

Singing in the 21st Century:

North American Art Song composed since 2001



Rachel Velarde, mezzo-soprano

Kristen Whitworth, piano

Kate Mulligan-Ferry, flute

Faculty Recital

Wednesday, January 11, 2012, 7 pm

Ethington Theater, Grand Canyon University

Graduate Recital Series

Friday, January 13, 2012, 5 pm

Recital Hall, Arizona State University

Singing in the 21st Century

Rachel Velarde, Mezzo-Soprano

Kristen Whitworth, piano

The Silver Swan (2008) Lori Laitman (b. 1955)

A new setting of the well-known text and choral arrangement by Orlando Gibbons composed at the request of Dr. Carol Kimball. The song premiered on March 29, 2008 at a concert to honor Dr. Kimball's retirement from UNLV, and I first heard it at the NATS Conference in Salt Lake City, July 2010, during Dr. Kimball's presentation on New Music.

Kate Mulligan-Ferry, flute

Florals (2009)..... Martha Hill Duncan (b. 1955)

Emailed to me by the composer after I heard some of her music at the NATS Conference 2010, purchased several songs, and reviewed them in "The Music Teacher's Helper Blog," September 2010.

1. The Daisy

2. Flowering

3. Fire-Flowers

Quatre Mélodies de Ronsard (2007)..... Judith Cloud (b. 1954)

Again, the songs were introduced to me at Dr. Kimball's presentation in Salt Lake City. This cycle was also written to honor her retirement from UNLV (premiere: March 29, 2008). Dr. Cloud is Professor of Voice and Composition at NAU and has been a long-time NATS colleague of mine. At my request, she recommended these pieces for me to sing on this recital.

2. Bonjour mon Coeur

Good day, my heart,
Good day, my sweet life,
Good day, my eye,
Good day, my sweet lover!
Ah! Good day, my beauty,
My precious,
Good day, my joy,
My love,
My sweet springtime,
My sweet young flower.
My sweet pleasure,
My sweet little dove,
My lark, my gentle turtledove!
Good day, my sweet wild bird.

3. À sa guitare

My guitar, I sing to you
Whom alone I disappoint
I disappoint, I break, I enchant
The loves that I receive

At the sound of your harmony
I refresh my warmth
My warmth, an infinite flame
Born of a beautiful unhappiness.



Translations by Victoria de Menil

Late Afternoon (Six songs for mezzo-soprano) (2007)..... Ricky Ian Gordon (b. 1956)

"A cycle of friendship and shared work, as well as a container for grief...the singer...gets to come at the subject from different angles—as one who is perhaps aware of her own mortality, one who is bereaved, and one who seeks to commune with the lost—to converse with the missing." This cycle was composed on poetry that comforted the composer after the passing of his partner.

1. Otherwise

2. Willi, Home

3. X

4. Just Now

5. What the Living Do

6. Let Evening Come

10-MINUTE INTERMISSION

Chants d'exil (2002)..... Lee Hoiby (1926-2011)

The piece was commissioned in 2002 by Dr. Claudine Torfs, daughter of the poet Marcel Osterreith. The poems were written during Osterreith's time in the Belgium Congo during World War II. I chose this set to honor Hoiby's life and long dedication to vocal music.

1. Lucioles

Fireflies, winged candles of the African nights
Procession of fairy lights, lamps in freedom,
Escaped one evening from an electric light bulb
Whose heart was breaking from repressed desires.

2. Anniversaire

Do you dream today
Of that intoxicating embrace
When, trembling, you placed
Your hands on my clasped hands?

We will not age
While awaiting autumn
I have already taken tomorrow
In what you give me...

For time does not pass
For those who belong to each other.
It becomes memory
And our hearts retain it.



3. Chant du kisandji

The thumb-piano
Do, la, si, mi,
Sad music
Of the African nights
Do, la, si, mi
Monotonous tune
Of the thumb-piano
That imprisons me.

A single refrain:
It is the song
Of the old guardian
Of the house.
And each night
This song rises
And haunts me
Killing my dreams...

Three clear notes,
A cracked sound,
Keys of steel,
Ring of glass.
Oh! nostalgia
From the melodies
Of the thumb-piano
Do, la, si, mi.

"To watch you
Night after night,
Will I have enough
To buy
The new loincloth
That I promised
Do, la, si, mi,
To my companion?"

I cannot see
Did I sleep?
I hear the Spirit
The fire is going out...
Little Jesus
Chase away Death
The old guardian
Wants to live a little longer...

Ah! Light!
It's morning;
I am no longer afraid
I feel good,
My soul is proud
Do, la, si, mi
The thumb-piano
Is my savior."

The old guardian
Returns home
Plucking, delightedly,
His thumb-piano
To the lone refrain:
Do, la, si, mi
Kisandji
Do, la, si
La, si
Si.....

Translations by Scott LaGruff

The Sweetness of my Dreams (2006)..... Jocelyn Hagen (b. 1980)

"5 pieces on poetry by 10 year old poet, Hilda Conkling (published in 1920)." I met Jocelyn at the NATS Conference during a lunchtime Publisher's Showcase. Her company, Graphite Publishing, publishes "Vocal Music by Living Composers." I was struck by the quality of work of all the composers presented, and I immediately began dreaming of this recital: Singing works of contemporary composers.

I. I will sing you a song!

II. Dandelion

III. Theatre Song (an exaggerated tale)

IV. Moon Song

V. About my Dreams

turn over →

Missed Connections (2009) **David Sisco (b. 1975)**
David Sisco, Adjunct Professor of Voice at Marymount Manhattan College, composed these songs for the 2010 NATS Art Song Competition. He won, and I heard them performed at the NATS Conference, July 2010. The texts are taken from www.craigslist.com postings in the "Missed Connections" section of the Personals. I hope you enjoy these as much as I do.

Flowers on the A train to 14th Street

John Lohse

Breaking Night...

Oh Starbucks!!

RE: Goodby J

Sad Panda

Typewriters and Things

Red Velvet Chair

Endless-summer-taco-man

Amor

I Can't Wait



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