

Senior Voice Recital
By
JACOB PRICE
BARITONE

with: Mrs. Laura Stelljes, piano
Noah Ungemach, tenor



Martin Luther College, Chapel of the Christ
Sunday, March 21, 2021
3:00 p.m.

INCLUDING:
SONGS OF TRAVEL BY R.V. WILLIAMS,
FRENCH ART SONGS, AND MUSICAL CLASSICS!

Jacob Price
Senior Voice Recital
Martin Luther College - Chapel of Christ
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Songs of Travel

Ralph Vaughan Williams

The Vagabond
Let Beauty Awake
The Roadside Fire
Youth and Love
In Dreams
The Infinite Shining Heavens
Whither Must I Wander
Bright is the Ring of Words
I Have Trod the Upward and the Downward Slope

Oh! Quan je dors
Plaisir d'Amour

Franz Lizst
Jean-Paul-Ègide Martini

Lily's Eyes from *The Secret Garden*
with Noah Ungemach, tenor

Lucy Simon

My Defenses are Down from *Annie Get Your Gun*

Irving Berlin

Thank you for coming!

Due to COVID-19 protocols, there will be no reception with refreshments.
You may greet the performers in the gathering space of the chapel.

Program Notes

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958) was an English composer of orchestral, stage, chamber, and vocal works. Vaughan Williams was the founder of the nationalist movement breaking the ties to continental Europe. He brought back the influences of English folk song and Tudor polyphony to revive British music.

The Songs of Travel is a song cycle of nine songs originally composed for a baritone voice. The text draws from poetry written by Robert Louis Stevenson. The cycle focuses on a life of a traveler who begins with enthusiasm, endures a difficult life, and ends with a sense of peace in understanding the realities of the world.

The Vagabond & Let Beauty Awake

The first song, The Vagabond introduces the young man who sets out on his own with excitement, daring nature and fate to challenge him. By the second song, Let Beauty Awake, it is clear that the traveler is amazed at the beauty of the world. At this point in the young man's life everything is simply an adventure waiting to happen.

Roadside Fire, Youth and Love, In Dreams

These three songs introduce a new character, the love of his life. These songs highlight how this relationship connects to his growth as a man. The final song of this episode, In Dreams, highlights the difficult decision he must make to forgo this relationship with his love because of the life he has chosen.

The Infinite Shining Heavens

During The Infinite Shining Heavens, the Vagabond takes a moment to look up to the sky as he has throughout his journey. After a time of reflection, he is able to move past the grieving over leaving his love to continue his journey.

Whither Must I Wander

After some time, the traveler encounters someone new. This takes place during the song Whither Must I Wander which shares the innocence of his childhood and the warm stories he remembers. As the song progresses, it becomes clear that this life is still not a possibility for him. He accepts this fate when he sings "but I come forever and come again no more."

Bright is the Ring of Words

Time has passed since his resignation to his fate as a middle aged man. Bright is the Ring The Words brings back the sense of purpose that has not been seen since the opening song. The Vagabond declares his legacy fondly thinking about his past lover singing and remembering him even now.

I Have Trod the Upward and the Downward Slope

The song cycle concludes with I Have Trod the Upward and the Downward Slope which clearly is set at the close of his life. The traveler describes how he has done all the things he wished to do and can peacefully depart from this world.

Franz Liszt (1811-1886) was a prominent figure in the Romantic movement of music as a virtuoso pianist and renowned composer. Liszt made his mark by being original foremost as a concert performer and translated that into his vocal compositions.

Oh! Quan Je Dors is one of Liszt's most famous vocal works as he captures the imagery of Victor Hugo's poetry. This text highlights the passionate love that can come between two people and the flowing musical lines demonstrate the connection.

Oh! When I sleep, come next to my bed,
As Laura appeared to Petrarch,
And in passing let your breath touch me...
Suddenly my lips will open up!

On my mournful brow where perhaps is ending
A dark dream which lasted too long,
Let your glance like a star be lifted...
Suddenly my dream will shine!

Then on my lips where flutters a flame,
Light of love that God himself purified,
Place your kiss, and change from angel to woman...
Suddenly my spirit will awaken!
Oh come! As Laura appeared to Petrarch!

Jean Paul-Egide Martini (1741-1816) was a French composer during the classical era of music. He was known primarily for his operas, sacred vocal works, chansons, and Romance songs. He is cited as the first composer in France to compose vocal songs with piano accompaniment rather than continuo.

Plaisir d'Amour is the song Martini is most remembered for. Contrary to romances in the early eighteenth century, this song is set in rondo form with a much more involved accompaniment which features the piano through a prelude, interlude, and postlude.

The pleasures of love last but a moment
The sorrows of love last all life through
I have given up everything for the
ungrateful Sylvia,
She left me and took another lover.
The pleasures of love last but a moment,
The sorrows of love last all night all life
through.

As long as this water runs gently
Towards the brook that borders the
meadow,
I shall love you, Sylvia told me.
The stream still flows, but she has
changed.
The pleasures of love last but a moment,
The sorrows of love last all life through.

Lucy Simon (b. 1943) is an American composer for popular songs and musical theatre. She began her career in music performing with her sisters as the "Simon Sisters". *The Secret Garden* was her first Broadway hit and remains her most popular work.

Lily's Eyes comes from the musical, *The Secret Garden*. The song begins with a 10 year old girl, Mary, reminding brothers, Archie and Neville, of the deceased Lily. While Archie lost his wife, Neville lost the girl of his dreams. The piece progressively builds to demonstrate the deep despair both brothers feel when they think about Lily. This despair reaches its climax through the powerful duet section towards the end of the song. A final held out chord demonstrates the brothers collecting themselves physically while the grief in their heart and mind remains.

Irving Berlin (1888-1989) was an American composer widely considered one of the most important in American music history. Berlin was a leader in moving from the jazz and ragtime styles towards the golden age of musicals. He is best known for the motion picture film *White Christmas* and the musical *Annie Get Your Gun*.

My Defenses are Down from *Annie Get Your Gun* is a humbling love song for Frank Butler, a confident womanizer. Frank is known for keeping women at just enough of a distance as to not get too close. All of this changes when Annie, an attractive sharpshooter from the West, comes along and knocks his "defenses down" which he discovers to be not as bad as he thought.

A Thank You from the Singer

Thank you to all who were able to attend today in person or via livestream. Thank you to the MLC Print Shop for printing my posters and programs. Thank you to the MLC photography team for documenting this event in photos. Thank you to the MLC AVCO team that made it possible to stream this event. Thank you to my family and friends who support my aspirations and dreams. Thank you to Mrs. Laura Stelljes for going on this journey with me accompanying me. Thank you to my voice teacher, Kathy Wurster for the incredible passion and dedication in helping me grow and evolve as both a singer and a person. Finally, a thank you to the Lord in heaven above for gracing us with the gift of music and the opportunity to do all things to his glory.

May God be praised.