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The Illinois State University Civic Chorale Spring Concert: Music of ISU Composers Past and Present, April 14, 2023

John M. Koch Director

Dennis Gotkowski Piano

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SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Illinois State University

The Wonsook Kim College of Fine Arts
and the School of Music

PRESENT:

***The Illinois State University Civic Chorale Spring Concert:
Music of ISU Composers Past and Present***

Friday April 14, 2023

7:00 p.m.

John M. Koch, Director

Dr. Dennis Gotkowski, Pianist

Center for the Performing Arts Concert Hall

This is the one hundred and fiftieth program of the 2022-2023 season.

Please silence all electronic devices.

Feel free to take video but please no flash photography!

The Violet (2019)

Mackenzie Ahlman
(b. 1997)
Text by Jane Taylor
(1783-1824)

“Down in a green and shady bed
A modest flower grew, its stalk was bent,
It hung its head, as if to hide from view,
And yet it was a lovely flow’r its colors bright and fair,
It may have graced a rosy bow’r, instead of hiding there,
Yet there it was content to bloom, in modest tints arrayed,
And there diffused its sweet perfume, within the silent shade.
Then let me to the valley to, this pretty flow’r to see,
That I may also learn to grow in sweet humility,
And yet it was a lovely flow’r, the violet.”

Em Mancillas, soloist

when I was young (2022, World Premiere)

Mackenzie Ahlman
Text by Edna St.
Vincent Millay
(1892-1950)

“I shall go back again to the bleak shore,
And build a little shanty on the sand,
In such a way that the extremest band of brittle seaweed
Will escape my door.

But by a yard or two; and never more shall I return,
To take you by the hand, I shall be gone to what I understand,
And happier than I ever was before.
The love stood in your eyes; words lay upon your tongue,
Are one with all that dies, little said and a little over sung,
But I shall find again the sullen rocks and the skies,
Unchanged from what they were when I was young.”

dark harlem (2022, World Premiere)

Ty Bloomfield
(b. 2000)
Text by
Langston Hughes
(1901-1967)

I would be simple again, simple and clean,
Like the earth, like the rain,
Nor ever know, dark harlem,
The wild laughter of your mirth
Nor the salt tears of your pain.
Be kind to, oh, great dark city.
Let me forget.
I will not come to you again.

My Beautiful One, Come with Me (2012)

Jiyoun Chung
(b. 1982)

Arise, my darling, my beautiful one
Come with me.
See! See! The winter is past
See! The rains are over and gone.
Flowers appear on the earth.
The season of singing has come,
The cooing of doves is heard in our land.
The fig tree forms its early fruit;
the blossoming vines spread their fragrance.
Arise, come, my darling;
My beautiful one, come with me.

Luke Kirby & Jessica Bella, soloists

The Military Wife (2022, World Premiere)

Mackenzie Ahlman

The Military Wife (2022) is a mini opera for Tenor and Piano. Set in 1960's South Hampton, Bermuda, Mrs. Leslie DeMarco has discovered another love letter sent to her husband, Naval Captain Leslie "Les" DeMarco. Feeling angry, betrayed, and heartbroken, she responds to the woman's letter pleading with her to realize that this is not the first time he has cheated, nor will it be the last. When Mrs. DeMarco finishes her letter, the atmosphere suddenly changes and Captain DeMarco begins writing a letter to the other woman, Kathy, asking if he can visit her soon, as he has become newly single.

Zach Bodnar, soloist

from *Virginia and Vita* (2023, World Premiere)

Mackenzie Ahlman

Your letter from Trieste

I am reduced

Virginia & Vita (2023) is a one-act opera for three Treble voices and Piano, comprised of the letters and diaries of British poets and novelists, Virginia Woolf (1882-1941) and Vita Sackville-West (1892-1962).

Mackenzie Ahlman & Jessica Bella, soloists

Sleep and Transition (2016)

Cullyn D. Murphy

(b. 1993)

Texts by J. Dwyer

Murphy

I stare down the time. I rinse my last dreams off my face.
I wake my house. I move through the day.
I move through people. I move through the day.
I move through the people, people, people.
I wake up my house. I build my dreams through the day.
And tuck them in my head.
As I move through the people my day goes by.
My house goes off to sleep.
I wash my face and consider my dreams.
The time stares me down stares me down to sleep.
Time. Time. Time..

Elegy (2002)

Dennis Tobenski

(b. 1982)

Text by Mary Hines

Do not stand at my grave and weep,
I am not there I do not sleep.
I am a thousand winds that blow.
I am the diamond glints on snow.
I am the sunlight on ripened grain.
I am the gentle autumn rain.
When you awaken in the morning's hush,
I am the swift uplifting rush
Of quiet birds in circled flight.
I am the soft stars that shine at night.
Do not stand at my grave and cry,
I am not there I did not die.

Spirit Song Over the Waters (2002)

Dennis Tobenski

Text of Johann

Wolfgang von

Goethe (1749-1832)

Translated by E.A.

Bowring

(1826-1911)

The soul of man resembleth water:
From Heaven it cometh, to heaven it soareth.
And then again to earth descendeth. Changing ever.
Down from the lofty rocky wall streams the bright flood,
Then spreadeth gently in cloudy billows oe’r the smooth rock,
And welcomed kindly, veiling, on roams it,
Soft murmuring t’ward the abyss.
Cliffs projecting oppose its progress, angrily foams it,
Now, in flat channel, through then meadowland steals it,
And in the polished lake each constellation joyously peepeth.
Wind is the loving woo’r of waters,
Wind blends together billows all foaming.
Spirit of man, Thou art like unto water! Thou art like unto wind!

ABOUT THE COMPOSERS...

Mackenzie Ahlman, a native of Grand Island, Nebraska, is a current graduate student at Illinois State in Vocal Performance. She recently appeared in Humperdinck’s *Hansel and Gretel* as Gretel. As a vocalist she specializes in contemporary works of Libby Larsen. "The only reason I started composing was because of the abhorrent lack of representation of queer/LGBTQAI+ people in classical music. My goal as a queer musician and composer is to bring this much-needed perspective to the foreground of modern music by setting text/poems by queer people to music."

Ty Bloomfield is a Chicago native looks towards simplicity for inspiration. Since his start in 2019, Bloomfield has written numerous works for winds, primarily focused on wind ensemble and miniature-based chamber works. His works have been commissioned from many of his peers and received performances at several festivals such as the International Clarinet Association’s New Music Weekend and ISU’s Red Note Festival. Currently, he is currently completing his BM in Music Composition at the Wonsook Kim College of Fine Arts at Illinois State University where he studied with Carl Schimmel and Roy Magnuson.

Jiyoun Chung received her Master of Music in Piano Performance and Composition at Illinois State studying with Carl Schimmel and Martha Horst. She received her DMA in composition at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. Currently she is an Assistant Professor of Music at Central Washington University.

Cullyn D. Murphy is a composer, conductor, and reluctant vocalist, focusing on amplifying the already existent musical components of sight, taste, touch, and smell in order to gain access to different modes of storytelling through music. He received his BM at Illinois and recently finished his Doctorate in Composition and Theory from the University of Pittsburgh and is teaching at Beloit College.

Dennis Marshall Tobenski, a native of Kankakee, Illinois, received his BM in Vocal Performance and Music Theory & Composition in 2004 from Illinois State University, and his M. A. in Music Composition from The City College of New York in 2009. His principal teachers have included

David Del Tredici, Chester Biscardi, and David Feurzeig. He has received fellowships from the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, the Prairie Center of the Arts, the Ucross Foundation, and the Staunton Music Festival. Dennis founded NewMusicShelf, an online marketplace for independently published composers to sell digital editions of their scores. In 2018, he expanded the scope of the business into publishing, and created the [NewMusicShelf Anthologies of New Music](#). The inaugural volumes are four voice type-specific collections of art songs: 80 songs by 63 composers from around the world. The mission of the Anthologies is to bring new and unknown composers and repertoire to the awareness of both student and professional performers, and to foster a stronger new music community through collaboration. In 2021, NewMusicShelf became the first publisher in the world to release a collection of vocal works specifically for trans and nonbinary singers.

ISU CIVIC CHORALE MEMBERS

Mackenzie Ahlman
Chloe Baisa
Jessica Bella
Dominica Battaglia
Jaimee Beyer
Zach Bodnar
Jackie Brigham
Colleen Cavi
Daniel Cavi
Bev Collins
Justin Cooper
Lucas Dahmm
Beau Darling
Shannon Darling
David Edmondson
Grace Eom
Char Fesler
Ali Francisco
Lewis Gadomsky
Lawendy Gilmore
Hannah Hembrough
Tom Howe
Li Huang
Skylar Johnson
James Kalmbach
Alexandra Kanari
Hannah Kang
Yeim Kim
Luke Kirby
Sonja Larson-Streif

Kaitlyn Lay
Somlee Lee
Em Mancillas
Bill Parli
Cindy Parli
Julie Prandi
Lesley Price
Jim Reid
Tess Scott
Marcus Scott
Olivia Schickel
Isaac Sitenga
Shelley Spence
Staton Strecker
Tina Sipula
Kristyn Szwajka
Shem Villacarlos
Jean Wallace

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