



SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Presents

Adam Arntson, tenor  
QuanZhou Yan, collaborative pianist  
Will Moeller, tenor

Sunday, April 12, 2026

7:00 PM

PepsiCo Recital Hall

### Program

#### **Zefiro Torna**

Claudio Monteverdi  
(1567-1643)

Will Moeller, tenor

#### ***Ludions***

Erik Satie  
(1866-1925)

1. Air du Rat
2. Spleen
3. La Grenouille Américaine
4. Air du Poète
5. Chanson du Chat

#### **Il Mio Tesoro from *Don Giovanni***

W. A. Mozart  
(1756-1791)

### Brief Intermission

Benjamin Britten  
(1913-1976)

1. Alleluia
2. Evening Hymn
3. Sweeter than roses

#### **I love Betsy from *Honeymoon in Vegas***

Jason Robert Brown  
(b. 1970)

*This recital is given in partial fulfillment of the requirements for a Bachelor's Degree of Music in voice performance. Mr. Arntson is a student of Dr. James Rodriguez. The use of recording equipment or taking photographs is prohibited. Please silence all electronic devices including watches, pagers and phones.*

Zefiro Torna is one of nine madrigals written by Claudio Monteverdi. The text is from Ottavio Rinuccini's poem 'Zefiro torna e di soave accenti'. The song is in triple meter, which is characteristic of the chaconne that was popular during this time in the Baroque period

The poem speaks of the ancient Greek God *Zephyrus* who delivers spring to the valleys and mountains. It speaks of golden sunshine bring warmth, meadows with beautiful flowers, and also mentions two other prominent figures in Greek mythology commonly associated with springtime.

**Zefiro Torna**

Zefiro torna e di soavi accenti  
l'aer fa grato e 'l piè discioglie a l'onde  
e mormorando tra le verdi fronde,  
fa danzar al bel suon sul prato i fiori.

Inghirlandato il crin Fillide e Clori  
note temprando amor care e gioconde  
e da monti e da valli ime e profonde  
raddoppian l'armonia gli antri canori.

Sorge più vaga in ciel l'aurora, e 'l sole,  
sparge più luci d'or, più puro argento  
fregia di Teti il bel ceruleo manto.

Sol io, per selve abbandonate e sole,  
l'ardor di due begl'occhi e 'l mio tormento,  
come vuol mia ventura, or piango or canto.

Zephyr returns, and of sweet singing  
makes the air happy and melts the waves  
and, murmuring among the green foliage  
makes the flowers on the meadow dance to  
the beautiful sound.

With garlands in their hair, Phyllis and Clori  
sing songs of love dear and joyful  
and from mountains and deep valleys  
doubled the harmony of the singing caverns.

More beautiful rises in heaven the dawn, and  
the sun, scatters more shining gold, more  
pure silver adorning the fair blue mantle of  
Thetis.

Only I, through forsaken and lonely woods,  
the ardour of two lovely eyes and my  
torment, as my fate wills, now I weep, now I  
sing.

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<sup>1</sup> "Zefiro Torna e Di Soavi Accenti." [www.Monteverdi-Dte.Com](http://www.Monteverdi-Dte.Com), [www.monteverdi-dte.com/madrigal-book/zefiro-torna-e-di-soavi-accenti/](http://www.monteverdi-dte.com/madrigal-book/zefiro-torna-e-di-soavi-accenti/). Accessed 21 Mar. 2026.

'*Ludions*' is a set of five songs with text from Léon-Paul Fargue (1876-1947). These poems draw inspiration from absurd humor and childhood. Satie and Fargue were said to be like counterparts to each other in their similarities. Both were independent in their work and took creative liberty in wordplay and witty humor.

The poem set was originally eight poems, but when Satie was commissioned to write music for an upcoming ball, he cut three of the poems and rearranged the order of the standing five. Each poem has a funny and unique story or feeling associated with the lyrics.

The first song, '*Rat's Tune*', is centered around the death of Fargue's pet rat. The poem was written when Fargue was ten. The second song, '*Spleen*', is more serious and talks about a prostitute pondering the meaning of existence on a park bench. '*The American Frog*' is about Fargue's pet frog playfully ogling him, and the song is one of the livelier pieces. The fourth song, '*Poet's Tune*', narrates the author making love to a Papuan, and then having regrets. Lastly, '*Cat's Song*' is a lively upbeat written in honor of Fargue's severely obese cat nicknamed 'Potasson'.

### 1. Air du Rat (Rat's Tune)

Abi Abirounère  
 Qui que tu n'étais don?  
 Une blanche monère  
 Un jo  
 Un joli goulifon  
 Un oeil  
 Un oeil à son pépère  
 Un jo  
 Un joli goulifon.

Abi-Abiruneeba,  
 so who then were you not?  
 A little white amoeba,  
 a han-  
 a handsome gobble-gob  
 an eye -  
 an eye for watching granpop  
 a han -  
 a handsome gobble-pot.

### 2. Spleen

Dans un vieux square où l'océan  
 Du mauvais temps met son séant  
 Sur un banc triste aux yeux de pluie  
 C'est d'une blonde  
 Rosse et gironde  
 Que je m'ennuie  
 Dans ce cabaret du Néant  
 Qu'est notre vie.

While in the gardens the sea of rotten  
 weather weighs down with his bottom  
 an old park-bench with eyes of rain ...  
 there is a blonde,  
 all bosom and strife,  
 who's making you jaded  
 in this whole hollow cabaret  
 which is our life.

ii

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<sup>ii</sup> "Ludions." *Ludions* / A. Satie / *LiederNet*, [www.lieder.net/lieder/assemble\\_texts.html?SongCycleId=566](http://www.lieder.net/lieder/assemble_texts.html?SongCycleId=566). Accessed 21 Mar. 2026.

III

**3. La grenouille américaine (The American Frog)**

La grenouille américaine  
Me regarde par-dessus  
Ses bécicles du futaine.  
Ses yeux sont des grogs massus  
Dépourvus de jolitaine.  
Je pense à Casadesus  
Qui n'a pas fait de musique  
Sur cette scène d'amour  
Dont le parfum nostalgique  
Sort d'une boîte d'Armour.

Argus de table tu gardes  
L'âme du crapaud Vanglor  
Ô bouillon qui me regardes  
Avec tes lunettes d'or.

The Amaiwican Fwoggy  
ogles me from over his  
spectacles of green and yellow.  
Eyes he has, eye-normous globes  
utterly lacking in prettinizz.  
I think of Casa de Susic  
who has never once made music  
in this amorous boudoir  
which reeks of odours nostalgic  
out of a candy-jar.

You are an Argus, the bearer  
of the soul of Todis Rex,  
oh you bubble-ogle starrer  
eyeing me through golden specs.

**4. Air du poète (Poet's Tune)**

Au pays de Papouasie  
J'ai caressé la Pouasie...  
La grâce que je vous souhaite  
C'est de n'être pas Papouète.

On the shores of Papoetan Bayee  
I stroked the skin of Poetrayee.  
For you I wish the blest condition  
of not being Papoetician.

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III "Ludions." *Ludions* / A. Satie / *LiederNet*, [www.lieder.net/lieder/assemble\\_texts.html?SongCycleId=566](http://www.lieder.net/lieder/assemble_texts.html?SongCycleId=566).  
Accessed 21 Mar. 2026.

## 5. Chanson du chat (Cat's Song)

Il est une bebête  
Ti Li petit nenfant  
Tirelan  
C'est une byronette  
La beste à sa moman  
Tirelan  
Le peu Tinan faon  
C'est un ti blanc-blanc  
Un petit potasson?  
C'est mon goret  
C'est mon pourçon  
Mon petit potasson.  
Il saut' sur la fenêtre  
Et groume du museau  
Pasqu'il voit sur la crête  
S'découper les oiseaux  
Tirelo

Le petit n'en faut  
C'est un ti bloblo  
Un petit Potaçao  
C'est mon goret  
C'est mon pourceau  
Mon petit potasseau.

Oh he's a leetle amnal,  
tee-lee, a leetle tot,  
tirelong.  
A leetle byronetty,  
a beastie with a mom,  
tirelong.  
The wee kittykit's  
a wee bitty bit,  
a leetle busy-boo.  
He's my wee pog,  
my furry hog,  
my little Potassoo.  
He jumps up by the window  
and whets his pretty lips, tirelo,  
coz he sees on the rooftop  
a birdie's silhouette,  
tirelo.

The wee cattykit's  
a wee batty bit,  
a leetle Bizzabon.  
He's my wee big,  
my furry pig,  
my little Potasson.

IV

## Il Mio Tesoro from *Don Giovanni*

W. A. Mozart

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart stands to be one of the most prolific and influential composers of the Classical period. He showed much promise from a young age. He began his compositional career quite early in his life, and his musical output included well over 600 works. The types of music he composed included symphonies, chamber music, operas, as well as choral music.

*Don Giovanni* is an opera in two acts, and follows the story of a local womanizer whom the opera is named after. The story is a retelling of the legend of Don Juan. The opera is a tale of adventure, with dashes of comedy and drama to help carry the story along. The opera opens with Don Giovanni attempting to assault another character *Donna Anna*, followed by the murder of *Donna Anna's* father *the Commendatore*. *Don Ottavio*, the fiancé of *Donna Anna*, rushes in by her side to discover her father has been murdered. He then swears to avenge him.

This aria takes place in Act II scene II, and is *Don Ottavio's* reaction to finding out that *Don Giovanni* is the one who killed *Donna Anna's* father. This song only shows more of *Don Ottavio's* rage and pain surrounding this death, as he swears to kill *Don Giovanni*.

### Il Mio Tesoro

Il mio tesoro intanto  
Andate a consolar,  
E del bel ciglio il pianto  
Cercate di asciugare.  
Ditele che i suoi torti  
A vendicar io vado;  
Che sol di stragi e morti  
Nunzio vogl'io tornar.

My darling, in the meantime,  
please console.  
And try to wipe away the tears  
from her beautiful eyes.  
Tell her I'm going to avenge  
the injustices she suffered.  
And I want to come back [to her]  
only to announce slaughters and corpses.

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<sup>v</sup> “Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart - Il Mio Tesoro Intanto (English Translation).” *Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart - Il Mio Tesoro Intanto (English Translation)*, lyricstranslate.com/en/il-mio-tesoro-intanto-my-darling-meantime.html. Accessed 21 Mar. 2026.

## Arrangments by Benjamin Britten

Benjamin Britten

Benjamin Britten himself was an outstanding pianist, conductor, musician, and above all else a composer. His operas were considered the finest English operas since Henry Purcell's in the 17th century. Britten was incredibly prolific, and often wrote music and roles for his lifelong partner Peter Pears. Britten's work often connected with its audience through themes of being an outsider to society as well as the corruption of innocence. Britten's work was viewed as raw and honest, which helped engage his audiences that much more.

The pieces sung today are by Benjamin Britten and realized to music by Henry Purcell. A realization is where someone takes an already existing piece of music, and edits/adds to it in some way. Britten admired Purcell's work and added a more modern piano accompaniment to it. On some songs he took more artistic liberties from the original compositions. This process allows for audiences to experience Purcell's work through Britten's brilliant interpretation of it.

Henry Purcell was an English composer during the Baroque period. He composed well over 100 songs, several operas, and incidental music for a version of *Shakespeare's 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'*. Being the son of a royal musician at the Chapel Royal helped set the scene for his musical upbringing and career. Henry Purcell is well known for his many art songs. He composed over 700 individual art songs, which often centered around themes of the human experience, love, and nature.

The text for "Alleluia" is entirely up of the title, as it is repeating the word alleluia throughout the entire song. The song is in G minor, and contains quick moving melismatic lines. The word 'alleluia', a proclamation of praise and rejoicing, is in direct contrast with the minor key of the piece. Henry Purcell's relationship with religion was deeply interwoven with his music, as previously mentioned he grew up in a chapel.

The text for "Evening Hymn" was written by William Fuller (1608-1675). The text speaks about laying down to rest the body, but resting the soul with a higher power. For sleep is rest for the physical, but God is rest for the soul and the mind. The song serves as a thank you to God for providing a place to be able to truly relax and lay rest in. The tempo and key of this piece help build a relaxing and mindful scene, giving the listener a sense of tranquility.

The text for "Sweeter than roses" was written by Richard Norton (1666-1732). Norton was an English playwright, with "Pausanias, The Betrayer of His Country" being the source of the text for this song. He had his words set to music by Purcell, which created 'Sweeter than roses'. The song has three distinct sections to it, all participating in text painting. The beginning of the piece paints a lovely landscape of roses, with a cool breeze. There is a level of mystery to this part of the song, as it's sung in the style of recitative. Then, the melody and piano erupt into a quicker tempo on the phrase "then shot like fire". This section is short lived, and leads into the last section, an upbeat and triumphant declaration.

### Evening Hymn

Now that the sun hath veil'd his light  
 And bid the world goodnight;  
 To the soft bed my body I dispose,  
 But where shall my soul repose?

Dear, dear God, even in Thy arms,  
 And can there be any so sweet security!  
 Then to thy rest, O my soul!  
 And singing, praise the mercy  
 That prolongs thy days.

Hallelujah!

### Sweeter than roses

Sweeter than roses, or cool evening breeze  
 On a warm flowery shore, was the dear kiss,  
 First trembling made me freeze,  
 Then shot like fire all o'er.  
 What magic has victorious love!  
 For all I touch or see since that dear kiss,  
 I hourly prove, all is love to me.

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<sup>VI</sup> “Sweeter than Roses: Sweeter than Roses, or Cool Evening Breeze: Liedernet.” Edited by Malcolm Wren, *Sweeter than Roses / Sweeter than Roses, or Cool Evening Breeze / Liedernet*, [www.lieder.net/lieder/get\\_text.html?TextId=1372](http://www.lieder.net/lieder/get_text.html?TextId=1372). Accessed 21 Mar. 2026.

<sup>VII</sup> “An Evening Hymn: Now That the Sun Hath Veil’d His Light: Liedernet.” *An Evening Hymn / Now That the Sun Hath Veil’d His Light / Liedernet*, [www.lieder.net/lieder/get\\_text.html?TextId=5845](http://www.lieder.net/lieder/get_text.html?TextId=5845). Accessed 21 Mar. 2026.

## **I love Betsy from *Honeymoon in Vegas***

Jason Robert Brown

Jason Robert Brown is a multitalented composer, lyricist, conductor, arranger, and director. He is most well known for “The Last Five Years”, “Parade”, “The Bridges of Madison County”, and “Honeymoon in Las Vegas”.

“Honeymoon in Las Vegas” is a comedic musical focusing on the main character named Jack Singer. The show follows a couple, Jack and Betsy, as they navigate the next steps in their relationship. They’ve been together for five years, and marriage makes the most sense as the next step, but neither are fully ready. Jack’s mother made him promise to never get married, and this serves as a looming source of guilt for Jack about why he shouldn’t get married just yet.

The song takes place at the beginning of the musical, and acts as an exclamation of Jack’s love for Betsy. He lists everything that he likes and then states comparatively that he loves Betsy more. The song is a glimpse into Jack’s inner dialogue and turmoil about whether or not to propose to Betsy.

VIII

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VIII “I Love Betsy Lyrics.” *Lyrics On Demand*, [www.lyricsondemand.com/soundtracks/h/honeymooninvegasthemusicallyrics/ilovebetsylyrics.html](http://www.lyricsondemand.com/soundtracks/h/honeymooninvegasthemusicallyrics/ilovebetsylyrics.html). Accessed 21 Mar. 2026.

## **I love Betsy**

I like taxis,  
I like trains,  
I like Brooklyn when it rains  
but I love Betsy  
I like walking after dark,  
I like jogs in Prospect Park  
but I love Betsy  
I like Shake Shack,  
I like MOMA,  
and New Jersey's ripe aroma  
the parade's when i see 'em and even the  
DMV  
and the Brooklyn bridge by bike  
Heck, there's lots of stuff I like  
but I love Betsy and she loves me  
she likes hockey, no I swear  
she likes guys with thinning hair  
and I love Betsy  
she like pizza and Chinese  
Louboutin's and mac'n'cheese  
God, I love Betsy  
She like's swimming,  
writing letters  
she likes watching double-headers  
she drinks bourbon and sake  
and even likes Rocky III  
I'm amazed and I'm impressed  
but the thing that I like best is I love Betsy  
and she loves me five years  
I've been in love with Betsy for five years  
I can't believe she stuck with me  
what kind of luck have I got?  
to keep someone like her around  
ten years  
my mom's been dead already for ten years  
so since she put that curse on me  
no, there's no curse,  
its not a curse,

forget I said curse,  
the point is its been long enough,  
now its time to grow up,  
mom's in the ground,  
and look what I've found  
I like dancing on the pier,  
I like Broadway, once a year  
but I love Betsy  
I like visits to the zoo,  
I like opera, that's not true  
but I love Betsy  
its been five years and I'm ready,  
get the sparklers and confetti  
give a wink to the waiter  
and summon the maître d,  
just like Jay-Z and Beyoncé,  
I will make her my fiancé  
I love Betsy  
I love Betsy  
I love Betsy  
and Betsy loves me  
I'm a schmuck and betsy loves me  
doesn't matter what I do,  
I know its true  
I could never live without her  
Betsy loves me  
its amazing,  
Betsy loves me  
and tonight I'm gunna show her  
just how proud I am to know her  
there's no danger,  
there's no drama,  
there's no curse,  
and there's no mama  
put my problems in the past  
I'm a grown-up man at last  
I'm the luckiest guy from the Bronx to the  
islands

so laugh if you wanna,  
this whole town is gunna see,  
that I love Betsy  
sorry mama,  
I love betsy  
and she loves me.