

Degree Recital

Elizabeth Gerow, Voice

With Laura Altenmueller



**University
of Victoria**

School of
Music

Saturday July 30th, 2016, 7:00 pm

Phillip T. Young Recital Hall, MacLaurin Building

Free Admission

Program

Applause gratefully accepted after each set (noted in brackets) as opposed to each individual number. Thank you!

{ **“Flößt, mein Heiland, flößt dein Namen”** J. S. Bach
Christmas Oratorio (1685 - 1750)

Margaret Lingas, *soprano*
Alex Klassen, *cello*
Anna Betuzzi, *oboe*
Laura Altenmueller, *piano*

{ **Auf dem Felsen** Josephine Lang
Erinnerung (1815 - 1880)
Ob sie meiner wohl gedenkt!
“Es ist noch eine Ruhe vorhanden dem Volk Gottes.”

{ **Tre Arriette** Bellini
1. Il fervido desiderio (1801 - 1835)
2. Dolente imagine di Fille mia
3. Vaga luna che inargenti

{ **Serenata** Mascagni
(1863 - 1945)

-INTERMISSION-

Please turn off all cell phone, camera, laptop, and audio & video recording devices.

{ **Я не пророк (I am not a Prophet)** Rachmaninoff
Они отвечали (They Replied) (1873 - 1943)
Речная лилея (River Lilly)
У моего окна (Before my Window)
Икалось ли тебе (Were you Hiccoughing)

I would like to dedicate the performance of these next songs to Ms. Arabella Andrup, Elinor Dunsmuir's grandniece, who graciously kept and preserved the composer's original manuscripts before donating them to the Craigdarroch Castle Collection. Ms. Andrup sadly passed away this past May, and many condolences to her family and friends during this time.

{ **A Song** Elinor Dunsmuir
Une Lettre (1887 - 1938)
Mine
The Full Sea Rolls
The Dreamer
Worthy of You
A Memory

{ **An die Musik** Schubert
(1797 - 1828)

Elizabeth Gerow is from the class of Professor Susan Young

*This recital is presented in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Bachelors of Music Degree in Vocal Performance.
Reception to follow in the Lounge.*

Program Notes for Select Composers

Josephine Lang

I had the privilege of exploring the music of Josephine Lang (1815 - 1880) this past year, during an in-depth study of two of her unpublished manuscripts as part of the Jamie Cassels Undergraduate Research Award, under the tutelage of Dr. Harald Krebs. Although Lang had little formal musical training, she managed to write hundreds of songs during her lifetime, many of which helped to supply an income for her and her six children after the death of her husband. The two unpublished works mentioned above, "Auf dem Felsen" and "Ob sie meiner wohl gedenkt" will be performed this evening. The song "Ob sie meiner..." was never fully completed, as the ending of the song was crossed out by the composer. It is a gorgeous ending, however, which is why we will still be performing it for you this evening, (and hopefully Josephine would not have been too upset!)

Sergei Rachmaninoff

Rachmaninoff (1873 - 1943) is one of my favourite composers. He blends harmony and melody so seamlessly, and the Russian language just seems to pour out of your lips while singing. I also enjoy singing Rachmaninoff's music because it contains so many things in one package: passion, spirituality, contemplation, sorrow, irony, and a great piano solo! The last song of tonight's Rachmaninoff Set, "Were you Hiccoughing," is one of a number of songs that were never published during the composer's lifetime, and I chose it because it shows off the composer's more humorous side. Here is a short description of the song by Natalia Challis, from her book, The Singer's Rachmaninoff:

"In 1899 Rachmaninoff wrote music to a text by Prince Peter Viazemsky, which he paraphrased in jest and dedicated to his future wife, Natasha Satina. The song was written at a time when he was depressed by the failure of his first symphony and ceased composing; hence the dedication of the song, "No, my muse is not yet dead, sweet Natasha." He admonished her to read the music carefully, as he accompanied the phrase "loving Natasha" with the motif of Lensky's words "I love you" from Tchaikovsky's Eugene Onegin."

Elinor Dunsmuir

Emily Elinor Dunsmuir (1887 - 1938) was the daughter of the Honourable James Dunsmuir (former Premier and Lieutenant Governor of BC, who built Hatley Castle) and the granddaughter of Robert and Joan Dunsmuir (Scottish Immigrants and founders of Craigdarroch Castle). Although there are few surviving letters and no diary, her personality and circumstances can be "heard" through her surviving music manuscripts, which were kindly donated to the Craigdarroch Castle Collection by the late Ms. Arabella Andrup, to whom this performance is dedicated. Although many of the songs performed this evening are very short, they show a unique and unpredictable voice. Dunsmuir's music never took flight in the public eye during her lifetime, but there is evidence that she provided some additional songs for the 1928-1929 Broadway Musical "Sunny Days," as her name appears on the Broadway Archives Database, and family ties to the city can also support this fact. Elinor also had many wealthy and famous connections in France, where she gave the famous Ballets Russes impresario Sergei Diaghilev one of her ballet scores, and one of his letters from Dunsmuir, requesting that he return her ballet manuscript, can be found in the online archives of the New York City Library. All of Dunsmuir's songs performed for you this evening are unpublished, and with the exception of "The Dreamer" and "A Memory," this just might be their first exposure to the public ear. I would like to sincerely thank the curatorial staff at Craigdarroch Castle for introducing me to Elinor's life and music, Laura Altenmueller for her assistance with the interpretation of the music, and to the many others who helped me with deciphering the lyrics. We hope you enjoy taking a step back into the early twentieth-century of Elinor Dunsmuir!



Song Translations in English

“Flößt, mein Heiland, flößt dein Namen” (From Christmas Oratorio)

“My Saviour, does your name arouse fear”

My Saviour, does your name arouse fear

Even the smallest seed

of that powerful terror?

No, You Yourself say no. (No!)

Shall I shun death now?

No, Your sweet word is there!

Or shall I rejoice?

Yes, o Savior, You Yourself say yes. (Yes!)

Auf dem Felsen

*On the Cliff**

Silently I wander upward through the forest,

The green [forest], colourful with blossoms;

Soon I stand upon the craggy cliff,

And gaze joyfully downward.

From here I see the cramped valley

Curving down so beautifully;

The little villiages are all reposing

Like children in their cradles.

Ob sie meiner wohl gedenkt! *Is she perhaps thinking about me!*

Is she perhaps thinking about me

Now that I have torn myself away from her,

Ah, this one thing I would like to know,

Is she perhaps thinking about me!

Is she perhaps gazing at the path,

Which I walked in hot tears,

Is she with a quiet yearning,

Gazing at the desolate path?

Is she still thinking about me,

Now that I have torn myself away from her,

Ah, this one thing I would like to know,

Is she perhaps thinking about me?

Ah, sunken in sorrow,

I move farther away [from her] each day,

On my lips the fearful question!

Is she perhaps thinking about me?

Erinnerung *Remembrance**

*Every dream shows me my end!
The future no longer smiles upon me!
I barely know anymore what happiness is.
Into the springtime of my life fell
The wintry play of the snowflakes of misfortune.
Joy, Hope, Love have passed away;
I wish Remembrance were among [the things that had passed away]!*

“Es ist noch eine Ruhe vorhanden dem Volk Gottes.”

*"There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God"**

*God, when my heart breaks [in death], press
My eyes shut Yourself,
And show me Your face
There in [that place of] eternal rest!*

*Lord, I do not want to leave You!
Give me strength to clasp You firmly!
Who holds only You, yes, holds only You,
Must be blessed!*

**Translations provided by Sharon Krebs*

Tre Ariette (Three Songs)

1. Il fervido desiderio *The fervid desire*

*When will the day come
when I will be able to see you again
That which my loving heart desires so much?
That I will receive you in my breast,
Ah, Beautiful flame of love, my soul?*

2. Dolente imagine di Fille mia *Painful image of my Fille*

*Painful image of my Fille
Why so miserably do you sit near me?
What more do you want?
I have poured my tears on your ashes up till now.
Are you afraid that, forgetting our sacred vows,
I could love another face?
Shadow of Fillide, rest in peace;
Our former ardor is inextinguishable.*

3. Vaga luna, che inargenti *Pretty moon, who makes-silvery*

*Pretty moon,
Who makes these shores and flowers silvery
And inspires the language of love to the elements;
Of my fervid desire, now I tell only you,
And to you that I am falling in love
Count the heart beats and the sighs.
Then tell her that distance cannot assuage my sorrow,
That I feed upon a hope, she is the only one, yes,
She is the only one in my future.
Also tell her that day and night
I count the hours of grief
That the enticing hope
of her love comforts me.*

Serenata Serenade

*Like loving doves sleep with their heads tucked under white wings
You, like a tired person, recline under soft, embroidered blankets.
You enjoy rose-colored dreams as your head rests upon the pillow.
As sweet fairies pass by, one brushes your smiling face
And tells you that my heart is bleeding for you, and my veins run hot
with blood!
Passing by, it tells you that I love you; that you are both sweetness and
torment to me!
White, within a cloud of blond hair, you smile happily at your pleasant
dreams.
Do not awaken, oh flower of paradise! Because I come to kiss you in
your dreams!*

Я не пророк I am not a Prophet

*I am not a prophet, nor a warrior am I,
I am not a teacher of the world;
By God's grace I am a singer.
The instrument I bear is a lyre.
I perform the will of the Lord,
I do not keep trust with a lie,
I speak to hearts through a song,
Waking in them the spark of God!*

Они отвечали They Replied

*They asked: How in fleeting boats
Can we glide like white seagulls on waves,
So watchmen would not overtake us?
Row! They replied.*

*Asked they: How can one forget, forever,
This sorrowful world's misfortunes and needs,
Its sadness and storms?
Fall asleep! They replied.*

*Asked they: How will beautiful girls
Love us, without illusion-and to our passionate words,
They would be drawn into our embrace?
Love! They replied.*

Речная лилея River Lily

*A water lily, opening her petals, looks at the sky,
The amorous moon sadly touches her with its silvery rays,
And when she turns shyly toward the blue waters
The moon's pale and languid reflection touches her there . . .*

У моего окна *At my window*

*At my window a bird cherry blossoms,
Blossoms pensively in its silvery raiment . . .
And with its fresh and fragrant branch
It inclines and beckons . . .
Of its quivering, ethereal petals
I joyfully take in the cheerful breath,
Their sweet fragrance obscures my consciousness,
And they sing love songs without words . . .*

Икалось ли тебе *Were you hiccoughing*

*Were you hiccoughing, Natasha,
When I was drinking the champagne
Of different tastes, attributes and classes,
Of different ages and passions.
When in Voronezh cellars
I greedily drank to you,
Loving Natasha, poetess,
Yea and loving champagne too?
Here Kastalsky's key wells up
Sustaining with an unfabulous stream,
Poetry here is an everyday matter:
Pay five francs, then drink and sing!*

Une Lettre *A Letter*

*When you think of me,
You will always know,
That during the day and the days,
During the night and the nights
During the weeks and the months
During the years
That I am yours alone
I love you
and I adore you.*

An die Musik *To Music*

*Oh hallowed Art, how often, when depression
and life's wild circle had ensnared my space,
have you aroused my heart to love's compassion,
have you removed me to a better place!*

*How often has the sigh your harp created,
a sacred chord of your enchanted mood,
to heaven's better times my soul elated:
Oh hallowed Art, accept my gratitude!*

Special Thanks

I would first like to thank my Heavenly Father for being my Savior, Mentor, and best friend, and for giving me the gift of song which brings me so much pleasure, and also encourages others in their walks of life.

I would like to thank my parents, family and friends for their encouragement and support throughout these past years of schooling at UVic, and for always sticking with me through the storms and challenging times! I would also like to thank my church family who are always so supportive in my music, and have been in prayer for me during the rough patches.

Next I would like to thank my voice teacher Susan Young. Susan is one of the most loving, talented and encouraging people I know. Thank you for your expertise and many “pep-talks” which always kept me going! You are always supportive, but always know when to be strict with me when I need it!

I would also like to thank the other voice faculty at UVic: Ben Butterfield, Anne Grimm and Charlotte Hale for your encouragement throughout this journey which is singing. Many thanks to my past voice teachers Anne Bennett and Rebecca Hass for lighting the flame.

Many thanks to *all* the faculty and staff at the UVic Music School for widening my horizons, challenging me and sharing your expertise with me.

Thank you to my accompanist, Laura Altenmueller, for bringing your kindness, skill and expertise to this recital. It has really been a great joy to work with you, and I hope one day we will be able to work together again!

A very big thanks to Alex Klassen, Margaret Lingas and Anna Betuzzi for contributing their time and talents to this recital. It is greatly appreciated!

Last but not least I would like to thank *you*, the audience, for coming to my graduation recital. Whether you are a friend or just passing by, I hope you enjoy tonight’s performance!