

Pacific Lutheran University  
The College of Professional Studies and School of Music, Theatre & Dance present

SENIOR RECITAL

**Caroline Bergren, soprano**

Jessica Heinauer, *mezzo-soprano*

Amy Boers, *piano*

Tuesday, April 2, 2024 at 7:30pm  
Lagerquist Concert Hall, Mary Baker Russell Music Center

PROGRAM

**Fair Robin I Love.....Kirke Mechem (b. 1925)**

**This is Prophetic.....John Adams (b. 1947)**  
from *Nixon in China*

**Deux Poèmes de Louis Aragon ..... Francis Poulenc (1899-1963)**  
1. *C*  
2. *Fêtes galante*

**Les chemins de l'amour..... Francis Poulenc**

**고향의 봄 (Spring in My Hometown) .....Hye-Young Cho (b. 1969)**  
Caroline Bergren, *soprano* • Jessica Heinauer, *mezzo-soprano*

**Ari Arirang..... Ahn Jeong-jun (1937-2009)**

**Laurie's Song.....Aaron Copland (1900-1990)**  
from *The Tender Land*

Program Notes

Prolific composer, **Kirk Mechem**, is considered to be one of the most prominent contemporary American composers. Mechem premiered his first opera, *Tartuffe*, in 1980. The modern opera buffa is based on a play written by Jean-Baptiste Poquelin, better known as Molière. The opera premiered with San Francisco Opera and has since been performed in over 400 countries across the globe. In “Fair Robin I Love,” Dorine, maid to Mariane, attempts to convince Mariane to resist her father’s wishes to marry Tartuffe, who is attempting to con Mariane’s father and win the deed to his house. The aria follows a folksong feel using a 6/8 time signature. The bouncing of the vocal line allows the listener to view Dorine’s aria as more of a tale and lesson. By convincing Mariane to marry her lover, Valerie, Dorine sings of how easy it is to outwit a man, as women are just as cunning.

American composer, **John Adams**, is known for expanding on the minimalist movement set forth by the likes of Philip Glass. Known for some of his most expressive operas based from real-world events, *Nixon in China* is no exception to Adams’ works. President Nixon’s 1972 visit to China marked the end of a 25-year isolation period between the United States and the People’s Republic of China. The trip led to the re-establishment of economic relations and communication between the two countries. The announcement and trip itself garnered global attention generated the phrase “Only Nixon could go to China.” The President’s wife, Pat Nixon, was also in attendance on the trip. The First Lady’s participation in local activities played a massive part in growing media attention surrounding the trip and the development of diplomatic relations. In Pat’s aria, “This is Prophetic,” she is standing at the gates of Longevity and Goodwill in a contemplative manner. She sings of a future filled with global peace and prosperity for the American people. The bulk of the accompaniment consists of a droning six against four, pushing Pat’s thoughts forward and she envisions this glorious future. The aria concludes with Pat declaring, “Bless this union with all its might, let it remain in violate,” and then is ushered to the Ming Tombs where Chinese emperors are laid to rest.

**Francis Poulenc** was a renowned French composer and pianist in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Poulenc wrote nearly 200 songs during his lifetime and was a member of Les Six, a prestigious group of composers during his time. At a young age he was introduced to a number of poets, including Louis Aragon that would later become the inspiration for his compositions, such as *Deux Poèmes de Louis Aragon*. The first song “C” reflects on the Bridges of Cé in France and the considerable number of battles that have taken place in this location, dating back to the 14<sup>th</sup> century. The song uses text painting through a musical motif resembling an arch or bridge. The second song “Fêtes galantes” also comments on war and its chaos and displacement it brings. The text is a jumble of various observations the narrator makes. The hectic speed and the incohesive string of words and thought resemble the confusion and destruction created by war.

*Les chemins de l'amour* is an exemplary work of Poulenc’s legacy in French art song. The grandiose chords in the piano, which echo Debussy, are paired with an integral vocal line that

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*This recital is presented by Ms. Bergren in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Bachelor of Music Education. Ms. Bergren is a student of Dr. Soon Cho.*

tells the story. Each verse holds a dark undertone reflecting on a past love. The verses have a downward motion, while the much happier chorus appears more lifted and reaches up. It is no wonder this song is so popular; Poulenc displays true tonal beauty in his writing.

**Hye-Young Cho** is broadly seen as one of the leading South Korean contemporary composers. Her notable composing in the choral world includes *Te Deum*, commissioned for the World Choral Symposium in 2014. Cho has held many composer-in-residence positions around South Korea and is currently serving as composer-in-residence for the Incheon City Chorale. *고향의 봄* or *Spring in my Hometown*, is a popular traditional Korean folk song. Cho's duet arrangement of *고향의 봄* is derived from her original choral adaptation. Dr. Soon Cho, mezzo-soprano, and Lindsey Hansen-Bravo, soprano, premiered the duet in May of 2023 at the Korean Music Association's annual concert in Seattle. The traditional text is filled with nostalgia, longing for one's childhood, and hometown scenery through memories of the floral-filled neighborhood.

Classical music advocator **An Jeong-jun** had no prior training in composition prior to his arrangement of *Ari-Arirang*. His self-proclaimed dedication and respect for classical vocal repertoire led him to produce this arrangement of the Korean folk song *Arirang* utilizing an operatic soprano voice and piano. The piece was performed in 2000 in a performance honoring former Korean president Kim Dae-jung's Nobel Peace Prize award. The performance resulted in well-deserved recognition for An Jeon-jun and his compositions. The traditional text of *Arirang* holds a deep meaning for the people of Korea. It represents the longing for friends and family who were divided from the Korean War. While there is great sadness in the text's meaning, it also provides hope for the future and the possibility of reunification of families.

**Aaron Copland's** "Laurie's Song" originates from the American opera *The Tender Land*. The opera tells the story of a lower-middle-class midwestern farm family in the United States. Laurie Moss, the eldest daughter, is approaching her high school graduation and finds herself contemplating her future. In the aria, Laurie, who is on the brink of adulthood, has yet to discover her place in the 'world so wide' and sings of the strange feeling she senses as she approaches graduation. The primary theme consists of diatonic arpeggiation, setting a tone of reflection and awe as Laurie reminisces on her childhood memories. As she begins to think about the present moment and near future, Laurie grows anxious as the tempo and dynamic contrast increase. At the climax of the aria, she questions her true feelings and begins to allow herself to consider the endless possibilities.



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