

Alexis Reese  
*soprano*

Recital in partial fulfillment of the  
Master of Music degree, 2025  
Student of Carole Haber

with  
Sandy Li, piano

Sunday, March 30, 2025  
4:00 p.m.  
Brown Hall

PROGRAM

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**Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart**  
(1756–1791)

“Vorrei spiegarvi, oh Dio”, K. 418

**Claude Debussy**  
(1862–1918)

from *Sept poèmes de Banville*

Le lilas  
Sérénade  
Les roses  
Fête galante

*Intermission*

**Sergei Rachmaninoff**  
(1873–1943)

from *Six Romances, op. 4*

III. Silence of the Secret Night  
IV. Sing not to me, beautiful maiden  
V. Oh thou, my field

**Robert Owens**  
(1925–2017)

*3 Songs for Coloratura and Piano, op. 31*

A Song  
The Secret  
The Sparrow

from *Heart on the Wall*

Heart  
Remembrance  
For dead mimes

**Vorrei spiegarvi, oh Dio!**

*Vorrei spiegarvi, oh Dio!  
Qual è l'affanno mio;  
Ma mi condanna il fato  
A piangere e tacer.  
Arder non pù il mio core  
Per chi vorrebbe amore  
E fa che cruda io sembri,  
Un barbaro dover.  
Ah conte, partite,  
Correte, fuggite  
Lontano da me;  
La vostra diletta  
Emilia v'aspetta,  
Languir non la fate,  
È degna d'amor.  
Ah stelle spietate!  
Nemiche mi siete.  
Mi perdo s'ei resta.  
Partite, correte,  
D'amor non parlate,  
È vostro il suo cor.*

Unknown

**Le lilas**

*Ô floraison divine du Lilas,  
Je te bénis, pour si peu que tu dures!  
Nos pauvres coeurs de souffrir étaient las.  
Enfin l'oubli guérit nos peines dures  
Enivrez-nous, fleurs, horizons, verdure!  
Le clair réveil du matin gracieux  
  
Charme l'azur irradié des cieux;  
Mai fleurissant cache les blanches tombes,  
Tout éclairé de feux délicieux,  
Et l'air frémit, blanc des vols de colombes.*

**I would like to explain to you, oh God!**

I would like to explain to you, oh God!  
What my distress is;  
But fate condemns me  
To weep and remain silent.  
My heart can no longer burn  
For one who would want love  
And makes me seem cruel,  
A barbarous duty.  
Ah, Count, leave,  
Run, flee  
Far away from me;  
Your beloved  
Emilia is waiting for you,  
Do not make her languish,  
She is worthy of love.  
Ah, pitiless stars!  
You are my enemies.  
I am lost if he stays.  
Leave, run,  
Do not speak of love,  
Her heart is yours.

*Translation by Alexis Reese*

**The Lilac**

O divine blooming of the Lilac,  
I bless you, for however short you last!  
Our poor hearts were weary of suffering.  
At last, oblivion heals our harsh pains.  
Enchant us, flowers, horizons, greenery!  
The bright awakening of the gracious  
morning;  
It charms the azure illuminated by the skies;  
May, in full bloom, hides the white graves,  
All illuminated by delicious flames,  
And the air shudders, white with the flights  
of doves.

## Sérénade

*Las! Colombine a fermé le volet,  
Et vainement le chasseur tend ses toiles,  
Car la fillette au doux esprit follet,  
De ses rideaux laissant tomber les voiles,  
S'est dérobée, ainsi que les étoiles.  
Bien qu'elle cache à l'amant indigent  
Son casaquin pareil au ciel changeant,  
Ah! C'est pour charmer cette beauté barbare  
Que remuant comme du vif argent.  
Arlequin chante et gratte sa guitare.  
Arlequin chante, ah!*

## Les roses

*Lorsque le ciel de saphir est de feu,  
Lorsque l'été de son haleine touche  
La folle Nymphé amoureuse, et par jeu  
Met un charbon rougissant sur sa bouche;  
Quand sa chaleur, dédaigneuse et farouche  
Fait tressaillir le myrte et le cyprès,  
On sent brûler sous ses magiques traits  
Les fronts blémis et les lèvres mi-closes  
Et le riant feuillage des forêts,  
Et vous aussi, cœurs enflammés des roses.*

## Fête galante

*Voilà Sylvandre et Lycas et Myrtil  
Car c'est ce soir fête chez Cydalise.  
  
Partout dans l'air court un parfum subtil  
  
Dans le grand parc où tout s'idéalise  
  
Avec la rose, Aminthe rivalise.  
Phillis, Églé qui suivent leurs amants,  
Cherchent l'ombrage en mille endroits charmants;*

## Serenade

Alas! Colombine has closed the shutter,  
And vainly the hunter sets his traps,  
For the girl with the sweet, playful spirit,  
Dropping the curtains of her window,  
Has slipped away, just like the stars.  
Although she hides from the poor lover  
Her little jacket, like the changing sky,  
Ah! It is to charm this barbarous beauty  
That, moving like quicksilver,  
Harlequin sings and strums his guitar.  
Harlequin sings, ah!

*Translations by Alexis Reese*

## Roses

When the sapphire sky's ablaze,  
When summer breathes on  
The madly enamoured Nymph, and playfully  
Places a glowing ember on her lips;  
When its disdainful and fierce heat  
Causes the myrtle and cypress to quiver,  
One can feel its magical touch burn  
Pale foreheads and half-closed lips  
And the laughing forest foliage,  
And you too, roses with glowing hearts.

*Translation © Richard Stokes, author of A French  
Song Companion (Oxford University Press)  
provided via Oxford International Song Festival  
(www.oxfordsong.org)*

## Gallant Party

Here are Sylvandre and Lycas and Myrtil  
For tonight, there is a celebration at  
Cydalise's.  
Everywhere in the air, a subtle fragrance  
drifts  
In the grand park where everything becomes  
idealized.  
With the rose, Aminthe competes.  
Phillis, Églé, who follow their lovers,  
Seek shade in a thousand charming places.

*Dans le soleil qui s'irrite et qui joue,  
Luttant d'orgueil avec les diamants,  
Sur le chemin, le paon blanc fait la roue. Ah!*

Théodore de Banville

*In the sun that flares and plays,  
Competing in pride with the diamonds,  
On the path, the white peacock spreads its  
tail. Ah!*

*Translation by Alexis Reese*

**О, долго буду я, в молчаньи ночи тайной**

О, долго буду я, в молчаньи ночи тайной,  
Коварный лепет твой, улыбку, взор  
случайный,  
Перстам послушную [волос]<sup>1</sup> густую прядь,  
Из мыслей изгонять, и снова призывать;  
Дыша порывисто, один, никем не зримый,  
Досады и стыда румянами палимый,  
Искать хотя одной загадочной черты  
В словах, которые произносила ты;  
Шептать и поправлять былые выраженья  
Речей моих с тобой, исполненных  
смущенья,  
И в опьянении, наперекор уму,  
Заветным именем будить ночную

Afanasy Afanas'yevich Fet

**Не пой, красавица!**

Не пой, красавица, при мне  
Ты песен Грузии печальной;  
Напоминают мне оне  
Другую жизнь и берег дальний.

Увы, напоминают мне  
Твои жестокие напевы  
И степь, и ночь, и при луне  
Черты далекой, бедной девы!

**In the silence of the secret night**

Oh, for a long while, in the silence of the  
mysterious night,  
Your beguiling murmur, smile, fleeting  
glance,  
A luscious strand of your hair, obedient to my  
fingers,  
Will I banish from my thoughts - but then  
recall again;  
Breathing impulsively, alone, unseen by  
anyone,  
Blushing and burning with vexation and  
shame,  
I will search for secret messages  
In the words you uttered;  
Whisper and reconsider the phrases  
Of my embarrassed conversations with you,  
  
And, as if intoxicated, against all reason,  
With your cherished name awaken the  
nightly haze.

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**Do not sing, my beauty, to me**

Do not sing, my beauty, to me  
your sad songs of Georgia;  
they remind me  
of that other life and distant shore.

Alas, They remind me,  
your cruel melodies,  
of the steppe, the night and moonlit  
features of a poor, distant maiden!

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

Я призрак милый, роковой,  
Тебя увидев, забываю;  
Но ты поёшь, и предо мной  
Его я вновь воображаю.

Не пой, красавица, при мне ...

Aleksandr Sergeevich Pushkin

### **Уж ты, нива моя!**

Уж ты, нива моя, нивушка,  
Не скосить тебя с маху единого,  
Не связать тебя всю во единый сноп!  
Уж вы, думы мои, думушки,  
Не стряхнуть вас разом с плеч долой,  
Одной речью-то вас не высказать!  
По тебе-ль, нива, ветер раздуивал,

Гнул колосья твои до-земли,  
Зрелы зерна-все разметывал!  
Широко вы, думы, порассыпались,

Куда пала какая думушка.  
Там всходила люта печаль-трава,

Выросло горе горячее.

Aleksei Konstaninovich Tolstoy

### **A Song**

A bee that was searching for sweets one day,  
Through the gate of a rose garden happened to stray.  
In the heart of a rose he his away,  
And forgot in his bliss the light of day.  
As sipping his honey he buzzed in song;  
Though day was waning he lingered long,  
For the rose was sweet, so sweet.

A robin sits pluming his ruddy breast  
And a madrigal sings to her love in her nest:  
"The skies, they are blue, the fields are green,  
And the birds in your nest will soon be seen."

That sweet and fateful apparition  
I forget when you appear;  
but you sing, and before me  
I picture that image anew.

Do not sing, my beauty, to me ...

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### **Oh you, my grain-field, little grain-field**

Oh you, my grain-field, little grain-field,  
one cannot mow you with a single stroke,  
one cannot tie you all up into a single sheaf!  
O you, my thoughts, little thoughts,  
one cannot all at once get rid of you,  
one cannot express you with one utterance!  
The wind would stroll through you, grain-  
field,  
would bend your ears [of grain] to the earth,  
and toss all the mature grains!  
You, [my] thoughts, would scatter yourselves  
far and wide,  
to where some little thought would fall.  
In that place a cruel grass of sadness would  
sprout,  
a burning grief would spring up.

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She hangs on his words with a thrill of love,  
And chirps to him as he sits above  
For the song is sweet, so sweet.

A maiden was out on a summer's day.  
With the winds and the waves and the flowers at play;  
And she met with a youth of gentle air,  
With the light of the sunshine on his hair.  
Together they wandered the flowers among;  
They loved, and loving they lingered long,  
For to love is sweet, so sweet.

### **The Secret**

What says the wind to the waving trees?  
What says the wave to the river?  
What means the sigh in the passing breeze?  
Why do the rushes quiver?  
Have you not heard the fainting cry  
Of the flowers that said "Good-bye, good-bye"?

List how the gray dove moans and grieves  
Under the woodland cover;  
List to the drift of the falling leaves,  
List to the wail of the lover.  
Have you not caught the message heard  
Already by wave and breeze and bird?

Come, come away to the river's bank,  
Come in the early morning;  
Come when the grass with dew is dank,  
There you will find the warning --  
A hint in the kiss of the quickening air  
Of the secret that birds and breezes bear.

## **The sparrow**

A little bird, with plumage brown,  
Beside my window flutters down,  
A moment chirps its little strain,  
Ten taps upon my window-pane,  
And chirps again, and hops along,  
To call my notice to its song;  
But I work on, nor heed its lay,  
Till, in neglect, it flies away.  
So birds of peace and hope and love  
Come fluttering earthward from above,  
To settle on life's window-sills,  
And ease our load of earthly ills;  
But we, in traffic's rush and din  
Too deep engaged to let them in,  
With deadened heart and sense plod on,  
Nor know our loss till they are gone.

*Paul Laurence Dunbar*

## **Heart**

Pierrot  
Took his heart  
And hung it  
On a wayside wall.  
He said,  
"Look, Passers-by,  
Here is my heart!"  
But no one was curious.  
No one cared at all  
That there hung  
Pierrot's heart  
On the public wall.  
So, Pierrot  
Took his heart  
And hid it  
Far away.  
Now people wonder  
Where his heart is  
Today.

## **Remembrance**

To wander through this living world  
And leave uncut the roses



Is to remember fragrances where  
The flower no scent encloses.

**For dead mimes**

O white-faced mimes,  
May rose leaves  
Cover you  
Like crimson  
Snow.  
And may Pierrette,  
The faithful,  
Rest forever  
With Pierrot.

*Langston Hughes*

## **Upcoming Student Recitals at NEC**

*all programs subject to change*

Visit [necmusic.edu](http://necmusic.edu) for complete and updated concert information

**Aviana Gedler**, *jazz voice* (BM)

Student of Dominique Eade, Hankus Netsky, and Jason Moran

*Sunday, March 30, 2025, at 8:00 p.m., Pierce Hall*

**Josie Larsen**, *soprano* (AD)

Student of Bradley Williams

*Sunday, March 30, 2025 at 8:00 p.m., Jordan Hall*

**Qianbin Zhu**, *French horn* (MM)

Student of Eli Epstein

*Sunday, March 30, 2025, at 8:00 p.m., Brown Hall*

**Letian Cheng**, *violin* (DMA '27)

Student of Nicholas Kitchen

*Monday, March 31, 2025, at 8:00 p.m., Pierce Hall*

**Saeyeong Kim**, *flute* (DMA '29)

Student of Cynthia Meyers

*Monday, March 31, 2025, at 8:00 p.m., Brown Hall*

**Darwin Chang**, *violin* (BM)

Student of Donald Weilerstein

*Tuesday, April 1, 2025, at 8:00 p.m., Keller Room*

**Yuwei Luo**, *jazz voice* (MM)

Student of Dominique Eade

*Tuesday, April 1, 2025, at 8:00 p.m., Eben Jordan*

**Yechan Min**, *baritone* (BM)

Student of Bradley Williams

*Tuesday, April 1, 2025, at 8:00 p.m., Burnes Hall*

**Kai Burns**, *jazz guitar* (BM)

Student of Efstratios Minakakis and Davide Ianni

*Wednesday, April 2, 2025, at 8:00 p.m., Pierce Hall*

**Rafe Lei Schaberg**, *collaborative piano* (MM)

Student of Vivian Hornik Weilerstein

*Wednesday, April 2, 2025, at 8:00 p.m., Brown Hall*

## Upcoming Student Recitals at NEC

—continued

**André Bruni**, *jazz composition* (MM)  
Student of Ken Schaphorst and Frank Carlberg  
*Thursday, April 3, 2025, at 8:00 p.m., Pierce Hall*

**Theresa Katz**, *violin* (BM)  
Student of Nicholas Kitchen  
*Thursday, April 3, 2025, at 8:00 p.m., Keller Room*

**Peixuan Wu**, *violin* (MM)  
Student of Ayano Ninomiya  
*Thursday, April 3, 2025, at 8:00 p.m., Eben Jordan*

**Mattias Bengtsson**, *French horn* (BM)  
Student of Rachel Childers  
*Friday, April 4, 2025, at 8:30 p.m., Williams Hall*

**Morgan Brookman**, *contemporary musical arts* (BM)  
Student of Farayi Malek  
*Friday, April 4, 2025, at 8:30 p.m., Eben Jordan*

**Evan Haskin**, *jazz guitar* (BM)  
Student of Stratis Minakakis  
*Friday, April 4, 2025, at 8:30 p.m., Brown Hall*

**Gayeon Kim**, *cello* (GD '26)  
Student of Laurence Lesser  
*Friday, April 4, 2025, at 8:30 p.m., Keller Room*

**Hayoung Choi**, *violin* (MM)  
Student of Donald Weilerstein  
*Saturday, April 5, 2025, at 8:00 p.m., Brown Hall*

**Agne Giedraityte**, *contemporary musical arts* (BM)  
Student of Hankus Netsky and Carole Haber  
*Saturday, April 5, 2025, at 8:00 p.m., Burnes Hall*

**Jin Jeong**, *piano* (MM)  
Student of Alessio Bax and Pavel Nersessian  
*Saturday, April 5, 2025, at 8:00 p.m., Williams Hall*

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