

Regency Series

Regency Voices
Words of Women

Thursday, October 11, 2018 at 8pm
Lagerquist Concert Hall, Mary Baker Russell Music Center

Pacific Lutheran University
School of Arts and Communication / Department of Music presents

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Regency Voices *Words of Women*

featuring
Melissa Plagemann, *mezzo-soprano*
and Sheila Bristow, *piano*

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Welcome to Lagerquist Concert Hall.

Please disable the audible signal on all watches, pagers and cellular phones for the duration of the concert.
Use of cameras, recording equipment and all digital devices is not permitted in the concert hall.

PROGRAM

- Manners at a Concert**..... **Dominick Argento (b. 1927)**
Text by Judith Martin, "Miss Manners" (b. 1938)
- From *Twelve Poems of Emily Dickinson*** **Aaron Copland (1900-1990)**
Why do they shut me out of heaven? Text by Emily Dickinson (1830-1886)
Heart, we will forget him
I felt a funeral in my brain
- From *The Diary of Virginia Woolf*** **Dominick Argento**
The Diary Text by Virginia Woolf (1882-1941)
Anxiety
Parents
Last Entry
- Six Preludes on a Theme**..... **Sheila Bristow (b. 1969)**
- From *They Said***..... **Gordon Myers (1919-2006)**
Gloria Steinem
Sign in a Restaurant Window
Alicia M. Short
Charlotte Rarich
Phyllis Diller
- From *I Will Breathe a Mountain***..... **William Bolcom (b. 1938)**
The Crazy Woman Text by Gwendolyn Brooks (1917-2000)
Never More Will the Wind Text by Hilda Doolittle, "H.D." (1886-1961)
How To Swing Those Obbligatos Around Text by Alice Fulton (b. 1952)
- From *Love After 1950*** **Libby Larsen (b. 1950)**
Boy's Lips (a blues) Text by Rita Dove (b.1952)
The Empty Song (a tango) Text by Liz Lochhead (b. 1947)
I Make My Magic (Isadora's dance) Text by Muriel Rukeyser (1913-1980)

Program Notes

Judith Martin (Miss Manners) was born in 1938 in Washington, DC, to an American mother and Russian immigrant father. She received a degree in English from Wellesley College. She has been writing her advice column, “Miss Manners” since 1978, and it is currently published three times a week and carried by more than 200 newspapers. Before writing her column, she was a journalist covering social events at the White House and embassies, and a film critic.

Emily Dickinson was born in Amherst, Massachusetts, to a prominent family in 1830. She lived much of her life in reclusive isolation, writing mainly in secret. Her large collection of poems was found by her younger sister Lavinia, and the first volume of her poetry was published in 1890, four years after her death.

Virginia Woolf was born into an affluent family in London in 1882. She suffered from numerous mental breakdowns throughout her life, the first right after the death of her mother in 1895. She is considered one of the most important modernist 20th century writers, and a pioneer in the use of stream of consciousness writing as a narrative device. She was an important figure in London’s literary society between the World Wars, though her writing was often controversial, especially for her sometimes blatant anti-semitism. She drowned herself in a river in 1941 at the age of 59.

Gloria Steinem has been an important leader and voice of American feminism since the 1960s. She was born in Toledo, Ohio, in 1934 and attended Smith College. She began her career as a journalist, writing for *Esquire*, *Cosmopolitan*, and *New York Magazine*, among others, and was the founder of *Ms. Magazine*.

Phyllis Diller was born in Ohio in 1917. She was a ground-breaking stand-up comedian, and was one of the first female comics to become a household name in the United States. She had a long career as both a comic and an actress, and passed away in 2012.

Gwendolyn Brooks was born in Topeka, Kansas, in 1917. She was the first African-American recipient of the Pulitzer Prize, winning the prize for Poetry in 1950. She was appointed Poet Laureate of Illinois in 1968, a position she held until her death in 2000, and what is now the Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress for the 1985-86 term. In 1976, she became the first African-American woman inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

H.D. (Hilda Doolittle) was born in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, in 1886. She was an American poet, novelist, and memoirist, associated with the early 20th century avant-garde Imagist group of poets, including Ezra Pound and Richard Aldington. She befriended Sigmund Freud during the 1930s, and became his patient in order to understand and express her bisexuality, her residual war trauma, her writing, and her spiritual experiences.

Alice Fulton, born in New York in 1952, has been a professor of literature and poetry at the University of Michigan, Cornell University, and Ithaca College. In 2011 she received an American Academy of Arts and Letters Award in Literature. The Library of Congress awarded Fulton the Rebekah Johnson Bobbitt Award in 2002. In 2004 she was the Holloway Lecturer in the Practice of Poetry at University of California, Berkeley, and in 2010 she was the George Elliston Poet at University of Cincinnati. She has also been a visiting professor at University of California, Los Angeles, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, and a number of other universities.

Rita Dove, born in Akron, Ohio, in 1952, served as Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress from 1993-1995, the first African-American to be appointed to the position. Dove is the second African-American to receive the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry, in 1987, and she served as the Poet Laureate of Virginia from 2004 to 2006.

Liz Lochhead was born in a small village in Scotland in 1947. Between 2011 and 2016 she was the Makar, or National Poet of Scotland. She is well-known in Scotland as a feminist, both from her writing and public appearances, and is also a successful and prolific writer for the theatre.

Muriel Rukeyser was born in New York City in 1913. She is best known for her poems about equality, feminism, social justice, and Judaism. Among numerous other honors, she was a recipient of the Guggenheim Fellowship. She remained active in progressive politics throughout her life, passing away in New York City in 1980.

About the Performers

Melissa Plagemann, mezzo soprano, has been praised by audiences and the press for her “Clear, burnished voice” and “mezzo rich with an alto’s strength and a soprano’s shining top edge” (*Tacoma News Tribune*). She enjoys a busy and vibrant performing schedule throughout the Pacific Northwest and beyond. In the 2018-19 season, she returns to the Everett Philharmonic to perform the *Liebestod* from Wagner’s *Tristan und Isolde*. She also returns to Symphony Tacoma for Beethoven’s *Ninth Symphony*, and to the Pacific Northwest Ballet for their performances of *Nutcracker*. Additionally, she will join Bellevue Chamber Chorus for Vivaldi’s *Gloria*, and will sing the national anthem at two games with the Seattle Mariners.

Recent opera roles for Melissa include Nicklausse (*Tales of Hoffman*), the witch and the mother in *Hansel and Gretel*, Suzuki (*Madama Butterfly*), and both the 2nd and 3rd ladies in Mozart’s *Magic Flute*. She teaches on the faculties of Pacific Lutheran University and Western Washington University. She is also a managing diva with Opera On Tap Seattle, and a teaching artist with Seattle Opera.

Sheila Bristow is a church musician, accompanist, and composer living in Tacoma, Washington. She holds degrees in composition and organ performance from Cornish College of the Arts and the University of Washington. Ms. Bristow serves as Organist & Choirmaster at Episcopal Church of the Redeemer, Kenmore, and is an Affiliate Artist at Pacific Lutheran University. Her choral works have been performed by Cascadian Chorale, Medieval Women’s Choir, Northwest Girlchoir, Opus 7, PLU’s Choral Union & University Singers, Pacifica Choirs, and Seattle Pro Musica.



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