

Eleanor Gray Memorial

Piano & Voice Duo Competition



Featuring UVic School of Music
piano and voice students in an Art Song competition
for the Eleanor Gray Memorial Piano and Voice Duo Prize,
honouring the legacy of Eleanor Elizabeth Gray

JUDGES

Benjamin Butterfield (UVic Head of Voice)

Arthur Rowe (UVic Head of Piano)

Frances Armstrong (Alumna BMus'17, collaborative pianist)

We acknowledge and respect the Ləkʷəŋən (Songhees and X̱wsep̓səm/Esquimalt)
Peoples on whose territory the university stands and the Ləkʷəŋən and WSÁNEĆ
Peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.



TUESDAY, MARCH 31, 2026 | 8 PM

Phillip T. Young Recital Hall
University of Victoria

PROGRAM

(Order randomly selected by a draw)

Le Bestiaire ou Cortège d'Orphée FP15

IV. Le Dauphin

V. L'Ecrevisse

VI. La Carpe

Francis Poulenc
(1899-1963)

Anakreons Grab (No. 29) from Goethe Lieder

Hugo Wolf
(1860-1903)

Sea Pictures Op. 37, No. I

Edward Elgar
(1857-1934)

Shelby Scott, mezzo-soprano

Diego Alejandro Gutierrez Funderburk, piano

Les Berceaux

Gabriel Fauré
(1845-1924)

The Dancer from The Heart's Assurance

Michael Tippett
(1905-1998)

Aufträge

Robert Schumann
(1810-1856)

Celeste Lingas, soprano

Carey Wang, piano

Amarilli, mia bella

Giulio Caccini
(1551-1618)

En Svane

Edvard Grieg
(1843-1907)

Soupir

Henri Duparc
(1848-1933)

Anika Howell, soprano

Ethan Lochhead, piano

Chanson d'Orkenise from Banalités

Francis Poulenc
(1899-1963)

Když mne stará matka from Cigánské melodie

Antonín Dvořák
(1841-1904)

Der blinde Knabe

Franz Schubert
(1797-1828)

Yanina Kosivanova, soprano

Lillian Weston, piano

Die Nacht from 8 Gedichte aus 'Letzte Blaetter,' Op. 10 Richard Strauss
(1864-1949)

Résurrection (pour le jour de Pâques) Olivier Messiaen
from *Chants de terre et de ciel* (1908-1992)

Olivia Pryce-Digby, soprano
Madison Brecht, piano

Erstes Grün Op. 35, No. 4 Robert Schumann
(1810-1856)

I Attempt From Love's Sickness To Fly Henry Purcell
(1659-1695)

Selve Amiche Antonio Caldara
(1670-1736)

Maisha Klette, soprano
Natalya Wautier, piano

Sechs Lieder, Op. 13 Clara Schumann
(1819-1896)

ii. *Sie liebten sich beide*

iii. *Liebeszauber*

v. *Ich hab' in deinem Auge*

vi. *Die stille Lotosblume*

Sabrina Blaase, soprano
Jerry Xiong, piano

Chiquitita la novia Fernando Obradors
from *Canciones clásicas españolas, Vol. 1* (1896-1945)

Quando Te Vi Pela Primeira Vez M. Camargo Guarnieri
from *Duas canções de Cleómenes Campos* (1907-1993)

Dies ist ein Lied Anton Webern
from *Fünf Lieder aus "Der siebente Ring," Op. 3* (1883-1945)

Nocturne from *Over the Rim of the Moon* Michael Head
(1900-1976)

Leah Cook, soprano
Quin Lang, piano

ABOUT ELEANOR ELIZABETH GRAY

Eleanor Elizabeth Gray was born in Stratford, Ontario on April 4, 1900. She married Dr. T.W.A. Gray in 1926 and had five children, all of whom were part of the Toronto Conservatory of Music piano program. Eleanor moved to Victoria and lived there for 55 years. The sounds of music permeated her home with the melodious ambience of two Steinway pianos.

Eleanor was very musically talented and began her piano lessons at age six. By the time she was 18 she had earned her Associate of the Toronto Conservatory of Music degree. She played piano for the glee club before graduating from the University of Toronto in home economics, and the College of Education.



When Eleanor was twelve years old, she enjoyed whistling. As her father thought it wasn't ladylike to whistle, he encouraged her to start singing lessons. She continued this love of singing throughout her life. While in Victoria, Eleanor sang in madrigal and church choirs, and in 1936 was a founding member of the Victoria alumni branch of the Toronto (now Royal) Conservatory of Music. She studied for, and received her ATCM in piano, and was to receive her ATCM in voice later in life in 1954. However, due to a nodule that developed on her vocal cord, she was not able to complete the final singing portion of the exam. It took almost a year for the nodule to disappear.

She continued her joy of playing the piano and singing up until a few months before her death on April 24, 2001, in her 101st year. Up to the age of 100, Eleanor was a member of the Whitecliff Retirement Residence choir in White Rock, and also played the piano for the Sunday afternoon church services. At the age of 90, she bought a piano keyboard.

Eleanor truly loved and embraced every day of her life and lived life to the fullest.

Eleanor is buried at the Ross Bay Cemetery, Victoria, BC.

Her son, Douglas Gray, established this award in honour of Eleanor's lifelong and life changing joy of music. Also, for her support of talented music students in the Victoria area in the disciplines of piano and voice.

ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES (in order of performance)

Originally from Hampton, New Brunswick, **Shelby Scott** is a first-year graduate student in Staged Voice, studying under soprano Anne Grimm. Shelby holds a Bachelor of Music from Acadia University. In previous years she has been a representative of New Brunswick at the National Music Festival, as well as a two-time member of the National Youth Choir of Canada. Shelby works as a choral scholar at Christ Church Cathedral, which has given her the opportunity to sing with the Victoria Symphony, Victoria Baroque and in the Pacific Baroque Festival. Since moving to the west coast, Shelby has furthered her love of opera, singing the role of Dido in UVic Collegium's production of *Dido and Aeneas*, and singing in the chorus for Pacific Opera Victoria's production of *Tosca*. Shelby is thankful for the opportunities in Victoria to grow as a young musician and looks forward to continuing to share her love of performing with others.

Diego Alejandro Gutierrez Funderburk is a Piano Performance major (BMus) at the University of Victoria. He is continuing his bachelor's degree after completing a Music Diploma at Douglas College, New Westminster. In college, Diego was able to develop his collaborative piano through repertoire such as Claude Debussy's *Rhapsodie for Orchestra and Saxophone*, and *Danse Macabre* by Camille Saint-Saëns. He additionally performed piano four-hands, including *Divertimento* by Leo Smit and *Italian Polka* by Sergei Rachmaninoff. Diego was also a pianist in the college's Jazz Ensemble and was given many opportunities to experiment with accompaniment textures. He hopes to further refine his abilities as a pianist with the goal of performing for larger audiences.

Celeste Lingas lived in England before coming to Victoria to study with Professor Benjamin Butterfield for her BMus in Voice Performance. She has been a soloist with Bach on the Rock for the *Messiah*, the Pacific Baroque Festival for a program of Monteverdi's Madrigals, Victoria Philharmonic Choir for the B Minor Mass, and UVic Chorus and Orchestra, among others. She has sung with Vox Humana and Octet Victoria, and was recently featured as a young artist in the Sing the North Festival conducted by Howard Dyck alongside Michael Schade, Daniel Taylor, Karoline Podolak and James Westman. On weekends, Celeste directs and teaches Byzantine chant at Ypapanti Greek Orthodox Church, and has toured with ensemble Cappella Romana in Canada, the US, and Romania.

Born in Vancouver, **Carey Wang** began his piano studies at the age of four and is currently in his final year of undergraduate studies with May Ling Kwok at UVic. Throughout his career, he has received various awards in many competitions, including first place at FCMF Nationals in 2025. Carey is also the only three-time recipient of the City of Victoria Medallion Award from the GVPAF. He has performed with the Victoria Symphony, Sooke Philharmonic, and UVic Symphony Orchestra. Carey has also performed many solo recitals, including his most recent at Christ Church Cathedral in 2023. Beyond his solo endeavours, Carey regularly participates in many other musical ensembles and will continue his music studies by pursuing a graduate degree.

Anika Howell is from Kamloops, BC, currently in the first year of her Bachelor of Music at UVic as a student of Anne Grimm. During her high school years, she sang as guest soloist with the Kamloops Symphony Orchestra under Maria Fuller; as well as the Kamloops Brandenburg Orchestra under Cvetozar Vutev. She participated in performing arts festivals, winning the 17 and under category for Western Canada in 2024. At UVic, she has enjoyed singing portions of the role of Belinda in a recent performance of Purcell's *Dido and Æneas*, as well as the final solo in Poulenc's *Gloria* with the UVic Chorus and Orchestra. She is grateful to learn, and eager to continue pursuing the joy of performance.

Ethan Lochhead is from Chilliwack, BC. He is both a composer and a pianist, enrolled in his first year of the Bachelor of Music program at the University of Victoria. His musical career began just four years ago. He is currently working towards his level 10 exam through the Royal Conservatory of Music Program; he looks forward to achieving his ARCT in the near future. He enjoys performing repertoire of all eras as a soloist and as a collaborative pianist. This year he will assist the Composition class recital by performing the compositions of five other students in the class. As an aspiring Composition major, he strives to create a positive impact with his compositions, creating an inclusive musical environment.

Yanina Kosivanova is a Ukrainian-Canadian soprano. She holds a Music Performance Diploma from Camosun College and the Victoria Conservatory of Music and is completing her Bachelor's degree in Voice Performance at the University of Victoria where she studies with Benjamin Butterfield. Yanina's studies and performance has taken her across Canada. She has performed in Toronto while being a participant of the Ukrainian Art Song Summer Institute in 2022 and 2023, as well as Orford, Quebec while studying at Orford Musique in 2024. Yanina is an active performer. She frequently appears at concerts and community events, particularly within the Ukrainian cultural community. When she's not making music, you'll likely find her on roller skates. She even coaches skating in her spare time.

Lillian Weston is a first-year pianist in the Bachelor of Music program at UVic and a student of Michelle Mares. Born and raised in Victoria, she participated in choirs and bands all throughout high school, often as an accompanist but also as a singer. She is grateful to be part of the UVic Chamber Singers and UVic Vocal Jazz Ensemble this year. Her love of singing and playing piano gives her a greater appreciation for the relationship between singer and pianist. She accredits her musical upbringing to her mom, who had a Bachelor's degree in piano and taught the instrument from their home all growing up. Lillian has been teaching piano to young kids herself for almost five years. She hopes to continue to teach piano, write and perform her own music, and bring the great works of other composers to life in as many ways she can.

Known for her “deep emotional sensibility,” **Olivia Pryce-Digby** studies voice at the University of Victoria with Benjamin Butterfield, where she won UVic’s 2025 Concerto Competition. Solo/operatic credits include Belinda in Purcell’s *Dido and Aeneas*, Barber’s *Knoxville: Summer of 1915*, Rutter’s *Magnificat*, Mendelssohn’s *Hear My Prayer*, and Schubert’s *Mass in G Major*. Olivia has furthered her musical training through masterclasses with Liz Upchurch, Christian Immler, Russell Braun, and Marion Newman, and summers at Orford Musique and the Ukrainian Art Song Project. She looks forward to attending Opera Kelowna’s Valley Opera Summer Intensive this summer and moving to Manchester, UK in September to begin her Master of Music at the Royal Northern College of Music. Olivia deeply values collaboration with other artists and has co-created productions including *Voice: Song and Scream* which was named on the Toronto Star’s Critic’s Choice list at the Toronto Fringe Festival in 2023.

Madison Brecht is from Chilliwack, British Columbia, currently in her third year of a Bachelor of Music degree in Piano Performance, and an Associate of The Royal Conservatory of Toronto (2023). An avid performer, she participates annually in the Greater Victoria Performing Arts Festival and has earned top honours in several local competitions, including the Madeline Till and Mary Adamson competitions. Passionate about collaborative piano, Madison is continually exploring ensemble and art song repertoire. This past summer, she attended the Orford Musique Academy, studying with Benjamin Butterfield and collaborative pianist Romain Pollet, an experience that deepened her appreciation for art song. Following her undergraduate studies, Madison plans to pursue a Master’s degree in Piano Performance and build a career as a soloist, collaborative pianist, and teacher.

Born and raised on Vancouver Island, **Maisha Klette** is now in her first year at the University of Victoria studying voice. Her past musical achievements include winning the Greater Victoria Performing Arts Festival award for Most Outstanding Classical Singer and attending the provincial festival two years in a row as well as participating in and winning several Art Song competitions during her time studying at the Victoria Conservatory of Music. Her dreams for her future include finishing her degree at UVic as well as pursuing a masters degree. She loves the art of storytelling through music and hopes to explore her passion for this further through the art of opera and musical theatre. In addition to voice, she has played violin and fiddle for most of her life and continues to pursue this when she has time.

Natalya Wautier is in her third year of UVic’s Bachelor of Music program, studying piano as a student of May Ling Kwok. She is from Victoria and has known Maisha Klette since the two of them were in elementary school! In 2023 she completed the ARCT diploma in piano performance from the Royal Conservatory of Music. She has performed in the Greater Victoria Performing Arts Festival (GVPAF) many times and has received numerous awards and scholarships from the GVPAF, the Victoria Conservatory of Music, and the UVic School of Music. She has also been a member of various school and community choirs over the years.

Sabrina Blaase is currently in her third year of a Bachelor of Music in Voice Performance, studying as a soprano under the tutelage of Marion Newman. Originally from the coastal town of Parksville, BC, Sabrina has always had a love for music and performance, participating in music and theatre whenever possible. Most recently she has performed as a soloist with the University of Victoria Chorus and Orchestra under the baton of Giuseppe Pietraroia, as well as with the University of Victoria Chamber Singers and the University of Victoria's Vocal Jazz Ensemble in their respective spring concerts. Sabrina plans to pursue a career in stage performance, continuing a much loved journey of bringing joy to audiences through the magic of music and live performance.

Jerry Xiong is a Chinese-Canadian concert pianist and educator based in Victoria, BC. He holds a Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance from the University of Victoria, where he studied with Bruce Vogt, and is currently pursuing a Master of Music under Arthur Rowe. He earned his ARCT diploma from the Royal Conservatory of Music with first-class honours and has received numerous scholarships from the University of Victoria and the Victoria Conservatory of Music. Jerry is a multiple first-prize winner at the Greater Victoria Performing Arts Festival. He further refined his artistry studying with Denys Masliuk in Slovenia, performing across Europe and making his debut in Piran, while continuing to inspire students and audiences through performance and teaching.

Leah Cook is a Canadian-American soprano currently based in Victoria, British Columbia, where she studies under Anne Grimm in the University of Victoria's Voice Performance Program. She is currently a member of UVic's Chamber Singers, Vocal Jazz Ensemble, and Voice Ensemble, and is a choral scholar for the Victoria Choral Society. She enjoys working with University of Victoria composers, performing contemporary pieces. Leah has been collaborating with pianist Quin Lang since 2023. She previously studied under Michael Ushino as a member of San Juan Hills High School Vocal Conservatory in Southern California. She performed with SCVA's Honor Choir at the University of Redlands and CASMEC Honor Choir under the direction of Grammy Award Winner Jeffery Redding in 2022. In 2023, Leah was nominated for Orange County Artist of the Year, recognizing young performers, with a specialty in cultural and commercial voice. Leah is a versatile singer and active member of the local music scene, fusing her classical training with a passion for jazz and contemporary music.

Quin Lang is a third year piano performance major at the University of Victoria. He grew up in rural Ontario, where musical opportunities were rather limited. Nonetheless, his passion for music grew and by age 10, he started taking piano lessons. Since starting piano, Quin has participated in the Peterborough Kiwanis Music Festival, and in 2023 won the Eveline Foster Memorial Competition. Then in 2024 he participated in the Greater Victoria Performing Arts Festival and won the Open Piano Baroque Award. Still unsure what his future might look like, Quin wishes to continue studying piano performance for many years to come because there is no greater fulfillment than moving someone with music.