



School of

Music

College of Arts and Sciences

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

Washington State University
School of Music
Presents

Her Future is *UNLIMITED!*

Ashleigh Christine Adams, Mezzo-Soprano

Yoon-Wha Roh, piano

Junior recital

Friday, February 26, 2021
4:10 p.m.

In fulfillment for the requirement of a Bachelors of Music Degree

Program

“Care Selve”
from *Atalanta* (1736)

George Frideric Handel
(1685-1759)

Selection from Mörike-Lieder

28. Gebet
from *Mörike-Lieder* (1888)

Hugo Wolf
(1860-1903)

Selections from Cinq Mélodies populaires grecques

I. Chanson de la mariée
II. Là-bas, vers l'église
III. Quel galant m'est comparable
IV. Chanson des cueilleuses de lentisques
V. Tout gai!
from *Cinq Mélodies populaires grecques* (1904)

Maurice Ravel
(1875-1937)

Selections from *Paper Wings*

1. Bedtime Story
2. Paper Wings
3. Mitten Smitten
4. A Route to the Sky
from *Paper Wings* (1997)

Jake Heggie
b. 1961

“Lime Jell-O Marshmallow Cottage Cheese Surprise”
(1980)

William Bolcom
b. 1938

This concert was presented via livestream in accordance with restrictions related to the containment of COVID-19. No audience was present at the time of this performance.

PROGRAM NOTES

George Frideric Handel (1685-1759): *Care Selve*, from the opera *Atalanta* was composed in 1736 by George Frideric Handel. He was a German, later British, Baroque composer who spent the bulk of his career in London, becoming well-known for his operas, oratorios, anthems, and organ concertos. Handel's years in Italy greatly influenced the development of his musical style. His fame had spread throughout Italy, and his mastery of the Italian opera style now made him an international figure. Handel realized his potential and set out to England only to gain more popularity. Handel spent the bulk of his career in London, becoming well-known for his operas, oratorios, anthems, and organ concertos.

This is an operatic series in three acts composed by Handel in 1736 for the London celebrations of the marriage in 1736 of Frederick, Prince of Wales, to Princess Augusta of Saxe-Gotha. The first performance took place on May 12, 1736 in the Convent Garden Theatre, closing with a spectacular display of fireworks. The roles include Atalanta, Meleagro, Irene, Aminta, Nicandro, and Mercurio (the messenger god). The story is based on times of ancient Greece. Kind Meleagro of Aetolia is looking for his love, Atalanta but he is disguised. He meets up with Aminta, a real shepherd who is in love with Irene. Nicandro, Irene's father tells Meleagro that Irene loves Aminta too, but she needs to make sure he will be true to her. Princess Atalanta is disguised as a huntress and she tells Meleagro to not stay by her side during the hunt even though she is in love with him. Then, a wild boar comes running out of the woods and Aminta tries to jump due to his love being crushed, but others prevent him and Atalanta kills the boar. Everyone is triumphing Atalanta but she is sad because she is a princess, but she is in love with Tirsi who is a poor shepherd. Meleagro overhears her being disguised. Atalanta sings "Care Selve" which translates to "Beloved Forests" that discusses her woes. Meleagro comes up to her disguised as Tirsi and wishes to clear up the situation, but they are both shy. In the end the two disguises are revealed as Princess Atalanta, and Kind Meleagro. Mercury brings Jove's blessings on the royal couple, assuring them of personal happiness and the love of their people.

Hugo Wolf (1860-1903): The *Mörike-Lieder* composed by Hugo Wolf is a large song cycle with fifty-three lieder all composed in 1888. Wolf sampled the original poem written by Eduard Mörike and discovered a remarkable command of text painting, and a dark sense of humor that quite resembled his own. Hugo Wolf was an Austrian composer of Slovene origin, particularly noted for his art songs, or *Lieder*. He brought to this form a concentrated expressive intensity which was unique in late Romantic music. Wolf was born March 13, 1860 in Windischgrätz in the Duchy of Styria. A child prodigy, he was taught piano and voice by his father beginning at the age of four and went on to study more piano and music theory in primary years. His works received positive reviews and he was very happy with his own compositions. However, he suffered from severe psychological issues and depression. Wolf wrote about 300 songs, many published posthumously. Of his first 100—from his early years—he only counted a handful worthwhile. The vocal melodic line is subtly combined with strikingly original harmonies in the piano accompaniment, resulting in Wolf's remarkable fusion of music and speech.

"Gebet" is the twenty-eighth song of the set. Wolf sampled the original poem written by Eduard Mörike and discovered a remarkable command of text painting, and a dark sense of humor that quite resembled his own. "Gebet" which means prayer, is a discussion between an individual and God as the person is asking for forgiveness. The individual realized in the end that moderation keeps a person stable and that it is better to stay between joyfulness and selfishness rather than lead toward one side.

Maurice Ravel (1875-1937): *Cinq mélodies populaires grecques (Five Greek Folksongs)* composed by Maurice Ravel from 1904 to 1906 consists of five pieces that were translated from the Greek originals into French by Michel Dimitri Calvocoressi. Maurice Ravel was a French composer, pianist, and conductor. He is often associated with impressionism along with Claude Debussy which I sang “Les Cloches”, but both reject the term. In the 1920’s and 1930’s Ravel was considered the greatest French living composer of his time. Young Ravel was given great confidence from his family for his musical talent at such a young age and he was encouraged to compose. Around 1900, Ravel and a number of innovative young artists, poets, and critics formed a group soon to become known as *Les Apaches (The Hooligans)* which represented their role as “Artist outcasts”. Ravel in no sense was a revolutionary musician. He forged for himself a “language of his own” that bears the stamp of his personality as unmistakably as any work of Bach or Chopin. His melodies are always modal based on the Old Greek Phrygian Modes and Dorian modes.

The five selections within this song cycle are all very short and pithy and the musical texture has a Mediterranean flavor to it with simplification and repetition within the melodic phrases, yet challenging to the ear. This kind of rich, modified-diatonic may seem impressionist to an initiated ear, but this song cycle has an objective of clarity and thinness. In the first song, “Chanson de la mariée” (Song of the Bride) a man asks his bride-to-be to arise and enjoy the morning with him; he offers that the two might be married, so that their families might be as close as they are. The second piece, “Là-bass, vers L’église” (Over by the Church) is a serious reflection on those buried in the cemetery. The third, “Quel galant m'est comparable” (Which Gallant Compares with Me) begins with a boastful proclamation with a dancelike strut. The fourth song, “Chanson des cueilleuses de lentisques” (Song of the Lentisk Collectors), describes the females true beauty. The fifth song, “Tout gai!” demonstrates the dancing legs, rejoicing in excitement that the said couple are together.

Jake Heggie (1961-present): *Paper Wings* composed by Jake Heggie in 1997 consists of four pieces that encounter the full gamut of the influences he grew up with: folk music, jazz, pop, opera, rock, and art song. If it feels jazzy, well, probably is. The texts range from classic writers like Dickinson, Lindsay, Sidney, Rilke and Millay, to an exciting generation of contemporary American poets including Little, Hall, Savage, Dillard, and of course Frederica von Stade. Jake Heggie (1961-present) is an American composer who has composed over eight full-length operas, several one-acts, 300 arts songs, as well as concerti, chamber music, choral and orchestral works. He was born in Florida in 1961 and grew up in Ohio and California. He is best known for his operas and art songs as well as for his collaborations with internationally renowned performers and writers.

The four songs within the song cycle, *Paper Wings* was commissioned by internationally acclaimed mezzo soprano Frederica Von State as a gift for her daughter, Lisa. The story resembles a tender portrait of the relationship between von State and her daughter based on episodes from her and her daughter’s own life. The opening piece “Bedtime Story” describes the tender moments of Lisa falling asleep to her mother’s lullabies. The mother is trying to put her child to sleep by telling her stories about their life. The harmonies are warm and gentle. The second piece “Paper Wings” is a story from Von Stade’s own childhood in Greece, in which her nanny- named Signorina, makes her a set of paper wings with which to fly over the rooftops of Athens. The third “Mitten Smitten,” is the confusion of Lisa and this gift from India. Unaccustomed to wearing mittens, she did not know where to put her fingers. The fourth and final song “A Route to the Sky,” tells of when Von Stade and Lisa were stuck on the rooftop of their house and the firemen came to get them down. Based on the blues scale, the song has an irrepressible sense of humour.

William Bolcom (1938-present): “Lime Jell-O Marshmallow Cottage Cheese Surprise” was written for voice and piano in 1980. The piece is based on Bolcom’s experiences, in his youth, of playing the piano for women’s clubs, and being fed unappetizing dishes, including foods resembling Jell-O salad. William Bolcom is an American composer of chamber, operatic, vocal, choral, cabaret, ragtime, and symphonic music. He joined the faculty of University of Michigan’s School of Music in 1973, was named the Ross Lee Finney Distinguished University Professor of Composition in 1994, and retired after 35 years. As a pianist, Bolcom has performed and recorded his work in collaboration with his wife, mezzo-soprano Joan Morris.

The songs humor centers on the ingredients of the title dish- lime- flavored Jell-O, marshmallows and cottage cheese which it is implied, are a combination of incompatible sweet and savory foodstuffs. Bolcom’s song is meant to be sung in the style of an overbearing, middle-class housewife from the American Midwest who is presiding at a meeting of a ladies’ club. Taking on this stereotypical persona, the singer describes a menu of gastronomically bizarre dishes to be served at the club’s “culture night”.

Translations

Care Selve from *Atalanta*

Italian:

Care selve, ombre beate,
traccia del mio cor.

English:

Beloved forests, joyous shadows: Vengo in
I come in search of my heart.

Selections from *Mörike-Lieder*

German:

Herr! schicke, was du willst,
Ein Liebes oder Leides;
Ich bin vergnügt, dass beides
Aus deinen Händen quillt.

English:

Lord! Send what Thou wilt,
Pleasure or pain;
I am content that both
Flow from Thy hands.

Wollest mit Freuden
Und wollest mit Leiden
Mich nicht überschütten!
Doch in der Mitten
Liegt holdes Bescheide.

Do not, I veseech Thee,
Overwhelm me
With Joy or suffering!
But midway between
Lies blessed moderation.

Selections from *Cinq Mélodies populaires grecques*

Chanson de la mariée

French:

Réveille-toi, réveille-toi, perdrix mignonne,
Ouvre au matin tes ailes.
Trois grains de beauté, mon cœur en est brûlé!

English:

Wake up, wake up, pretty partridge
Spread your wings to the morning,
Three beauty spots – and my heart’s ablaze.

Vois le ruban d'or que je t'apporte,

See the golden ribbon I bring you

Pour le nouer autour de tes cheveux. To tie around your tresses.

Si tu veux, ma belle, viens nous marier! If you wish, my beauty, let us marry!

Dans nos deux familles, tous sont alliés! In our two families all are related.

Là-bas, vers l'église

French:

Là-bas, vers l'église,
Vers l'église Ayio Sidéro,
L'église, ô Vierge sainte,
L'église Ayio Costandino,
Se sont réunis,
Rassemblés en nombre infini,
Du monde, ô Vierge sainte,
Du monde tous les plus braves!

English:

Down there by the church,
By the church of Saint Sideros,
The church, O Holy Virgin,
The church of Saint Constantine,
Are gathered together,
buried in infinite numbers,
The bravest people, O Holy Virgin!
The bravest people in the world!

Quel galant m'est comparable

French:

Quel galant m'est comparable,
D'entre ceux qu'on voit passer?
Dis, dame Vassiliki? Tell me,
Vois, pendus à ma ceinture,
Pistolets et sabre aigu ...
Et c'est toi que j'aime!

English:

What gallant can compare with me?
Among those seen passing by?
Mistress Vassiliki?
See, hanging at my belt,
Pistols and sharp sword...
And it's you I love!

Chanson des cueilleuses de lentisques

French:

Ô joie de mon âme,
Joie de mon cœur,
Trésor qui m'est si cher;
Joie de l'âme et du cœur,
Toi que j'aime ardemment,
Tu es plus beau qu'un ange.
Ô lorsque tu parais,
Ange si doux
Devant nos yeux,
Comme un bel ange blond,
Sous le clair soleil,
Hélas! tous nos pauvres cœurs soupirent!

English:

O joy of my soul, joy of my heart,
Treasure so dear to me;
Joy of the soul and of the heart,
You whom I love with passion,
You are more beautiful than an angel.
Oh when you appear, angel so sweet,
Before our eyes,
Like a lovely, blond angel

Under the bright sun-

Alas, all our poor hearts sigh!

Tout gai!

French:

Tout gai! gai, Ha, tout gai!
Belle jambe, tireli, qui danse;
Belle jambe, la vaisselle danse,

Tra la la la la ...

English:

So merry,
Ah, so merry;
Lovely leg, tireli, that dances,
the crockery dances

Tra la la.

Selections from *Paper Wings*

Bedtime Story

English:

Soun, soun, bènì, bènì, soun, soun, bènì dour. Ah!
It was a cold, cold night. So cold we had a fire.
A cold, cold night. We sat and talked, all was safe and good.
Hm then, something happened. Something soft went by.
A second's wait- "Nothing there. It must have been a dream."
Again a breeze, a tiny move. What could it have been?
At last we looked and there, there stood a girl no more than three.
A blanket on her head, her eyes, She thought, we couldn't see.
Ah, but who oh, was that girl? Oh, child it was you!
Oh, magic, magic child, You stayed we smiled.
Lisa. Hm.

Paper Wings

English:

When I was young, I lived in Greece with my mother.
That's right, Greece- We lived in a house,
a house with a great big balcony.
And Signoria, Signorina, Signorina- ah! Was my nanny.
Ah, ah! One day, Signorina made me wings out of paper-
That's right, paper wings. And for days and days I pretended to fly, to fly.
Over the roof tops of Athens.

Mitten Smitten

English:

My Uncle Tim, he once gave me some mittens.
Ah They were from "Indya" and very special. Ah!
But I was small and I'd never seen anything like them.
Where were the fingers? I put them on.... Strange.

A Route to the Sky

English:

My mother taught me to fly not even knowing that she had done so.
I climbed on the rook- a complicated route to the sky.
But the firemen got me down, oh, the firemen got me down!
Ah Lisa was eight when she climbed through the window out onto the roof.
Oh, When I saw how she'd done it I nearly fainted,
So I went out after her. "Lisa! – Don't move!"
Then we were both stuck. Two trucks, an ambulance, two station wagons
Of rescue teams came to the house. And the firemen got us down, oh,
The firemen got us down.

Lime Jell-O Marshmallow Cottage Cheese Surprise

English:

Ladies, the minutes will soon be read today
The garden club and weaving class I'm sure have much to say
But next week is our culture night, our biggest, best event
And I've just made a dish for it you'll all find heaven-sent
It's my lime Jell-O marshmallow cottage cheese surprise.
With slices of pimento. You won't believe your eyes!
All topped with a pineapple ring and a dash of mayonnaise
My vanilla wafers round the edge will win your highest praise

And Mrs. Jones is making scones that are filled with peanut mousse
To be followed by a chicken mold that's made in the shape of a goose
For ladies who must watch those pounds, we've found a special dish
Strawberry ice enshrined in rice with bits of tuna fish!

And my lime Jell-O marshmallow cottage cheese surprise
Truly a creation that description defies
Will go so well with Mrs. Bell's creation of the week
Shrimp salad topped with chocolate sauce and garnished with a leek

And Mrs. Perkins' walnut loaf that's crowned with melted cheese
Was such a hit last Culture Night we asked, "No seconds, please."
Now you must try her hot dog pie with candied mushroom slices
Those ladies who resigned last year, they just don't know what nice is

And my lime Jell-O marshmallow cottage cheese surprise
I did not steal that recipe! It's lies, I tell you! Lies!
Our grand award: a picture hat and a salmon sequined gown
For any girl who tries each dish and keeps her whole lunch down

I'm sure you all are waiting for the biggest news: dessert!
We thought of things in molds and rings your diet to subvert
You must try our chocolate layer cake on a peanut brittle base
With slices of bananas that make a funny face
Around the edges, peppermints just swimming in peach custard
With lovely little curlicues of lovely yellow mustard
If all this is too much for you, permit me to advise
More lime Jell-O marshmallow cottage cheese surprise
I've made heaps!