Kennesaw State University
College of the Arts
School of Music

presents

Senior Recital
Kimberly Royer, mezzo-soprano
Soyoun Sheehan, piano

Saturday, December 6, 2014
7:30 p.m.
Music Building Recital Hall
Fifty-first Concert of the 2014-15 Concert Season
ROBERT SCHUMANN (1810-1856)
Myrthen, Op. 25
  I. Widmung
    poem by Friedrich Rückert

Du bist wie eine blume, No. 24
  poem by Heinrich Heine

HUGO WOLF (1860-1903)
Das verlassene Mägdelein
  poem by Eduard Mörike

JULES MASSENET (1842-1912)
Va! laisse couler mes larmes
  from Werther
    libretto: Edouard Blau, Paul Millet, Georges Hartmann

EARNEST CHAUSSON (1885-1899)
Le Charme
  from Sept Mélodies, Op. 2
    poem by Armond Silvestre

Intermission

GIOACHINO ROSSINI (1792-1868)
Una voce poco fa
  from Il Barbiere Di Siviglia
    libretto: Cesare Sterbini
STEFANO DONAUDY (1879-1925)

36 Arie di Stile Antico

Ah, mai non cessate
O del mio amato ben

poem by Alberto Donaudy

MOSES HOGAN (1957-2003)

Sometimes I Feel Like A Motherless Child

Deep River

Were You There?
Myrthen, Op. 25  | Robert Schumann

Robert Schumann was best known for his piano, lieder, and orchestral compositions. He was an influential music critic and outstanding composer, especially of piano music, songs, chamber music, and symphonies. “Widmung,” Op. 25 is the first song in the Myrthen song cycle, and was written by German Poet Friedrich Rückert. Myrthen is a collection of twenty-six songs composed as a wedding present to his wife Clara. His ‘Clara motif’ was a descending fifth, for the five letters of her name, and can be found in many of his works. Schumann’s songs demand considerable elegance of phrasing, and a rubato that must remain within the frame of the rhythmic pulse.

The songs explore themes of devotion, longing, loneliness, matrimony and. Schumann considered the piano accompaniments in his songs as equal partners with the vocal line. In this setting of Friedrich Rückert’s poem Widmung, Schumann uses a fast tempo and arpeggiated rhythmic accompaniment patterns to depict the impulsive, dramatic beginnings of a romantic relationship. This fiery accompaniment figure transforms into a calmer block-chord pattern of triplets in the middle section, giving time for the romance to grow and express itself on a more mature level. Schumann’s setting of Heine’s Du bist wie eine Blume is comparatively calmer throughout with hymn-like reverence. The notes and phrasing remind one of a bell curve, with an ascension followed by a descent. He accentuates the most emotionally charged words, such as “God,” “sadness,” “bless,” and “sweet,” at the peaks of phrases.

Das verlassene Mägdelein  | Hugo Wolf

Hugo Wolf, an Austrian composer, was instrumental in the development of German lied, or art song. With Wolf’s songs, German song reached the ultimate synthesis of poem and music. He was influenced by his friends Richard Wagner and Johannes Brahms. Wolf brings out the meaning of the lyrics with his creative accompaniments. He strove to allow the poetry to take center stage in his pieces. He referred to his songs as 'poems for voice and piano.'

In Wolf’s setting of Eduard Mörike’s poem Das verlassene Mägdelein, unity is created by a rhythmic motive that repeats throughout the song (quarter/eighth-eighth). The simple, transparent rhythmic texture is the element that holds this song together. Wolf creates an eerie atmosphere in this piece with an isorhythmic motif, unconventional use of familiar harmonies, alteration of seconds and thirds, and a haunting melody. The music paints the picture of the poem, which is about a young, grief-stricken maiden recalling her dream of a faithless lover who left.
**Va! laisse couler mes larmes** from *Werther*  I  Jules Massenet

Jules Massenet composed French opera music and was well known for his graceful French melodic style. His music is admired for its lyricism, sensuality, occasional sentimentality, and theatrical aptness. His opera, *Werther* premiered in 1892 in Vienna, was based upon Johann Wolfgang von Goethe’s 1774 novel, *The Sorrows of Young Werther*. His use of text painting enhances the dramatic nature of his arias, as in *Va! Laisse couler mes larmes*. The lyrics cry out, “The tears which one does not cry into our soul all fall back,” and are an expression of falling tears of sadness as demonstrated by use of a sinking melody line. This piece is Charlotte’s aria from *Werther.* Werther was in love with Charlotte, although she was engaged to marry Albert. Werther writes her a letter, telling her that he is leaving, asks for her prayers, and requests she weep for him in the event he does not return. The aria is Charlotte’s response to Werther’s letter. Massenet’s use of dynamics in the piece serve to bring out Charlotte’s emotions.

**Le Charme** from *Sept Mélodies*  I  Earnest Chausson

Earnest Chausson was best known for his French operatic and sacred style compositions, and characteristic use of chromaticism. He studied in Paris with Jules Massenet and Cesar Franck, and was influenced by the music of Richard Wagner’s operas *Der fliegende Holländer* (1843; *The Flying Dutchman*), *Tristan und Isolde* (1865), and in 1882, the premiere of *Parsifal*. His encounters with the works of Wagner greatly expanded his musical universe.

Chausson’s characteristic use of chromaticism in *Le Charme* is evident in the first phrase of the song, “Quand ton sourire me surprend,” and again towards the end of the song with “Ce qui me vain quita jamais.” The vocal line is mirrored in the accompaniment as well. The song is noteworthy for its simplicity and elegance, skillfully compressed into a brief twenty-eight bars. Chasson sets the three stanzas strophically, but lengthens the last stanza by four bars. The song is intimate and direct, its emotion refined.

**Una voce poco fa** from *Il Barbiere Di Siviglia*  I  Gioachino Rossini

Giochino Rossini was was revered for his use of “bel canto” style melodies, high notes, and ornaments which feature the soloist’s vocal agility. He was best known for his Italian opera compositions, although he composed in many other styles such as chamber, sacred, and piano music. His music was strongly influenced by Haydn and Mozart. He is best known today for his comic masterpiece *Il barbiere di Siviglia* (The Barber of Seville), generally ranked among the supreme examples of Italian comic opera.

*Una voce poco fa* is Rosina’s aria from Act I, Scene II of the opera *Il barbiere di Siviglia*, widely known for its “bel canto” style singing, which means “beautiful song” and is known as an elegant Italian vocal style of the early nineteenth century marked by lyrical, embellished, and florid melodies that show off the beauty, agility,
and fluency of the singer’s voice. In bel canto operas, the most important element
is the voice, even more important than the story, the orchestra, and the staging.
Rosina’s entrance aria from Il barbiere di Siviglia, Una voce poco fa, seems to
acknowledge that fact. Rosina is a young woman under the care of Dr. Bartolo,
and is filled with joy after reading a letter from Lindoro (Count Almaviva). Then she
sings of her love for him.

36 Arie di Stile Antico  I  Stefano Donaudy

Stefano Donaudy began composing Italian songs in his early teens. Donaudy was
masterful at creating a fusion between Baroque and Romantic styles. Overall he
composed successful operas and art songs, and was primarily known for his vocal
and piano pieces. “Ah, mai on cessate” uses Romantic harmonies, and allows for
the bass and the melody line to become a duet in Baroque style. He uses Romantic
harmonies but evokes Baroque contrapuntal textures in the accompaniment of “O
del mio amato ben,” in that the bass line is its own independent melody line. The
vocal line and the bass line are paired rhythmically. It is in strophic form; the two-
stanza text is an impassioned lament for a lost love.

Sometimes I Feel Like A Motherless Child  I  Moses Hogan

Deep River

Were You There?

Moses Hogan was a successful concert pianist, conductor and composer, and is
best known for his spirituals. He founded and conducted the Moses Hogan Chorale,
which received international fame and recognition, and recorded a collection of
spirituals called Give Me Jesus, with soprano soloist Barbara Hendricks. He also
partnered together with Albert McNeil in conducting An American Heritage of
Spirituals, sung by the well-known Mormon Tabernacle Choir.

Craig Jessop, Director of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir expresses that, “Moses
Hogan provides a new voice for spirituals in America. His arrangements are exciting
treatments that do not obscure the traditional essence of this music. His artistry
as conductor, arranger and pianist is world-class.” Though the melody is simple
and repetitious in Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child, in this arrangement
Hogan modifies the vocal line at times to include a few surprise “blue notes” and
uses unexpected harmonies to create a warm, soulful texture. For example in
“Deep River,” he sets the word “over” on the highest note of the melody in the
phrase, “My home is over Jordan” and, in the following phrase, the word “deep” is
sung in a dramatic descending line. The song evokes feelings of peace and hope.
Hogan’s arrangement of Were You There? is an emotional piece, with a story told
from the viewpoint of one who saw Jesus’s crucifixion. Groans of pain can be felt in
the lyrics, “Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble.” Hogan also uses such devices
as text painting to underscore the heartfelt lyrics of his arrangements.
Kim Royer’s hometown church was Smyrna First United Methodist, where she was an active soprano member of the touring group “God’s Light Youth Choir” from age nine to sixteen. God’s Light tours were conducted under the direction of Mrs. Kim Duggins, and included annual two-week summer cross country tours and concerts at various Methodist churches across the United States. Mrs. Royer later became active in the adult Chancel choir at Smyrna First UMC under the direction of Mrs. Lynn Dee Martin. During this time she was also a soprano member of the Cobb Youth Chorus under the direction of Mrs. Elizabeth Kimble. Later she would participate as a soprano in the Campbell High Chorale for three years under the direction of Dr. Beth Brown Shugart, plus one year under the direction of Mrs. Rita Johnston until her graduation in 1993. She earned Excellent and Superior ratings in both the Individual and Women’s Trio categories at All-State competition, earned her high school letter in Chorus, and was awarded medals from the Georgia Music Educator’s Association.

After high school, Mrs. Royer attended Kennesaw State University and earned a Bachelor of Science in Organizational Communications and a minor in English Literature, graduating in May 1998. She married her husband Craig in the summer of 2001. The couple served in the contemporary praise band as praise singer and bass guitarist at City On A Hill United Methodist Church in Woodstock, Georgia, from August 2006 through July 2012.

During this time, Mrs. Royer was asked to initiate and implement a new Chorus program at the H.E.D.G.E. homeschool, a then current ministry of Hillside United Methodist Church in Woodstock, Georgia, where she served as H.E.D.G.E. Choir Director for one and a half years. While at City On a Hill, she conducted an adult Praise Choir, coordinated seasonal children’s and youth music, and participated as a soprano member and soloist in Kennesaw State University’s Community and Alumni Choir under the direction of Dr. Leslie Blackwell.

Today, Mrs. Royer studies choral music at KSU’s School of Music program, and is a candidate for the Bachelor of Music in Music Education, specializing in Choral Conducting. She has completed three years of choral ensemble requirements and vocal lessons with vocal coach Dr. Adam Kirkpatrick of the Atlanta Opera, and most recently Mrs. Eileen Moremen, Artist-in-Residence in Voice and director of KSU’s Voice and Opera Workshop. She received superior ratings in the National Association of Teachers of Singing Competition in Spring 2012, and is an Alto I/II member of the KSU Chamber Singers under the direction of Dr. Leslie Blackwell. She enhances her choral music studies outside of Kennesaw State through serving as a seasonal soloist and first soprano member in the Chancel and Chamber choirs at her home church, Hillside United Methodist in Woodstock, Georgia. She and Craig are serving there as praise singer and bass guitarist in the contemporary worship band. Mrs. Royer supplements her education through participating in events hosted by the National Association for Music Education and being actively involved in KSU’s first official chapter of the American Choral Director’s Association. Most recently, Mrs. Royer was chosen to audition for the Concerto Competition hosted by the KSU School of Music.
about the school of music

The School of Music at KSU has dedicated, vibrant, and talented faculty and staff that are completely devoted to teaching, performing, scholarship, and serving our community. It is an incredibly exciting place to study, boasting state-of-the-art facilities with opportunities to produce and explore music in a dynamic place that is ahead of the curve for what it means to be a musician in the 21st century. Our students come from the leading musical honor organizations across the region and are poised to lead the cultural offerings and musical education in our area and beyond for years to come.

We welcome you to attend a concert, meet our faculty and staff, and feel the energy and excitement that our students exude. We are fully committed to our purpose as educators, performers, and scholars. We hope that you will find as much enjoyment in our product as we do in producing it.

Michael Alexander
Interim Director, KSU School of Music

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upcoming events

Unless otherwise noted, all events are held in Morgan Concert Hall and begin at 8 p.m.

Monday, December 8
Percussion Ensemble

Thursday, January 8
Von Grey with KSU Orchestra

Monday, January 12
Helen Kim, violin
with Sakiko Ohashi, piano

Tuesday, January 13
Faculty Recital: David Watkins, piano

Friday, January 16
Atlanta Symphony Orchestra: Marin Alsop, conductor and Julian Rachlin, violin

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