bennington college presents

the family project

a song cycle

by ricky ian gordon

margot tenney theater

friday, april 5 and
saturday, april 6, 2002 at 8:00 pm
the family project
a song cycle
words & music by ricky ian gordon
piano - ricky ian gordon woodwinds - bruce williamson
musical director - ricky ian gordon
director - kirk jackson
chorographer - terry cresch
lighting designer - michael giannitti
wardrobe coordinator - joseph mazzarelli
dramaturg - steven bach
artistic consultant - liz coleman

there is grace
we came to this place &
a tidy home inside this house
the last time i saw him
pigeons couples
sycamore trees
i don't know what to write
hands
watercolor
suffer in silence
father's song
trio
poem
my mother is a singer
mother's song
building
maybe a work of art

Ricky Ian Gordon, whom The New York Times ranks with "the leading younger composers of songs", has forged a body of work of remarkable scope, appeal, and distinction. His compelling gifts for song are equally at home in the concert hall, opera house, theater or cinema, as well as on the dance concert stage. His music and songs are regularly performed by such internationally renowned singers as Renee Fleming, Teresa Stratas, Lorraine Hunt, Betty Buckley, and Audra McDonald, among many others.

He is the composer of song cycles setting authors as various as Langston Hughes and Dorothy Parker to music, and his theater music includes the highly praised opera "The Tibetan Book of the Dead" for the Houston Grand Opera and his recent "Dream True", a musical collaboration with Tina Landau for New York's Vineyard Theatre Company, titles that only hint at the diversity of his highly acclaimed projects for theater and opera. He is currently working on a variety of new projects, including an opera based on John Steinbeck's "The Grapes of Wrath" for the Minnesota Opera and Utah Opera and another derived from Marcel Proust's "Remembrance of Things Past" for Playwrights Horizon called "Life With Albertine".

Gordon's works are increasingly ubiquitous on recordings by such artists as Audra McDonald, Kristin Chenoweth, Dawn Upshaw, Theresa McCarthy, and Bennington's own Tom Bogdan, to cite only a few. His "Morning Star" will be performed by the Lyric Opera and The Goodman Theater in Chicago in May and June.

He has recently served as guest artist and teacher at Bennington College, which is proud to present "The Family Project" for the first time on any stage.