

Voice & Trombone Recital



Carl Boeder

Featuring Mrs. Laura Stelljes, piano
and Noah Ungemach, tenor

March 27, 2021 | 3:00 PM

Martin Luther College | Chapel of the Christ

Voice & Trombone Recital
Martin Luther College - Chapel of the Christ
Saturday, March 27, 2021

Program Order

I.

My Life's Delight
Take, o take those lips away
The Monk and His Cat
A Green Lowland of Pianos

Roger Quilter
(1877-1953)
Samuel Barber
(1910-1981)

II.

All' Mein Gedanken
Allerseelen

Richard Strauss
(1864-1949)

III.

Adelaide from *Guys and Dolls*
Just One of Those Things from *Jubilee*
Stormy Weather

Frank Loesser (1910-1969)
Cole Porter (1891-1964)
Ted Koehler (1894-1973)
and Harold Arlen (1905-1986)
Michael Flanders (1922-1975)
and Donald Swann (1923-1994)

The Wompom

- intermission -

IV.

Sicilienne, Op. 78

Gabriel Fauré (1845-1924)
Arranged by Alan Raph (b. 1933)
Leonard Bernstein (1918-1990)
Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873-1943)
Arranged by Alan Raph

Elegy for Mippy II
Vocalise, Op. 34, No. 14

Concerto for Trombone and Piano

Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov (1844-1908)

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Program Notes

Roger Quilter wrote more than 100 art songs in a distinctly English style despite receiving much of his composing education in Germany. "My Life's Delight" comes from Quilter's popular collection *Seven Elizabethan Songs* and features the poetry of the prolific poet, lutenist, and doctor, Thomas Campion. "Take, o take those lips away" is from Quilter's second set of songs with lyrics by Shakespeare. This short song was included in the play *Measure for Measure*.

Samuel Barber was an American composer of both vocal and instrumental music. His most successful work, "Adagio for Strings" was written for orchestra and adapted for choir as "Agnus Dei". "The Monk and His Cat" comes from Barber's song cycle for voice and piano entitled *Hermit Songs*, which features ten anonymous poems written by Irish monks and scholars from the 8th Century to the 13th Century. Twentieth Century British-American poet W. H. Auden translated the poem. "A Green Lowland of Pianos" was translated by acclaimed Polish poet Czesław Miłosz and included in the collection *Three Songs* published late in Barber's career, a few years after the flop of his opera *Anthony and Cleopatra*. *Three Songs* features only poems translated into English.

Richard Strauss rose to prominence in Western Europe and the Americas with his conducting and compositions, especially his opera *Salome* and his tone poems *Also Sprach Zarathustra* and *Don Juan*. Strauss is less known for his lieder, or German songs. Strauss composed a collection of songs entitled *Simple Tunes* around the time that *Don Juan* became his first international success. *Simple Tunes* features poems by Felix Dahn including "All' mein Gedanken." "All' mein Gedanken," which means "All my thoughts," was written for and with help from Strauss's wife, Pauline. The following translation is by Richard Stokes:

All my thoughts, my heart and my mind,
Wander to where my beloved is.
They go on their way despite wall and gate.
No bolt, no ditch can stop them.
They go high in the air like little birds,

Needing no bridge over water or chasm,
They find the town and they find the house,
Find her window among all the others,
And knock and call: 'Open up, let us in,
We come from your sweetheart who sends his love.'

"Allerseelen", which means "All Souls' Day", comes from Strauss's first collection of songs, *Eight Songs from Last Pages*. It is made up of eight songs from Hermann von Gilm's poetry collection *Last Pages*. Interpretations of this song are various. The following translation is by Richard Stokes:

Set on the table the fragrant mignonettes,
Bring in the last red asters,
And let us talk of love again,
As once in May.

Each grave today has flowers and is fragrant,
One day each year is devoted to the dead;
Come to my heart and so be mine again,
As once in May.

Give me your hand that I may hold it in secret,
And if people see, I do not care,
Give me but one of your sweet glances
As once in May.

Frank Loesser won two Tony awards for writing the music and lyrics of the musical *Guys and Dolls* in 1950. Five years later Marlon Brando and Frank Sinatra were cast as the two male leads in the film version. Though five of Loesser's songs were cut from the film's script, Loesser wrote three new songs just for the movie. "Adelaide" was written for Frank Sinatra's character Nathan Detroit in order to increase the size of his role.

Cole Porter is known for writing over 1,400 songs in a career that lasted from the 1920s to the 1950s. Most of these songs make up his original musicals. His most famous musicals include *Kiss Me, Kate* and *Anything Goes*. Porter is known for his wit, humor, and period-specific cultural references. Many artists have recorded Porter's songs. Among the artists who have recorded "Just One of Those Things" are Nat King Cole, Ella Fitzgerald, Louis Armstrong, and Frank Sinatra. The song was written for the 1935 musical *Jubilee*, which also featured the timeless jazz standard "Begin the Beguine."

Ted Koehler and **Harold Arlen** wrote songs together for The Cotton Club in Harlem, a popular whites-only nightclub that featured black performers including Duke Ellington and Cab Calloway. "Stormy Weather" was first performed there in 1933 by Ethel Waters. The song was an instant hit and was later recorded by Frank Sinatra, Ella Fitzgerald, Judy Garland, and more. A musical film based on the song was released in 1943.

Michael Flanders and **Donald Swann** were a British comedy duo who wrote over 100 comic songs together. The two toured widely, nearly 2,000 times in 11 years together. Their songs are characterized by their wit, complex rhyme schemes, and often, gentle satire. Interpret "The Wompom" at your own discretion.

Gabriel Fauré was an influential French composer known for his beautiful piano works and small ensemble music. Fauré first composed "Sicilienne" for a musical that never saw the stage. He then changed it to a cello solo with piano accompaniment before later adapting it again for a small orchestra, to be played as incidental music for a play.

Alan Raph is a bass trombonist with a wide range of playing experiences, including TV and movies. His career has included teaching, conducting, composing, and arranging. Raph has published several books on trombone pedagogy. Both of his arrangements are included in his book *Solos for Trombones*.

Leonard Bernstein is one of the most successful composers of the 20th Century and was a major cultural figure in the United States during his lifetime. He is best known today for his musical *West Side Story*. Bernstein won 16 Grammy awards as a conductor and 7 Emmy awards for his educational shows for children and televised concerts. "Elegy for Mippy II" comes from a suite of brass pieces that Bernstein composed, inspired by the dogs of his friends and dedicated to his brother Burtie. It is the third piece in the suite. A footnote on the piece reads as follows: "Mippy was a mongrel belonging to my brother Burtie." Two other pieces are written for Mippy: for horn and piano, and for tuba and piano. The first piece of the suite is a trumpet solo with piano and the final piece is for brass quartet. The other footnote on this piece is also worth noting: "*The trombonist should accompany himself by tapping one foot, mezzoforte, four to the bar.*"

Sergei Rachmaninoff began his musical career at age four as a piano prodigy. At age eighteen, he began publishing his original compositions. Rachmaninoff composed music for various ensemble sizes, from orchestral symphonies, operas, and major choral pieces to piano solos, chamber pieces, and vocal solos with piano accompaniment. The wordless "Vocalise" is one such vocal solo, the last of fourteen songs in the collection entitled *Romances*. Rachmaninoff intended for this beautiful melody to be sung on a vowel of the singer's choosing. Since its publication in 1915, "Vocalise" has been arranged for and performed by a wide range of instruments and is one of Rachmaninoff's most popular songs.

Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov had a long career as a composer. He was part of "The Five", a group of Russian composers that also included Modest Mussorgsky, Mily Balakirev, Aleksandr Borodin, and César Cui. Rimsky-Korsakov wrote this concerto in 1877 for trombone and military band and later reduced the score for piano accompaniment. This piece was composed about ten years before Rimsky-Korsakov's most famous orchestral work *Capriccio Espagnol* and about twenty years before he published "Flight of the Bumblebee" in the opera *The Tale of Tsar Saltan*. The concerto has three movements: Allegro Vivace, Andante Cantabile, and Allegro-Allegretto. The second and third movements feature cadenzas at the end. This widely performed concerto is considered a standard piece of trombone repertoire.

Acknowledgements

First and foremost, I thank God for the gift of music and for guiding me back to MLC to study music with all of the fine people here. To God alone be the glory.

I thank my talented accompanist Mrs. Laura Stelljes for all of her hard work, both in learning difficult music and performing it with immense artistry and attention to detail.

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Finally, thank you for coming today!

A typical reception will not be held today, but the musicians will be happy to greet you in the gathering space.

