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Alumni Recital

Robert MacNeil
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ART THEATRE MUSIC DANCE



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Fall 2009 Event Highlights

ART:

In Love with Night Sept 8 – Oct 9
Because the Night Oct 19 – Nov 13
BA/BFA Exhibition Nov 16 – Nov 21
Departmental Exhibition Dec 7 – 11

THEATRE:

Lend me a Tenor, by Ken Ludwig Oct 9 – 11; 14 – 17
Streamers, by David Rabe in repertory with
Ladyhouse Blues, by Kevin O'Morrison Nov 13 – 15; 17 – 21

MUSIC:

Chapman Chamber Orchestra with
Guest Artist Vladimir Chernov, baritone Oct 17
Visiting Artist in Piano, Sergei Babayan Oct 27
Opera Chapman presents:
"Offenbach...mais ne jamais ennuyer!" Oct 30, 31 & Nov 1
University Choirs in Concert Nov 20
Chapman University Wind Symphony Nov 21
Holiday Wassail Dec 4 & 5

DANCE:

Fall Dance Concert Dec 9 – 12

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www.chapman.edu/copa/calendar

or call 714-997-6519 or email CoPA@chapman.edu

CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY

Conservatory of Music

presents an

Alumni Recital

Robert MacNeil, tenor
Class of 1993

Louise Thomas, piano

September 18, 2009 • 8:00 P.M.
Salmon Recital Hall

Program

I
Nun bin ich dein, du aller Blumen blume
Nun wandre Maria, nun wandre nur fort
Die ihr schwebet um diese Palmen
Herr, was trägt der Boden hier

H. Wolf
(1860-1903)

II
Pace non trovo, e non ho da far guerra
Benedetto sia'l giorno e'l mese, e l'anno
from *Tre sonetti di Petrarca*

F. Liszt
(1811-1886)

III
Ah! Lève-toi, soleil!
from *Roméo et Juliette*

C. Gounod
(1818-1893)

Intermission

IV
Elle était descendue au bas de la prairie
Elle est gravement gaie
Vous m'avez regardé avec toute votre âme
Deux ancolies
from *Clairières dans le ciel*

L. Boulanger
(1893-1918)

V
Noonday
Through your window
The shoreless sea
from *Three Chinese Love Lyrics*

J. Duke
(1899-1984)

VI
Recondita armonia
from *Tosca*

G. Puccini
(1858-1924)

TRANSLATIONS

Nun bin ich dein, du aller Blumen blume

Now I am yours, flower of flowers and sing solely your praise at all times. I will be zealous and dedicate myself to you and your sufferance. Lady Elect, in you is all my hope. My innermost being is forever open to you. Come, free me from the curse of the evil one who has so afflicted me. Star of the Sea, Haven of delights from whom in pain the afflicted ones find salvation. Before I die, look on me from on high, Queen of the Suns. Never can your abundance of mercy run dry. You help towards triumph, him who is laden with shame. To cling to you, to lie at your feet heals all infirmity and grief. I suffer severe and well-merited punishments. I am in dread of sleeping death's sleep. Come forth and through the sea, bring me to the harbor.

Nun wandre Maria, nun wandre nur fort

Ride onward, sweet Mary, ride onward, keep on, the roosters are crowing. We're close to the town. Ride onward, beloved, where comfort waits; we'll soon be arriving at Bethlehem's gates. And there you may slumber safe and warm. The roosters are crowing, we're nearing the town. See how you falter, so weak and weary! Nor can I ease your pain, dearest Mary. Take heart, for shelter awaits us now. The cocks are crowing, we're nearing the town. Oh! That your time had arrived, little dear: good news that I'd give anything to hear. This donkey I'd give if it were done. The roosters are crowing ... come, near is the town.

Die ihr schwebet um diese Palmen

You who hover around these palms in night and wind, you holy angels, silence the treetops. My child is sleeping. You palms of Bethlehem in the roaring wind, how can you today bluster so angrily! O roar not so! Be still, bow softly and gentle. Silence the treetops! My child is sleeping. The child of heaven endures the discomfort, Oh, how tired he has become of earthly sorrow. Oh, now in sleep, gently softened, His pain fades, silence the treetops! My child is sleeping. Fierce cold comes rushing, how shall I cover the little child's limbs? O all you angels, you winged ones wandering in the wind, silence the treetops! My child is sleeping.

Herr, was trägt der Boden hier

Lord, what does this ground bear, which you moisten so bitterly? "Thorns, dear heart, for me and for you fair flowers." Ah, where such brooks run, can a garden there thrive? "Yes, and know this! A variety of garlands will one weave there!" Oh, my Lord, for whose adornment are these garlands wound? Speak! "Those of thorns are for me and those of flowers I offer you."

Pace non trovo, e non ho da far guerra

I find no peace and have no wish to make war and I fear and hope. I burn and am made of ice. I fly above the heavens and I lie on the earth. I hold nothing and embrace the whole world. Someone imprisons me who neither opens nor locks, who neither keeps me nor loosens the bonds. Love does not kill me and does not take my chains away, does not want me alive nor does remove my fetters. I see without eyes and I have no tongue and yet I cry out. I hope for death and call for help. I hate myself and love another. I feed on pain. I laugh weeping as death and life are equally unpleasant to me. I am in this state because of you. I am in this state, O Laura, because of you.

Benedetto sia'l giorno e'l mese, e l'anno

Blessed be the day, month and the year, the season, time, the hour, the moment and the beautiful landscape where I found the two lovely eyes that have ensnared me. Blessed be the first sweet suffering I felt at being together in love and the bow and the arrow that pierced me at the wounds that ultimately touch my heart. Blessed be the many sounds I have dispersed crying out the name of Laura and the signs, tears and the desire. Blessed be all the pages in which I have earned fame for her, my thoughts, which are only of her, so that no one else enters them!

Ah! Lève-toi, soleil! from Roméo et Juliette

Love, love! yes, its intensity has disturbed my very being! But, what sudden light shines at that window? It is there that by night her beauty shines!

Ah! arise! O sun! Make pale the stars which unveiled in the azure, sparkle in the firmament. Ah, arise! Appear! Appear! Pure and enchanting star!

She is dreaming! She loosens a lock of hair that falls, caressing her cheek!

Love! Love! Carry my vows to her! She speaks! How beautiful she is! Ah! I heard nothing! But her eyes speak for her! And my heart has answered!

Ah! arise! O sun! Make pale the stars which unveiled in the azure, sparkle in the firmament. Ah, arise! Appear! Appear! Pure and enchanting star!

Elle était descendue au bas de la prairie

She had gone down to the foot of the meadow. And like the meadow, was decked with flowers whose stems love to shoot forth from the water those drenched plants which I had picked. Soon, dripping, she reached the top of that meadow which was all abloom. She was laughing and splashing about with that awkward grace peculiar to overly tall girls. She had the look of lavender flowers.

Elle est gravement gaie

She is serious but mirthful. Sometimes she would suddenly glance up at me as if to catch my thought. She was sweet then, as when it is late, the velvet yellow and blue of a path of pansies.

Vous m'avez regardé avec toute votre âme

You looked at me with all your soul. You looked at me a long while like a blue sky. I took that look into the depths of my own eyes. How impassioned yet calm was that look.

Deux ancolies

Two columbines were swaying on a hill. One columbine said to her sister columbine, "I tremble before you and that embarrasses me." The other answered, "When I look at myself in the pool in the rock so worn down by the trickling of water, I see that I too am trembling, and I am embarrassed just like you." The wind continued to rock them both. It filled them with love, and intertwined their blue hearts.

Recondita armonia from Tosca

Concealed harmony of contrasting beauties. Floria, my ardent lover, is dark haired. And you, unknown beauty, crowned with blond hair, you have blue eyes and Tosca has black eyes! Art, in its mysterious way, blends the contrasting beauties together...But while I'm painting her, my only thought, Tosca, it is of you!

Biographies

Tenor, **Robert MacNeil**, has been praised by the *Los Angeles Times* for possessing a voice that is “clarion” and “clear”. In 2008, Mr. MacNeil made his debut with San Francisco Opera in Mozart’s *Idomeneo* in the role of the High Priest of Neptune. He returns to San Francisco Opera this 2009-2010 season in their production of *Salome*. In Spring 2010, Mr. MacNeil returns to Los Angeles Opera in Franz Shreker’s *Die Gezeichneten*, Angeles Chorale in Beethoven’s *Missa Solemnis*, and Handel’s *Messiah* performances with Bakersfield Masterworks and Orchestra Nova (formerly San Diego Chamber Orchestra). The tenor made his debut with the famed Ojai Festival under Kent Nagano in Orff’s *Die Kluge* and recorded the role of Martin in Copland’s opera *The Tender Land*, which was released on the Koch International Label.

An accomplished concert artist, the tenor has been soloist in more than fifty performances of Handel’s *Messiah*. He has soloed with the Mormon Tabernacle Choir in performances of *Elijah*, the Sydney Choral Festival in the Berlioz *Requiem* and in Orff’s *Carmina Burana* with the Central Union Philharmonic in Beijing. He made his Carnegie Hall solo debut in Britten’s *The World of the Spirit* and appeared in Rome with the Orchestra Roma Symphonia in Verdi’s *Requiem*. He has appeared as a guest artist with the Oregon Symphony, Aspen Chamber Orchestra, Los Angeles Master Chorale, Pacific Symphony, Southwest Chamber Music, Oregon Festival of American Music, Pacific Chorale, Long Beach Opera, Pasadena Symphony, California Philharmonic, Angeles Chorale, Opera Santa Barbara, New West Symphony, Santa Barbara Symphony, Bozeman Symphony and numerous concerts with the San Diego Chamber Orchestra, Third Angle New Music Ensemble, William Hall Master Chorale, Bakersfield Symphony, California Master Chorale and the Cascade Music Festival.

Mr. Mac Neil, a National Finalist in the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, has his B.M. from Chapman University and M.M. from the University of Southern California. At the University of Southern California, he was a Marilyn Horne Scholar and was named Most Outstanding Graduate Student from the Thornton School of Music.

Pianist **Louise Thomas** is Director of Keyboard Collaborative Arts at Chapman University. She received her doctorate in piano performance from the University of Southern California where she studied with John Perry and Alan Smith.

A native of Ireland, Louise Thomas has concertized extensively throughout Europe, North America and Asia at such notable concert venues as the Tchaikovsky Conservatoire in Moscow, the Forbidden City Concert Hall in Beijing and Carnegie Hall in New York City.

After completing undergraduate musicology studies at Trinity College, Dublin where she had developed a passion for music of the 20th century, Louise was offered a German Government scholarship (DAAD) to study piano performance at the Hochschule in Hannover, Germany. While a student there, she won second prize at the Ibla-Ragusa competition in Sicily where she was also awarded the Bela Bartók Prize. Subsequently in 1998, she won the concerto competition at the University of Southern California and played under the baton of the late Sergiu Comissiona.

This recording is currently available on K-USC’s “Kids and Parents” CD.

A highly active collaborative pianist, Dr. Thomas has made CD recordings in Germany (as part of the chamber music festival, “Schwetzinger Festspielen”), at the Banff Center for the Arts in Canada with the Irish Contemporary Music group, Nua Nós, as well as appearing on numerous radio broadcasts for Irish Radio, BBC Radio Northern Ireland, Moscow radio, K-USC and K-MZT in Los Angeles. She has also played live and recorded many times for RTE (Irish National Television) and the nationally distributed Ovation Arts Channel in Los Angeles. Her recordings are available at iTunes.com

Louise Thomas has been invited onto the faculty of several summer programs.

She has been the vocal coach at “La Fabbrica” in Tuscany and since 2003 has been the Festival pianist and vocal coach at the summer program of Idyllwild Arts Academy in California.

In 2007, she performed a program of “California Composers Today” at Carnegie Hall, continuing her commitment to the music of today.

COMING EVENTS

September

- 25 Louise Thomas and Daniel Alfred Wachs 8:00 P.M.
Piano Recital Salmon Recital Hall
\$10 General Admission \$5 Students and Seniors
- 26 Albert Alva, Gary Matsuura and Mary Palchak 8:00 P.M.
Instrumental Faculty Recital Salmon Recital Hall
\$10 General Admission \$5 Students and Seniors
- 27 Jonathan Mack, tenor 8:00P.M.
Voice Faculty Recital Salmon Recital Hall
\$10 General Admission \$5 Students and Seniors

October

- 3 Tony Cho 8:00 P.M.
Piano Faculty Recital Salmon Recital Hall
\$10 General Admission \$5 Students and Seniors
- 10 Mark Palchak, flute 5:00 P.M.
Instrumental Faculty Recital Salmon Recital Hall
\$10 General Admission \$5 Students and Seniors
- 17 Chapman Chamber Orchestra 7:00 P.M.
Daniel Pearl World Music Days Concert Chapman Auditorium
\$10 General Admission \$5 Students and Seniors
- 27 Sergei Babayan, Guest Artist 8:00 P.M.
Piano Recital Salmon Recital Hall
\$15 General Admission \$10 Students and Seniors
- 30 Opera Chapman 8:00 P.M.
& 31 Salmon Recital Hall
\$15 General Admission \$10 Students and Seniors

November

- 1 Opera Chapman 3:00 P.M.
Salmon Recital Hall
\$15 General Admission \$10 Students and Seniors

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