

A Concert of Songs & Duets

by Emily Belshaw

with

Anne Riesenfeld,
Jonathan Bepler

and

Marianne Finckel, piano

Sunday, May 31st, 3:00 pm

Jennings Studio 136

Program

El Desdichado

Anne Riesenfeld, soprano

Camille Saint-Saëns
(1835-1921)

Recordare
from Requiem

Anne Riesenfeld, soprano

Giusseppe Verdi
(1813-1901)

2 Duets, op. 28

Die Nonne und der Ritter
Der Jäger und sein Liebchen

Jonathan Bepler, baritone

Johannes Brahms
(1833-1897)

Frauenliebe und Leben, Op. 42
8 Songs on Poems by Adelbert v. Chamisso

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 meinen Finger
5. Helft mir, ihr Schwestern
6. Süsser Freund
7. An meinem Herzen, an meiner Brust
8. Nun hast du mir den ersten Schmerz getan

TEXT

Camille Saint-Saens
(Jules Barbier)

El Desdichado (The Unfortunate)

Not e'en a blossom I'd cherish
Which on dead hopes tree would shoot
Since God has willed it shall perish
And never again bear fruits

Love that is called sweetest madness
Ah! how I pity its sadness
See all the lovers who pine
Worshipping at some fair shrine

One thus his joy is betraying
As doth the other his fears
Night and day young hearts are swaying
"twixt long-drawn sighs and sad tears

Recordare

Guiseppe Verdi

Lord, remember that Thou cam's't on earth for me, cast me
not this day from Thee.

Seeking me, Thy strength was spent, by Thy passion
Thy love turned me. Is this toil in vain?

Thou awarding pains condign, Disenthral me, Lord, from
my sins. Ere to answer Thou dost call me.

Johannes Brahms
(Eichendorff)

Die Nonne Und Der Ritter (The Nun And The Knight)

- She - Since the world has gone to rest
awakens my desires with the stars
In the coldness I must listen
How the waves rush from below
- He - From far away the waves have carried me,
they that on land so sadly beat
Under you window sill
Woman, do you know your knight?
- She - It is as if strange voices
swim through the lurking Wind
Again the wind has taken it
Ah, my heart is so uneasy!
- He - There lies your maidenhood fallen,
unhappily in the deserted hall
From the ground the forest greet me
It was as if I must die.
- She - Ancient ringings bloom screaming,
Just as in long forgotten times,
Woefulness appears to me
And I want to weep from my heart.
- He - Over the forest, lightning from afar
Where over Christ's grave she struggles
There I'll turn my ship
There all, all will end.
- She - There passes a ship, a man stands on it
False night, betrays the senses
World farewell! God forbid!
they 'err that in darkness go.

Johannes Brahms
(Hoffmann von Fallersleben)

Der Jäger Und Sein Liebchen (The Hunter And His Little Love)

- He - Isn't the sky blue?
Stand by the window and look!
Not until evening, late in the night
will I come home from the hunt.
- She - I was thinking otherwise,
I'd like to dance tonight!
Waiting by the door, late by the door,
won't you come dancing with me?
Even if the sky is so blue
I'll stand no longer here watching.

Robert Schumann
(Adelbert v. Chamisso)

Frauenliebe Und Leben (A Woman's Love and Life)

1. Since I Have Seen Him

Since I have seen him, I believe I am blind;
Whither I am looking, I see him alone;
Like in a waking dream, his image floats before me,
Rising from deepest darkness, brighter and brighter.
Everything else around me is light and colorless,
The games of my sisters I want to share no more,
I would rather weep silently in my little chamber;
Since I have seen him, I believe I am blind.

2. He, The Most Glorious Of All

He, the most glorious of all,
How kind he is, how good!
Gentle mouth, clear eyes,
Clear mind and firm courage,
Even as in yonder blue depth,
Shines bright and glorious that star,
So is he in my heaven,

Bright and glorious, sublime and far.
Wander, wander along your course,
Only to look at your light,
Only to look at it humbly,
Only to be blissful and sad!
Do not hear my silent prayer,
Offered for your happiness;
You must not know me, humble maiden,
Noble star of glory!
Only the worthiest of all
My your choice make happy,
And I will bless the noble one,
Many thousand times.
I shall rejoice and I shall weep then,
Blissful, blissful I am then,
Even though my heart should break,
Break, a heart, what does it matter?

3. I Cannot Grasp, Nor Believe It

I cannot grasp, no believe it,
A dream must have no bewitched,
How could he from among all others
Have exalted and blessed poor me?
It seemed to me that he had spoken:
"I am forever yours,"
It seemed to me that I am still dreaming,
For it can never be thus.
Oh let me die in my dream,
Cradled on his breast,
Let me drink blissful death
In tears of infinite joy.

4. You Ring On My Finger

You ring on my finger,
My little golden ring,
I press you devoutly to my lips,
Devoutly to my heart.
My dream had come to an end,
Childhood's peaceful, lovely dream,
I found myself lonely and lost

In empty, infinite space.
You ring on my finger,
You taught me only then,
You opened to my eyes,
Life's infinite, deep value.
I want to serve him, live for him,
Wholly belong to him,
Give myself and find myself
Transfigured in his splendour.

5. Help Me, My Sisters

Help me, my sisters, kindly adorn me,
Serve me, the happy one, today.
Wind zealously around my forehead
The lovely wreath of myrtle in bloom.
When I, contented, with a joyful heart,
Formerly lay in my beloved's arms,
He always invoked, his heart filled with yearning,
Impatient by this very day.
Help me, my sisters, help me
Cast out a foolish anxiety,
That I with bright eyes may receive him,
Him, the source of all happiness.
Have you, my beloved, come to me,
Do you, sun, give me your light?
Let me devoutly, let me humbly,
Let me bow to my master and lord.
Strew, sisters, strew flowers before him,
Budding roses offer to him.
But you, sisters, I greet with sadness,
Joyfully parting from your midst.

6. Sweet Friend

Sweet friend, you look amazed at me,
You cannot understand how I can weep;
Let the moist pearl's adornment
With playful clarity tremble in my eyes.
How frightened is my heart, how with rapture filled,
If I only knew the words to tell it to you;
Come and hide your face here on my breast,

Let me whisper in your ear all my delight.
Now you know the tears that I must shed,
Should you then not see them, you beloved, beloved man?
Stay near my heart, feel its throbbing,
So that I may clasp you only firmer and firmer.
Here by my bed the cradle will have its place,
Where it may in silence hide my lovely dream;
There will come a morning when the dream awakens,
And from the cradle your image will smile up at me,
Your image!

7. On My Heart, On My Breast

On my heart, on my breast,
You my delight, you my joy!
Happiness is love and love is happiness,
I have said it and won't take it back.
I deemed myself so fortunate,
But I am more than happy now.
Only she who suckles, only she who loves
The child to whom she gives nourishment;
Only a mother can know,
What it means to love and to be happy,
Oh how sorry I am for the man,
Who cannot feel a mother's bliss.
You dear, dear angel you,
You look at me and you smile at me!

8. Now You Have Caused Me The First Pain

Now you have caused me the first pain,
That really hurt.
You sleep, you hard and cruel man,
The sleep of death.
The now forsaken woman stares into a void,
The world is empty, empty.
I have loved and I have lived,
I do not live any more.
I silently withdraw into myself,
The veil is falling,
Then I have you and my lost happiness,
You, my world!