

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

SENIOR RECITAL

Cecilia Lewis, mezzo-soprano

Sheila Bristow, *piano*

Saturday, May 8, 2021 at 12pm
Lagerquist Concert Hall, Mary Baker Russell Music Center

Program

Le nozze di Figaro.....**W. A. Mozart (1756-1791)**

Non so più cosa son, cosa faccio
Voi che sapete

À Chloris.....**Reynaldo Hahn (1875-1947)**

Quand la nuit n'est pas étoilée
Fêtes galantes
L'Heure exquisite

Intermission

Frauenliebe und leben.....**Robert Schumann (1810-1856)**

1. *Seit ich ihn gesehen*
2. *Er, der Herrlichste von allen*
3. *Ich kann's nicht fassen, nicht glauben*
4. *Du Ring an meinem Finger*
5. *Helft mir, ihr Schwestern*

Everything I Know**Lin-Manuel Miranda (b. 1980)**
from *In the Heights*

I Won't Mind.....**Jeff Blumenkrantz (b. 1965)**

I'm A Part of That**Jason Robert Brown (b. 1970)**
from *The Last Five Years*

I'll Be Here**Adam Gwon (b. 1979)**
from *Ordinary Days*

This recital is presented by Ms. Lewis in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance. Ms. Lewis is a student of Janeanne Houston.

Program Notes

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart is known as one of the most influential composers of the Classical period. Throughout his career he produced hundreds of works and was best known for his symphonies, concertos, and operas. One of his most famous operas, *Le nozze di Figaro*, is a comedic tale full of plotting, disguises, and marriage. Cherubino is your typical, hormonally driven, teenage boy. He makes his first appearance in the first act, proclaiming his love for all women in the aria, *Non so più cosa son, cosa faccio*. Infatuated with the Countess, he writes a love song for her, *Voi che sapete*. He was encouraged to perform his song by the Countess's maid, Susanna. Nervously he sings his youthful heart out for the Countess. Cherubino is a trouser role, performed by mezzo-sopranos all over the world. He truly is the embodiment of confusing, yet all encompassing, pubescent love.

Reynaldo Hahn, a prolific composer of oratorios, operas, concertos, ballets, chamber music, and piano works, was best known for his melodies of which he wrote over 100. These melodies often consist of themes of love, loss, life, and death. *À Chloris* is a breathtaking love song with poetry written by Théophile de Viau. Written after the death of his friend and lover, Hahn composed *Quand la nuit n'est pas étoilée*, a song of enlightenment of the comforts in both life and death. The French term "Fêtes galantes" refers to a type of painting that portrays a festive party for 18th century French aristocrats. The song *Fêtes galantes*, depicts this joyful party full of music and beautiful attire. *L'heure exquisite* is from his first published set of songs *Chansons grises*. This song paints the image of the light of the moon blanketing the evening as two lovers share "the exquisite hour."

Robert Schumann is best known for his contributions of piano compositions, art song, and lieder. During his most productive year of song writing, also known as the "Liederjahr" of 1840, he wrote one of his most famous song cycles, *Frauenliebe und Leben* (A Woman's Love and Life). The full song cycle is set to eight poems, written by Adelbert von Chamisso, that follows a woman's life through love. It begins with the initial meeting of romantic excitement and then moves forward towards engagement, marriage, children, and finally ends with the tragic death of

her spouse. Many comparisons can be drawn between *Frauenliebe und Leben* and Schumann's relationship with Clara Wieck, who he eventually married despite the opposition from her father. Notably, Schumann composed the piano accompaniment with independence from the voice, allowing the piano to paint the story of this young woman's life.

Lin-Manuel Miranda is an award-winning composer, actor, and lyricist. He has written and starred in the Broadway musicals *In the Heights* and *Hamilton*. In Miranda's sophomore year of college, he began writing his first Broadway musical, *In the Heights*, a universal story of the culture and community in New York City's Washington Heights. Nina, a daughter of immigrants and first in her family to go to college, has lost her scholarship and struggles academically, forcing her to come back to Washington Heights. After the tragic loss of Abuela, Nina sings *Everything I Know* as she looks through boxes of pictures and memories with her Abuela. She reflects on all the support Abuela had given her growing up and becomes determined to make her Abuela proud of "everything she knows." In addition to Miranda's brilliant compositions, he is also an activist, focusing his efforts to provide opportunity and representation for artists of color.

Jeff Blumenkrantz, is a successful actor, composer, and lyricist. He began composing the musical, *The Other Franklin*, which was later abandoned in the early 1990's. The musical was a story of William Franklin and his father, Benjamin Franklin. The song *I Won't Mind*, is one of the only songs that survived the failed production. It is sung by Lizzie, wife of William Franklin, who has struggled for many years to get pregnant. After learning that she will never be able to carry a child, she sings this beautiful lullaby to her newborn godson.

Jason Robert Brown, another award-winning composer, has written some of the most renowned musicals of our time, including *The Last Five Years*, *Songs for a New World*, and *Parade*. Brown's musical, *The Last Five Years*, is a story of a five-year relationship between characters Jamie Wellerstein and Cathy Hiatt. This musical tells their story in a unique and artistic way as Jamie's perspective is told in chronological order and Cathy's perspective begins at the end of the relationship. In Cathy's, *I'm a Part of That*, she recounts the dynamics of their relationship at his book signing. This musical was inspired by Jason Robert Brown's failed marriage, in which he was sued by his ex-wife for the story too closely representing their relationship.

Adam Gwon, an up and coming composer, made his off-broadway debut in 2009 with the musical, *Ordinary Days*. This musical follows four characters as they live their "ordinary" lives in New York City. Claire, a young woman is navigating her life with her boyfriend Jason. The couple decides to move in together, bringing forward unexpected conflicts from her past. Jason proposes to Claire, flustered, she leaves Jason feeling unsure and overwhelmed. In her final song, *I'll Be Here*, she shares the story of her previous relationship. This cathartic release allows her to move forward and accept Jason's proposal.



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