

MURIEL SMITH HEARD IN PROGRAM OF SONGS

Muriel Smith, young contralto of many attainments, including star parts in "Carmen Jones" and "Our Lan'", gave a Town Hall recital, yesterday afternoon. Greeted by prolonged applause as she stepped on the stage, she charmed the audience with her personable appearance and voice of quality.

Singing with restraint throughout the program, she performed songs of Bach, Beethoven and Wolf in German, Santoliquido in Italian, a group in French and one in English with interpolations in Russian. All of this was encompassed with considerable feeling for style and diction, although there were times when the intensity which the singer felt was not sufficiently projected by her voice.

Miss Smith's vocal quality is delightfully smooth and evenly produced over her entire range. She "covers" the tone almost completely, reducing the amount of contrast in the slower numbers. She was at her best in Debussy's "Fantouche," performing with such vivacity and spirit that the audience demanded and got a repetition. Another song in her best idiom was Marc Blitzstein's "Mamasha Goose," with which she drew laughter from the audience.

Stuart Ross was the self-effacing accompanist. C. H.

The New York Times

Published: December 13, 1947

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