

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

JUNIOR RECITAL

Skye Llewelyn, *mezzo-soprano*

Amy Boers, *piano*

Saturday, April 10, 2021 at 12pm
Jennie Lee Hansen Recital Hall, Mary Baker Russell Music Center

Program

Se nel ben sempre incostante.....Alessandro Stradella (1644-1682)

Sonntag.....Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

**Sommerabend
Maienkätzchen**

Fiançailles pour rire.....Francis Poulenc (1899-1963)

*I. La Dame d'André
V. Violon
VI. Fleurs*

Three Songs, op. 45.....Samuel Barber (1910-1981)

*Now Have I Fed and Eaten up the Rose
A Green Lowland of Pianos
O Boundless, Boundless Evening*

This recital is presented by Mx. Llewelyn in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance. Mx. Llewelyn is a student of LeeAnne Campos.

Program Notes

Alessandro Stradella was a Baroque composer who produced nearly 300 works. He was born to a Tuscan aristocratic family, educated in Rome, and had made a name for himself by the age of 24. He had several affairs, and attempted to embezzle money from the Roman Catholic Church. Stradella wrote at least six Baroque operas including a full-length comic opera *Il Trespolo tutore*. He also wrote more than 170 cantatas, and six oratorios. Stradella composed 27 separate instrumental pieces, most for strings and basso continuo, and typically in the sonata da chiesa format. He was stabbed to death in 1682.

Johannes Brahms, born into a Lutheran family, is often grouped with Beethoven and Bach as one of the “three B’s” of music. He premiered many of his own works as a virtuoso pianist, but also composed for symphony orchestra, chamber ensembles, piano, organ, voice, and chorus. The diligent, highly constructed nature of Brahms’s works was a starting point and an inspiration for a generation of composers. He died of liver cancer after spending his last years attending premieres and performances of his works.

In Brahms’ world, the three pieces I am performing have nothing to do with each other. However, I am not Brahms. *Sonntag* is the German word for “Sunday”, *Sommerabend* is translated to “Summer Evening”, and *Maienkätzchen* is translated to “May Kittens.” My cat, Eurydice, was born on a Sunday evening, in May, which would be a summer evening.

Francis Poulenc was largely self-educated, being the only son of a manufacturer of pharmaceuticals and not being allowed to enroll in a music school. Poulenc had a reputation, particularly in his native country, as a humorous, lightweight composer, and his religious music was often overlooked. A large amount of Poulenc’s style was learned from other French impressionist composers, such as Erik Satie and Maurice Ravel. Later in his life, he inherited a large sum of money from his father, and purchased a country house. Surviving through World War II, he died of a heart attack, composing music to his final days.

Samuel Barber wore many hats as an American composer, pianist, conductor, baritone, and music educator. Music critic Donal Henahan stated, "Probably no other American composer has ever enjoyed such early, such persistent and such long-lasting acclaim." As a child, his family wanted him to become a star American athlete, but he was composing at six years old. Barber's music usually included the experimental trends of musical modernism, breaking the norm of traditional 19th century harmonic language and formal structure that embraced lyricism and emotional expression. He wrote both instrumental and vocal art songs. In his final years, he battled depression and alcoholism as his works kept getting rejected. His final work was three years before he died from cancer.

This recital is dedicated to Eurydice Llewelyn.



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