

A woman with long dark hair, wearing a vibrant red, draped dress and a matching necklace, is captured in a dynamic pose on a stage. She is looking towards the right with an expressive, slightly open-mouthed expression. Her right arm is extended forward, hand open. The background is dark, with a textured, red, tufted surface visible behind her. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting her dress and features.

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Welcome to
NEW ENGLAND
CONSERVATORY

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NEC Chamber Singers

Erica J. Washburn, conductor

with
Kei Otake, cello

Jiawei Gong '23 MM, conductor
Wanrou Tang '23 MM, conductor

Beyond the Night Sky

Tuesday, October 25, 2022
7:30 p.m.
NEC's Jordan Hall

PROGRAM

Josef Rheinberger
(1839–1901)

Abendlied, op. 69 no. 3 (1855)

György Ligeti
(1923–2006)

Éjszaka (1955)

Eric Whitacre
(b. 1970)

Water Night (1995)

Jiawei Gong '23 MM, conductor

Johannes Brahms
(1833–1897)

In stiller Nacht, WoO 34 No. 8 (1864)

Cheryl Frances-Hoad
(b. 1980)

Beyond the Night Sky (2017)

solo: Edward Ferran

solo trio: Corinne Luebke-Brown

Madeleine Wiegers

Riccardo Lucas Hernandez

Ēriks Ešenvalds
(b. 1977)

Rivers of Light (2014)

soloists: Yoomin Kang

Riccardo Lucas Hernandez

Wanrou Tang '23 MM, conductor

Samuel Barber
(1910–1981)

To be sung on the water (1968)

Marie-Claire Saindon
(b. 1984)

Constellation (2018)

solo quartet: Chloe Thum, Madeleine Wiegiers
Edward Ferran, Nicholas Ottersberg

Cecilia McDowall
(b. 1951)

from *Night Flight* (2014)

I. New Moon
III. Before Dawn

Kei Otake, cello

György Ligeti

Reggel (1955)

We are deeply grateful to
Bob Winters and the Concert Halls staff
Lisa Nigris and the Recording and Performance Technology staff
Kei Otake
Da-Yu Liu and Changjin Ha, our rehearsal accompanists

Abendlied

*Bleib bei uns
Denn es will Abend werden
Und der Tag hat sich geneiget.*

Luke 24:29

Éjszaka

*Rengeteg tövis csönd!
Én csöndem szívem dobogása ...
Éjszaka.*

Sándor Weöres

Evening Song

Bide with us,
for evening shadows darken,
and the day will soon be over.

Night

Thorny huge jungles, (infinite wilderness)
still!
Beats of my heart in endless silence ...
Darkness, Night.

Translation by György Ligeti

Water Night

Night with the eyes of a horse that trembles in the night,
night with eyes of water in the field asleep
is in your eyes, a horse that trembles,
is in your eyes of secret water.

Eyes of shadow-water,
eyes of well-water,
eyes of dream-water.

Silence and solitude,
two little animals moon-led,
drink in your eyes,
drink in those waters.

If you open your eyes,
night opens, doors of musk,
the secret kingdom of the water opens
flowing from the center of the night.

And if you close your eyes,
a river [a silent and beautiful current] fills you from within,
flows forward, darkens you:
night brings its wetness to beaches in your soul.

Octavio Paz, translation by Muriel Rukeyser

In stiller Nacht

*In stiller Nacht, zur ersten Wacht,
ein Stimm' beginnt zu klagen,
der nächt'ge Wind hat süß und lind
zu mir den Klang getragen.
Von herben Leid und Traurigkeit
ist mir das Herz zerflossen,
die Blümelein, mit Tränen rein
hab' ich sie all' begossen.*

*Der schöne Mond will untergahn,
für Leid nicht mehr mag scheinen,
die Sterne lan ihr Glitzen stahn,
mit mir sie wollen weinen.
Kein Vogelsang noch Freudenklang
man höret in den Lüften,
die wilden Tier' trauern auch mit mir
in Steinen und in Klüften.*

In Silent Night

In silent night, at first watch,
A voice begins to lament.
The night wind has sweetly and gently
Carried the sound to me.
With bitter pain and sorrow
My heart is melted.
With simple tears and flowers
I have watered all of them.

The lovely moon will now set,
For sorrow it doesn't want to shine,
The stars stop their gleaming,
They want to weep with me.
No birdsong nor joyous sounds
Can be heard in the air.
Even the wild beasts grieve with me
In rocks and ravines.

*Translation © Richard Stokes, author of The
Book of Lieder (Faber). Provided via Oxford
Lieder (www.oxfordlieder.co.uk)*

Beyond the Night Sky

Up beyond the night sky, the sky, an indigo darkness like velvet embraces the farthest reaches of the mind.

Sun, moon, stars, we find ourselves in a bewildering world.
What is the nature of the universe? What is our place in it? Where did it come from?
Where did we come from? Why is it the way it is?

Ev'rything. The farthest reaches of the mind.

Steven Schnur and Stephen Hawking

Rivers of Light

Kuovsakasah reukarih tákko teki
sira ria
tákko teki
sira ria, sira siraa ria

Northern Lights slide back and forth
sira ria
back and forth
sira ria, sira siraa ria

Winter night, the sky is filled with symphony of light.
The sky is flooded with rivers of light.
Ah, the doors of heaven have been opened tonight.

Guovssat, guovssat radni go,
libai libai libaida
ruoná gákti
Nu nu nu

Northern Lights, Northern Lights, blanket
shivering
libai libai libaida
green coat [Saami traditional costume]
Nu nu nu

From horizon to horizon, misty dragons swim through the sky.
Green curtains billow and swirl.
Fast-moving, sky-filling, the tissues of gossamer.
Nothing can be heard!
Light shakes over the vault of heaven its veil of glittering silver: changing now to yellow, now to green, now to red.
It spreads in restless change, into waving, many-folded bands of silver.
It shimmers in tongues of flame.
Over the very zenith it shoots a bright ray up, until the whole melts away, as a sigh of departing soul in the moonlight, leaving a glow in the sky like the dying embers of a great fire.

Kuovsakasah reukarih tákko teki ...

Charles Francis Hall, Fridtjof Nansen, and a compilation by the composer after various writings on the Northern Lights (Saami or old Finnish folksong and Northern Saami joik about Northern Lights)

To Be Sung On The Water

Beautiful, my delight,
Pass, as we pass the wave,
Pass, as the mottled night
Leaves what it cannot save,
Scattering dark and bright.

Beautiful, pass and be
Less than the guiltless shade
To which our vows were said;
Less than the sound of the oar
To which our vows were made,
Less than the sound of its blade
Dipping the stream once more.

Louise Bogan

Constellation

Les étoiles d'or ...

*Ah les belles étoiles comme des points lumineux
pour clouer le ciel sur les piliers de la nuit ...*

Les étoiles d'or ...

*Ah les belles étoiles qui tournent sur leurs pointes
sinistres, enchantement où la poussière navigue
sur le tapis magique de la nuit ...*

Le étoiles d'or ...

Ah les belles étoiles, vous qui pâlissez

*Comme autant de genèses, insoupçonnées
dans le besoin futile d'être uniques, escalier étroit*

*Pour monter dans les ténèbres enivrant
jusqu'aux voûtes de la nuit ...*

*Les étoiles d'or, et moi je dors
dans le silence de leur voyage gigantesque,
m'inventant des profondeurs
où le temps n'a plus de prix et l'ennui plus
d'emprise*

Herménégilde Chiasson

Golden stars ...

Ah beautiful stars, shining dots
nailing the sky to the night's pillars ...

Golden stars ...

Ah beautiful stars spinning on their eerie
tips, spellbound dust sailing
upon the night's enchanted carpet ...

Golden stars ...

Ah beautiful stars, you fade
as so many genesis, unsuspected
in their vain thirst for uniqueness, narrow
staircase

climbing through the exhilarating darkness
up to the canopies of the night ...

Golden stars, and I sleep
in the silence of their tremendous journey,
devising for myself depths wherein
time costs no more and boredom loses its
lure.

Translation by Pierre Thibaudeau

Night Flight

New Moon

You can be thrown off balance here,
As if the mind, like some young gull left teetering on an icy ledge, dared not look down.
Amongst the wintry seaweed, rock and sand, you can be thrown off balance here.
Last night a new moon's gleaming keyhole
Barest sliver of a nail,
Drew me through
And hung me high above the huddled town.
Such soaring freedom there to fly from star
To light ship, to an island's throbbing beam,
Trailing silver tightropes on the glitt'ring air
Or tumble headlong through a night cloud rise
Unseen by all save one who holds the threads.
They catch us,
As we waken,
Plunging earthwards
Out of dream.

(The text continues on the following page. Please turn the page quietly.)

Before Dawn

One hour before dawn,
The garden, stripped of light and shade, utterly itself,
a place of solid stillness
Filled with Earth's heart murmurings and heavy scents.
After the languor of a wearying heat
We easily forget how wet her dew can be, stepping out so carelessly,
Barefoot over the moonlit grass with eyes on stars moulding into prisms.
I might have been an early suppliant hurrying to greet the day wrapt in summer morning,
My foot fall as an anchor, my hands outstretched reaching for their vast medieval heaven.

Sheila Bryer

Reggel

*Már üti- üti már!
Már üti- üti már!
a torony a hajnalban üti már.*

*Az I-döt bemeszeli
A korai kikeriki
Reggel van!*

Sándor Weöres

Morning

Ring, tick-tock, bell!
Ring, tick-tock, bell!
and the clock ticks wishing well, tick-tock
bell.

In the dawn, cock-a-doodle-doo,
the cock cries and the duck too!
It is morning!

Translation by György Ligeti

The **NEC Chamber Singers** is an auditioned ensemble, open to all majors at NEC, of 24-28 musicians who perform challenging works from all style periods, with a particular emphasis on 19th-21st century a cappella works. The choir rehearses three times a week and experiences choral music-making in an intimate ensemble setting, typically in the round. Each NEC Chamber Singer is a musician seeking to understand the principles and nuance of superior choral artistry so that they may be prepared for professional opportunities and expectations outside of the Conservatory. The choristers diligently prepare their music outside of scheduled rehearsals which makes the brief time spent together musically invaluable. The ensemble typically performs eight to ten times each academic year: on campus in the Conservatory's Jordan Hall and at off campus venues in and around greater Boston.

New England Conservatory Choruses

Erica J. Washburn, Director of Choral Activities
Jiawei Gong, Chenzhejun Jackie Hu, Margaret Storm,
Wanrou Tang, and Calvin Wamser - graduate conductors
Sally Millar, administrator
Da-Yu Liu and Changjin Ha, rehearsal accompanists

NEC Chamber Singers

Emelia Marie Boydston	Riccardo Lucas	Margaret Storm
Kayden Carter	Hernandez	Longfei Flora Sun
Ashley Chen	Chenzhejun Jackie Hu	Wanrou Tang
Kathryn Fernholz	Weza Jamison-Neto	Chloe Thum
Edward Ferran	Yoomin Kang	Kazuki Tsubakida
Agne Giedraitė	Molly Knight	Calvin Wamser
Jiawei Gong	Corinne Luebke-Brown	Madeleine Wieggers
Killian Grider	Nicholas Ottersberg	Yumeng Xing
	Anna Poltronieri Tang	

Erica J. Washburn

Director of Choral Activities

Conductor and mezzo-soprano Erica J. Washburn has been Director of Choral Activities at New England Conservatory since 2009. Known for her student-centric approach to classroom and rehearsal instruction, and commitment to the performance of new music, she is the recipient of several outstanding alumni awards, including the distinguished honor of induction to the Westminster Choir College Music Education Hall of Fame.

As a conductor, Washburn has worked with Kansas City, MO based Cardinalis, the Yale Schola Cantorum, the East Carolina University Women's Chorale, and the

Eastman Women's Chorus. She is a sought-after guest clinician who frequently leads state and regional festival choruses, and spent five summers as a conductor and voice faculty member for the New York State Summer School of the Arts School of Choral Studies.

Under her direction the NEC choirs have been featured on several live and pre-recorded broadcasts, including the North Carolina based station WCPE Great Sacred Music, WICN Public Radio, and WGBH Boston. The choirs can also be heard in collaboration with the Boston Modern Orchestra Project on the BMOP/Sound recording *Paul Moravec: The Blizzard Voices*.

Washburn's stage credits include appearances as Madame Lidoine in Francis Poulenc's *Dialogues of the Carmelites*, Rebecca Nurse in Robert Ward's *The Crucible*, Mother/Allison in the premiere of Lee Hoiby's *This is the Rill Speaking* and others. Her recital and orchestral solo credits are numerous, and her live premiere from Jordan Hall of the late Richard Toensing's *Night Songs and Evening Prayers* with the New England Conservatory Symphonic Winds can be heard on Albany Records.

Upcoming Choral Music at NEC

NEC SYMPHONIC CHOIR

Erica J. Washburn, conductor

Smith *The Consolation of Apollo*

Thursday, November 17, 2022 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

NEC CHAMBER SINGERS, SYMPHONIC WINDS & NAVY BAND NE

Erica J. Washburn, William Drury, and Lt. Joel Borrelli-Boudreau conductors

Mechanics Hall Brown Bag Concert Series

Wednesday, December 7, 2022 at 12:00 p.m.

Mechanics Hall, Worcester, MA (admission free)

NEC CHAMBER SINGERS, SYMPHONIC WINDS & NAVY BAND NE

Erica J. Washburn, William Drury, and Lt. Joel Borrelli-Boudreau conductors

"Into the Holidays"

Monday, December 12, 2022 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

Other Upcoming Concerts at NEC

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PERKIN OPERA SCENES

Graduate opera students perform scenes from operas by Britten, Mozart, Donizetti, Puccini, Cavalli, Rossini, Leoncavallo, and the Yiddish theater - including Gilrod and Rumshinsky's Yiddish operetta, *Di Goldene Kale (The Golden Bride)*

Wednesday-Friday, October 26-28, 2022 at 7:30 p.m.

Plimpton Shattuck Black Box Theatre

NEC PHILHARMONIA, Earl Lee, guest conductor

Wang *The Labyrinth of Light*; Mahler *Symphony No. 1 in D Major "Titan"*

Wednesday, October 26, 2022 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

SONATA NIGHT 42, Pei-Shan Lee, director

Works for violin and piano by Brahms, Schubert, and Strauss

Thursday, October 27, 2022 at 6:30 p.m., Burnes Hall

NEC COMPOSERS' SERIES

Works by NEC faculty and alumni composers Peyton, Heiss, Sandler, Richardson, Cogan, Blackwell, and Minakakis

Thursday, October 27, 2022 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

NEC NEW MUSIC ENSEMBLE, Hugh Wolff, conductor

Tower *Black Topaz*; Davis *Wayang II*; Takemitsu *Rain Spell*;

Crumb *Ancient Voices of Children*; Heiss *Eloquy and Serenade for Flute and Harp*

Monday, October 31, 2022 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

CALLITHUMPIAN CONSORT & [NEC]SHIVAREE, Steven Drury, artistic director

Shaw *Gustave Le Gray*; Czernowin *Seed I* and *The Hour Glass Bleeds Still*

Tuesday, November 1, 2022 at 8:00 p.m., Williams Hall

LIEDERABEND LXI: "Snapshots of Goethe"

The program will include settings of Goethe by Schubert, Hensel, Wolf, Zemlinsky, Robert Schumann, Emilie Mayer, Brahms, Hans Eisler, Ives, Webern, Medtner, Grieg, Strauss, and Anna Amalia.

Wednesday, November 2, 2022 at 6:00 p.m., Williams Hall

"WHAT I HEAR": BSO/NEC collaboration

Caroline Shaw *Valencia*, *Gustave Le Gray*, *Aurora Borealis*, *Entr'acte* and excerpts from Ravel *String Quartet in F Major*

Thursday, November 3, 2022 at 5:30 p.m., Brown Hall

Support the musical journeys of NEC students!

Contributions to The NEC Fund directly support the musical journeys of our extraordinarily talented NEC students and help keep our concerts free. From student scholarships and faculty support to exceptional student resources and learning opportunities, your gift makes the unparalleled NEC experience possible. Learn more at necmusic.edu/give.



Food and drink are not allowed in the concert hall, and photography and audio or video recording are prohibited. Assistive listening devices are available for all Jordan Hall concerts; contact the head usher or house manager on duty or inquire at the Coat Room. Latecomers will be seated at the discretion of management.

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