



SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Presents

JJ Ruiz, tenor
Ashley Chua, piano
Debbie Seitter, mezzo-soprano

April 11, 2024,

8:30 PM

Robert Carr Chapel

Program

Lamento
Le Manoir de Rosemonde
Chanson Triste
Henri Duparc (1848-1933)

En Fermant Les Yeux from *Manon*
Jules Massenet (1842-1912)

Open Road from Glory Days
Nick Blaemire (b.1984)

Brief pause

Et Misericordia from *Magnificat*
J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

Violetas
Lejos de Ti
Despedida
Jurame
Carlos Guastavino (1912-2000)
Manuel M. Ponce (1882-1948)
Maria Grever (1885-1951)

This recital is given in partial fulfillment of the requirements for bachelor's degree in Voice Performance.

Mr. Ruiz is a student of Dr. James D. Rodriguez.

The use of recording equipment or flash photography is prohibited.

Please silence all electronic devices including watches, pagers and phones.

Lamento

Henri Duparc

Henri Duparc was a French composer who is known for the original and lasting songs that were set to the poems of Charles Baudelaire, Leconte de Lisle, Theophile Gautier, and many more. He resided in France where he was able to study under Cesar Frank and Franz Listz. He constantly self-criticized his own music which led him to destroy most of his creations. Only thirteen complete works were published and one uncomplete opera. Lamento is about a deep expression and desperate longing for an unfulfilled love. Duparc set the music to the poem written by Theophile Gautier (1811-1872). Duparc used lush and expressive chords to symbolize deep mourning. With its deep musical language, this piece can evoke deep emotion.

Lamento

Lament translations by Richard Stokes

Connaissez-vous la blanche tombe
Où flotte avec un son plaintif
L'ombre d'un if ?
Sur l'if une pâle colombe,
Triste et seule au soleil couchant,
Chante son chant.
On dirait que l'âme éveillée
Pleure sous terre à l'unisson
De la chanson,
Et du malheur d'être oubliée
Se plaint dans un roucoulement,
Bien Doucement.
Ah ! jamais plus près de la tombe
Je n'irai, quand descend le soir
Au manteau noir,
Ecouter la pâle colombe
Chanter, sur la branche de l'if,
Son chant plaintif !

Do you know the white tomb
Where with a plaintive sound, floats
The shadow of a yew tree?
On the yew a pale dove,
Sad and alone in the setting sun,
Sings its song.
As though the awakened soul
Weeps, under the earth, in unison
With the song,
And from the unhappiness of being forgotten
Moans in unison
Very softly.
Ah! Nevermore near the tomb
Shall I go, when night descends
In its black cloak,
To hear the pale dove
Sing on the branch of a yew
Its plaintive song!

Le Manoir de Rosemonde

Henri Duparc

This is one of the darkest and most evoking piece written by Duparc. Set to the poem by Robert de Bonnières, it is a story about a longing for love and all the pains that may come while trying to find love. It is describing the man going on a journey to a mansion, where Rosemonde is residing to be with her. Throughout the journey he compares love to being a vicious biting dog.

Le Manoir de Rosemonde

The Manor of Rosemonde translations by Richard Stokes

De sa dent soudaine et vorace
Comme un chien l'amour m'a mordu...
En suivant mon sang répandu.
Va, tu pourras suivre ma trace...
Prends un cheval de bonne race,
Pars, et suis mon chemin ardu,
Fondrière ou sentier perdu,
Si la course ne te harasse !

With sudden and ravenous tooth,
Love, like a dog, has bitten me.
By following my blood shed,
Go, you will be able to follow my trail.
Take a horse of fine breeding,
Set off, and follow my route,
Bog or hidden path,
If the journey does not exhaust, you!

En passant par où j'ai passé,
Tu verras que seul et blessé
J'ai parcouru ce triste monde,
Et qu'ainsi je m'en fus mourir
Bien loin, Bien loin, sans découvrir
Le bleu manoir de Rosemonde.

Passing by where I have passed,
You will see that, alone and wounded,
I have traversed this sad world,
And that thus I went off to die
Far away, far away, without discovering
The blue manor of Rosemond.

Chanson Triste

Henri Duparc

Chanson Triste is set to Jean Lajor's poem, focusing on the melancholy, spiritually, and fleeting nature of life. Despite its titled being translated to "sad song" it is about melancholic longing that can be soothed the presence of a loved one. The narrator finds comfort in their beloved's gaze and voice, as well as their breast, where they are laying down. There is a deep emotional intimacy, where love becomes a refuge from sorrow.

Chanson Triste

Sad Song *translations by Richard Stokes*

Dans ton Cœur dort un clair de lune,
Un doux clair de lune d'été,
Et pour fuir la vie importune
Je me noierai dans ta clarté.
J'oublierai les douleurs passé,
Mon amour, Quand tu berceras mon triste
Cœur et mes pensées
Dans le calme aimant de tes bras !
Tu prendras ma tête malade.
Oh ! quelquefois sur tes genoux,
Et lui diras une balade,
Qui semblera parler de nous,
Et dans tes yeux pleins de tristesses,
Dans tes yeux alors je boirai
Tant de baisers et de tendresses
Que peute tre je guérirai.

In your heart slumbers a light of-the moon,
A gentle light of-the moon of-summer,
And to escape the troublesome life
I shall drown in your light.
I shall forget the sorrows of the past
My love, when you cradle my sadness
Heart and my thoughts
In the calm loving of your arms.
You will-take my head ailing,
O! Sometimes on your lap,
And it tells a ballad,
That will-see to-speak to us.
And from your eyes full of sorrow,
From your eyes then I shall-drink
Many kisses and of tenderness
That, perhaps, I shall-be-healed.

En Fermant Les Yeux

Jules Massenet

Jules Massenet was a French opera composer who lived in the late 19th century and early 20th century. His music is recognized for its lyricism, occasional sentimentality, and theatrical aptness. He showed understanding of music at an early age which he proceeded to study under Ambroise Thomas in the Paris Conservatoire. During 1867, he produced his first opera, *La Grand' Tante (The Great Aunt)* which had enormous success. *Manon* (librettist: Henri Meilhac & Philippe Gille) is a tragic love story portraying betrayal and agony having an expensive tongue can lead to. "En Fermant Les Yeux" is an aria from the final act sung by Des Grieux, one of the love interests of Manon. Here he describes what could have been a perfect future for her and he has forgiven her, but he does not know that Manon is about to pass away.

En Fermant Les Yeux

En Fermant les Yeux je vois Là-bas
Une humble retraite, une maisonnette
Toute blanche au fond de bois !
Sous ses tranquilles ombrages
Les clairs et joyeux ruisseaux,
Ou se mirent les feuillages,
Chantent avec les oiseaux !
C'est le paradis ! Oh non !
Tout est la triste et morose,
Car il y manque une chose :
Il y faut encore Manon
Non ! La sera notre vie, si tu le veux,
O Manon !

When I Close my eyes *translations by JJ Ruiz*

When I close my eyes, I see far away
a humble treat, a little house
all white in the depths of the woods!
Under its peaceful shades
The clear and joyous streams
Where are reflected the leaves
The stream sings with the birds!
It's paradise! Oh no!
Everything is there sad and gloomy.
For there is missing one thing
There is a needed still Manon
No! There will be our life if you want it
Oh, Manon!

Open Road from *Glory Days*

Nick Blaemire

Nick Blaemire is a singer and songwriter that resides in New York City. *Glory Days* is his first musical that he worked with alongside his friend James just when they were 18. He currently is working on his second original musical *Finding Robert Hutchens* with book writer Paul Downs Colaizzo.

The original Broadway musical that was performed for only one day was based on the *Glory Days* novel by James Gardiner. The story follows the lives of four high school best friends one year after high school. With pop-rock style music, the four characters are finding a way to live with the changes and the consequences of growing up. In this piece, Jack describes what happened in that one year.

Open Road

Well, I took a month off from school and decided to go on a trip.
So, I packed my bags and kissed my mom goodbye.
And I got into my car, what a lousy piece of shit,
But I didn't care 'cause I just needed to try and go driving down the coast
In the nice days or the rain.
I wore the same clothes and got food on the go.
I tore around those curves just speeding through the plains.
Sometimes I went so fast I wanted to explode.
Cause it was just me and the open road.
I stopped at all the parks and slept under the sky. And when I woke, I drove the rest of the day.
I took shortcuts through peoples' yards and ran my gas tank close to dry.
And when I sped by cops, I knew just what to say after the fourteenth time!
When I was driving through the East with my windows rolled down low,
There was so much air that I could hardly breathe.
I taught myself the land from the blue ridge to pocanos
I became an expert on how the traffic flowed, I loved my life alone on the open road.
And then I met this kid who wanted to go cross country like I did...
But wouldn't hitch 'cause he had to much pride,
So, I offered him a ride and we learned about each other's lives

As we talked all through the night. And when he thought the time was right
He kissed me in the car beneath a starless sky.
And with that kiss he opened up my mind.
And we went driving, we were driving.
Just me, a beautiful boy, and the
Open road.

Et Misericordia from *Magnificat*

Johann Sebastian Bach

Bach is one of the most renowned composers of his time. When he was just a young boy, he began to learn organ and strings from his older brother Johann Christoph and his father. Later in his teenage years began to focus on composing for keyboard and harpsicord. He mainly focused on sacred music.

Magnificat is the first major choral work of Bach after being appointed in Leipzig in the spring of 1723. The text is set to the Gospel of Luke. “Et Misericordia” which mean “and Mercy” is the sixth movement in *Magnificat*.

Et Misericordia

*And Mercy translations by Michael Marissen
and Daniel R. Melamed*

Et misericordia a progenie in
Progenies timentibus eum.

And mercy on those who fear
Him from generation to generation.

Violetas from *Tres Canciones*

Carlos Guastavino

Carlos Guastavino was an Argentinian composer who was born during the 1910s. He rejected the stylistic radicalism of Alberto Ginastera. He believed that music should be based on melody and harmony, making him one of the best-known musicians from Argentina. He composed music for the current days and refused to write music for future audiences to discover. He attended Athos Palma for composition, and he studied under Germán de Elizalde.

“Violetas” is part of his song cycle, *3 Canciones*. Violetas is set to a poem, but the poet is not known. This is an Argentinian art song that is set to show the delicate and melancholic essence of violets. In order to enhance the poetry, Guastavino featured rich harmonies and flowing melodies.

Violetas

Violets translations by JJ Ruiz

Leves, mojas melodiosas
Su obscura luz morada insinuándose
Tal perla vegetal tras verdes valvas,
Son un grito de marzo, un sortilegio
De alas nacientes por el aire tibio.
Frágiles, fieles, sonrían quedamente
Con muda incitación, como sonrisa
Que brota desde un fresco labio humano.
Mas su forma graciosa nunca engaña:

mild, wet, melodious
Its dark purple light insinuating itself
Such a vegetal pearl behind green valves,
It's a cry of March, a spell
With nascent wings in the warm air.
Fragile, faithful, they smile softly
With silent incitement, like smile
That springs from a fresh human lip
But its graceful form never deceives

Nada prometen que después traicionen.
Al marchar victoriosas a la muerte
Sostienen un momento, ellas tan frágiles,
El tiempo entre sus pétalos.
Así su instante alcanza,
Norma para lo efímero que es bello,
A ser vivo embeleso en la memoria.

They promise nothing and then betray it.
Marching victoriously to death
They hold for a moment, they are so fragile
The time between petals
So that your moment may reach,
Standard for the ephemeral that is beautiful,
To be alive, enchanted by memory.

Lejos de Ti

Manuel M. Ponce

Manuel M. Ponce is known as the father of musical nationalism in his country. He was born in Fresnillo, Zacatecas, Mexico. His studies for composition were in Mexico, Italy, and Germany, where his music took a huge inspiration from these places. Some of his beloved and most famous works were *Estrellita* and *Concierto del Sur*, a major guitar concerto. He extensively wrote for the classical guitar.

“Lejos de Ti” is a song that expresses the need for love from a far way lover. The lyrics come from Eulogio Flores’s poem. His words express longing and sorrow coming from the separation of a loved one. This piece made Ponce well known for his lyrical and deep expressive meaning.

Lejos de Ti

Far from you *translations by JJ Ruiz*

Lejos de ti la vida es un martirio
Sin alegría sin luz.
Es la existencia cruel loco delirio
Porque me faltas tu
Es triste la mañana sonriente,
La tarde el cielo azul.
Todo está gris y lúgubre en mi mente
Por que me faltas tu.

Far from you, life is a martyrdom
Without joy without light.
It is the cruel existence of crazy delirium
Because I need you
The smiling morning is sad
The evening the blue sky
Everything is gray and gloomy in my mind
Because I need you.

Despedida

Maria Grever

Maria Grever can be described as the first woman to gain international recognition for her music skill and compositions. Born in Leon, Guanajuato, Mexico, later moving to Spain then the United States. She specialized in Boleros and popular songs, which most of them became recognized internationally.

“Despedida” is a heartfelt piece expressing the sadness of saying farewell to a lover. With the lyrics being written by herself, and the intense chords of the minor key, you can really feel as if you yourself is saying farewell to a loved one.

Despedida

Farewell *translations by JJ Ruiz*

Una triste sonrisa tu labio dibujo
Una indiscreta lagrima de mis ojos cayo
Tu mano entre la mía enlazada las dos
Detener pretendía nuestra separación
Y sin decirnos nada nos dijimos adiós

A sad smile your lips draw
A discrete tear falls from my eyes
Your hand within mine linked together
To stop our separation
And without saying a word we said goodbye

Hoy en mi cruel soledad fatal
Viene tu imagen a mi sensual
Tengo delirio por verte
Siento temor de perderte
Vuelve otra vez a mi lado no te alejes de mi
Di que no has olvidado el amor que te di.

Today in my cruel fatal solitude
Your image comes to me sensually
I'm dying to see you
I'm afraid of losing you
Come back to my side again, don't leave me
Don't say you forgotten the love that I gave.

Jurame is a deep love song that expresses longing and love from a lover. The lyrics convey a plea from the singer to their beloved, asking them to swear that they will never stop loving them. With the deep and romantic melodies of the piano and the singer, one can only wish to never stop being loved.

Jurame

Swear to me *translations by JJ Ruiz*

Todos dicen que es mentira que te quiero,
Porque nunca me habían visto enamorado,
Yo tu juro que yo mismo no comprendo
El porque me fascina tu mirada.
Cuando estoy cerca de ti y estás contenta,
No quisiera que de nadie te acordaras;
Tengo celos hasta del pensamiento
Que pueda recordarte a otro hombre amado.
Jurame que aun que pase mucho tiempo
No olvidarás el momento,
En que yo te conocí
Mírame, pues no hay nada más profundo
Ni mas grande en este mundo
Que el cariño que te di.
Bésame, con un beso enamorado,
Como nadie me ha besado
Desde el día en que nací.
Quiéreme, quiéreme hasta la locura
Así sabrás la amargura
Que estoy sufriendo por ti.

Everyone says it's a lie that I want you,
'cause they've never seen me in love,
I swear to you that I don't even know
Why does your gaze fascinate me.
When your close to me and your happy,
I don't want you to remember anyone.
I am jealous even of the thought
May it remind you of another man.
Swear to me that even if a lot of time passes
You won't forget the moment
In which I met you
Look at me, there is nothing more profound
Nor grander than this world
Then the care I gave you.
Kiss me, with a loving kiss
Like no one has kissed me
Since the day I was born.
Want me, want me to madness
So, you will know the bitterness
That I suffer cause of you.