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Many family and friends for their support and
encouragement*

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*A Senior Recital
with
Meghan Schweizer
Student of Cristina Catt*



*At
Merrimack College
Austin Hall Chapel
315 Turnpike Street
North Andover, MA 01845
Friday, April 23, 2020
3:30 PM*

About the Artist



Meghan Schweizer

Accomplished music student with a solid academic background and keen sensitive aural skills. A Dramatic Mezzo-Soprano, with a love and passion for music in a diversity of genres, including classical, popular and musical theatre. Influences include Mirusia Louwerse, Whitney Houston, Cheryl Porter, Freddie Mercury and Jessie J.

This determined and dedicated vocal performer's expertise includes soloist in vocal recitals both locally, and through the university, soloist for weddings, funerals, and cantering liturgical services. A third-year student at Merrimack College, pursuing a dual degree program, majoring in Communication & Media and Music - Vocal Performance. Anticipated graduation, Spring 2021. Graduate of New England Conservatory Preparatory School, 2017.

Introduction

Throughout the planning of this recital, search and analysis were performed. Its purpose was to identify and create a performance, which represents songs of love and loss throughout the history of music. What I have found is composers have written about the human experience of love and loss throughout music's history, eras, and genres. My goal is to demonstrate the different ways in which composers express these complex emotions and show the innately human qualities of love and loss. The composers selected are both living and deceased, and include selections in Foreign Language, Musical Theatre and Popular Music.

My wish is for you to enjoy the selections of memorable works. As I explore my love for both contemporary and secular music, I am drawn to the love and loss felt during the current global crisis. Although the pandemic has wreaked havoc on the music world, musicians are responding globally, through collaborations, rediscovering and creating music, volunteering, and livestreaming. People have turned to music to help them through the crisis. I would like to dedicate this performance to the many people who have experienced love and loss and for the courageous individuals who have made a difference to support those in need.

Meghan Schweizer

Act I: Foreign Language Selections

O Del Mio Dolce Ardor

From Opera: Paride ed Elena
Composed by Christoph Willibald Gluck, 1870

J'ai Deux Amours

Composed by Vincent Scotto, 1930

Act II: Musical Theatre Selections

Unusual Way

From the Musical: Nine
Composed by Maury Weston, 1982

Over the Rainbow

From the Musical: The Wizard of Oz
Composed by Harold Arlen
and Yip Harburg, 1939

Lovely Lonely Man

From the Musical: Chitty Chitty Bang Bang
Composed by Robert B. Sherman
and Richard M. Sherman, 1968

I Enjoy Being a Girl

From the Musical: Flower Drum Song
Composed by Richard Rodgers
and Oscar Hammerstein II, 1961

Act III: Popular Music Selections

"idontwannabeyouanymore"

Composed by Billie Eilish Pirate Baird O'Connell
and Finneas O'Connell, 2017
Album: Don't Smile at Me

Hurt

Composed by Christina Aguilera, Linda Perry,
and Mark Ronson, 2006
Album: Back to Basics

Fields of Gold

Composed by Gordon Sumner (Sting), 1993
Album: Ten Summoner's Tales

Can't Help Falling in Love

Composed by Hugo Peretti, Luigi Creatore,
and George David Weiss, 1961
Album: Blue Hawaii

Crazy

Composed by Gnarls Barkley, Thomas Callaway (Cee Lo
Greene) and Brian Burton (Danger Mouse), 2006
Album: St. Elsewhere

The End

***Can't Help Falling in Love*, - 1961**

Originally released in 1961 as a tender ballad from the movie, "Blue Hawaii", it is considered and forever marked as one of the greatest romantic songs in history. A most popular and requested wedding songs to-date, it has also been inducted in Rolling Stone's 500 Greatest Songs of All Time. Through the song's lyrics, it speaks about the singer's feelings towards a girl he is falling in uncontrollable love. The singer is asking the love to take his hand and to spend the rest of his life with him. The melody is based on the popular French song, "Plaisir d'amour" composed in 1784 by Jean-Paul Egide-Martini

***Crazy*, - 2006**

After going through a bitter divorce and personal trials, Cee Lo Greene along with collaborator Danger Mouse, of the duo Gnarls Barkley created the song "Crazy". Channeling their frustrations of their love and loss, the duo took an opportunity to be expressive, including their frustrations with the music industry for what was perceived as "you needed to be a little crazy to be relevant". Through their discussions, about sanity and its place in pop culture, the creative process and true artistry, the pair created the popular, psychedelic soulful and Grammy Award winning song, "Crazy".

***Fields of Gold*, - 1993**

Sting, inspired by his great love and the sunsets and colors of the field at a house he purchased nearby barley field, wrote the story of the song about the chronological events of courtship, marriage and eventually death. Feeling as though never wanting to make a strong commitment, he is now ready. The wistfully peaceful ballad looks back on love gained, through its intimate vocals and soothing folk-like melodies, and Mark Ronson, 2006

***Hurt*, - 2006.**

The song describes how the protagonist deals with the loss of a loved one. Both Christina Aguilera and Linda Perry had guilt after the passing of their Dads. The lyrics describe how the singer felt as she never got the chance to say she was sorry prior to their passing. Lyrically, it shows the struggle of pain and guilt. Although the song may not have reach #1 on the charts, it remains one of Aguilera's top 10 songs.

***I Enjoy Being a Girl*, - 1961**

This show tune composed by Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II, for the Musical: Flower Drum Song, and was written about living in Chinese America. The lead character, a showgirl, is romantically involved with the club's owner, whose family has ordered him a bride from China. The struggle of love and loss is about the clash between traditional Chinese customs and values to that of modern American. The character may not be a feminist but sings about how she is happy to entice men with her beauty. Doris Day released the song as a single the same year, which became one of its most popular covers.

***"idontwannabeyouanymore"*, - 2017**

Diagnosed with Tourette Syndrome, at fourteen-years old, Billie Eilish Pirate Baird O'Connell struggles with loving and loss of oneself. She does not like the fact that she is not secure with herself as well as her abilities. Eilish along with her brother Finneas O'Connell created the lyric and self-title "idon'twanttobeyouanymore" clearly referring to Eilish herself. Her songs and voice take on a soft confessional quality, yet strong and melancholy. Full of contradictions, satire, and self-image, her songs have garnered her the accolades of five Grammy Awards.

***J'ai Deux Amours*, - 1930**

Describing two loves, "Mon pays et Paris", translated to "my country and Paris". The French song performed in 1930, by Josephine Baker was controversial as to whether the country refers to America or France. The lyrics play both on her status as a foreigner and her love for her adopted city Paris. As the first African American female to star in a major motion picture, Baker was noted for contributions to the Civil Rights Movement and for assisting the French Resistance during World War II. She was the first American-born woman to receive the French military honor, the Croix de Guerre.

***Lovely Lonely Man*, - 1968**

From the Musical: Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, the song was sung by the character, Truly Scrumptious, portrayed by Sally Ann Howes. Truly, pines for the affection of the eccentric inventor, Caractacus Potts, played by Dick Van Dyke. Howe had a large volume of work before and after the movie. When she auditions for the part in the film, she sang "Lovely Lonely Man" with her beautiful rich contralto voice.

***O Del Mio Dolce Ardor*, - 1870**

This Italian Art Song's texts were influenced from the Italian librettist, Ranieri de' Calzabigi. Gluck's composition includes slow rhythms and a beautiful vocal melody for the male soprano voice. The song is about love, asking "my sweetheart I want to be together with you to seek and breathe". "O Del Mio Dolce Ardor" is a standard favorite in numerous collections of Italian songs. Tchaikovsky composed the orchestration of the Art Song at the request of Nikolay Rubinstein for a symphony concert for the Russian Musical Society

***Over the Rainbow*, - 1939**

The classic song from "The Wizard of Oz" almost did not happen as the executives at MGM thought it was too slow of a tempo. Sung by the character, Dorothy Gale, portrayed by Judy Garland, the song is about imagining a world over the rainbow. The character was sick of her dreary life on the farm in Kansas and want to escape to somewhere else, a place without troubles. The song's appeal is its desire to get away or escape and wanting to feel loved. The song went on to become Garland's anthem, performed in concerts. She would change its tempo, timbre, rhythm, phrasing, diction, and pitch as it grew with her becoming a culminating moment of her concerts. The composers wanted it to be deeply expressive, filled with emotion of being controlled with feeling of yearning or longing.

***Unusual Way*, - 1982**

The composer, lyricist, educator and musicologist, Maury Yeston created the musical as a class project while attending the Lehman Engel Music Theater Workshop in 1973. The musical's story is about a film director, named Guido Contini, approaching his 40th birthday and a midlife crisis. Unable to come up with box office hit, he tries to lure a film star, Claudia, into playing another version of a part she has always played. Claudia feels Guido helped launch her career but does not see her for the person she is, because he is too absorbed in his films. Yeston was asked on "Seth Speaks" on SiriusXM about Unusual Way. He said the accompaniment is all eighth notes, like water flowing and it never stops. His intent was to represent the constancy of love because when you love someone that much, it never leaves you. The song Unusual Way is Claudia expressing her love for Guido and how he perceives Claudia.