to me more than once since the beginning of the war, however. The sort of work I envisaged would have to be small enough in the complement of its players to allow for performances on a circuit of Swiss villages, and simple enough in the outlines of its story to be easily understood. I discovered my subject in one of Afanasiev's tales of the soldier and the Devil. In the story that attracted me, the soldier tricks the Devil into drinking too much vodka. He then gives the Devil a handful of shot to eat, assuring him it is caviar, and the Devil greedily swallows it and dies. I subsequently found other Devil-soldier episodes and set to work piecing them together. Only the skeleton of the play is Afanasiev-Stravinsky, however, for the final form of the libretto

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