

2-25-2017

Senior Recital: Britta Loftus, mezzo soprano

Department of Music, University of Richmond

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**BRITTA ANDERSON LOFTUS
MEZZO SOPRANO**

**FROM THE STUDIO OF
JENNIFER CABLE**

**CAMP CONCERT HALL
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2017 3:00 PM**

Department of Music



RICHMOND
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PROGRAM

from the Mass in B Minor
Agnus Dei
Qui sedes

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)

from *Dido and Aeneas*
When I Am Laid in Earth

Henry Purcell
(1659-1695)

Silent Noon
The Call

Ralph Vaughan Williams
(1872-1958)

Dream Valley
Cherry Valley
Love's Philosophy

Roger Quilter
(1877-1953)

from *Il barbiere di Siviglia*
Una voce poco fa

Gioachino Rossini
(1792-1868)

Après un rêve
Chanson d'amour

Gabriel Fauré
(1845-1924)

from *Lakmé*
Sous le dôme épais

Léo Delibes
(1836-1891)

Victoria Provost, *soprano*

Britta Anderson Loftus, *mezzo soprano*
Dr. Joanne Kong, *piano*

Johann Sebastian Bach was a Baroque-era composer known for his innovative and complex sacred music. “Agnus Dei” and “Qui sedes” are from one of his most notable compositions, his Mass in B Minor.

“Agnus Dei”

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.

“Qui sedes”

You who sit at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.

Henry Purcell was a composer of the early Baroque period, best known for his dramatic setting of English text and contemporary compositional techniques. He spent most of his life in the service of the Chapel Royal as a composer, organist, and singer, but wrote his best-known work for the stage, the opera *Dido and Aeneas*. Dido sings her lament, “When I Am Laid in Earth,” as she dies due to her lover Aeneas’s betrayal.

“When I Am Laid in Earth”

Thy hand, Belinda, darkness shades me,
On thy bosom let me rest,
More I would, but Death invades me;
Death is now a welcome guest.

When I am laid, am laid in earth,
May my wrongs create
No trouble, no trouble in thy breast;
Remember me, remember me, but ah! forget my fate.
Remember me, but ah! forget my fate.

(*Nahum Tate*)

Over his lifetime, 20th-century English composer **Ralph Vaughan Williams** composed operas, ballets, chamber music, and religious vocal music, as well as nine symphonies. Vaughan Williams drew influence from English folk song and Tudor music. Events in his life, such as serving in World War I, as well as engaging in an extramarital love affair with a much younger woman, made deep personal impressions, and some would say impacted the emotion and composition of his music.

Continued ...

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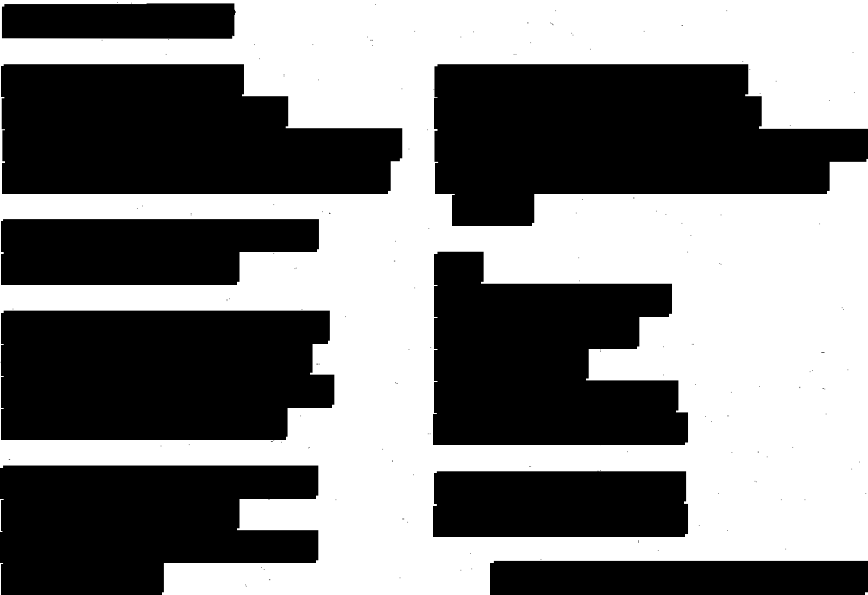
[REDACTED] **Quilter** was an English composer who embodied sensitive elegance in the composition of art song. "Love's Philosophy" and "Dream Valley" are two of Quilter's best known works, set to texts of Percy Bysshe Shelley and William Blake, respectively. Quilter felt the pressures of society, living as a homosexual man. Eventually falling into mental illness after the death of his favorite nephew in World War I, Quilter died insane in London in 1953.

“Love’s Philosophy”

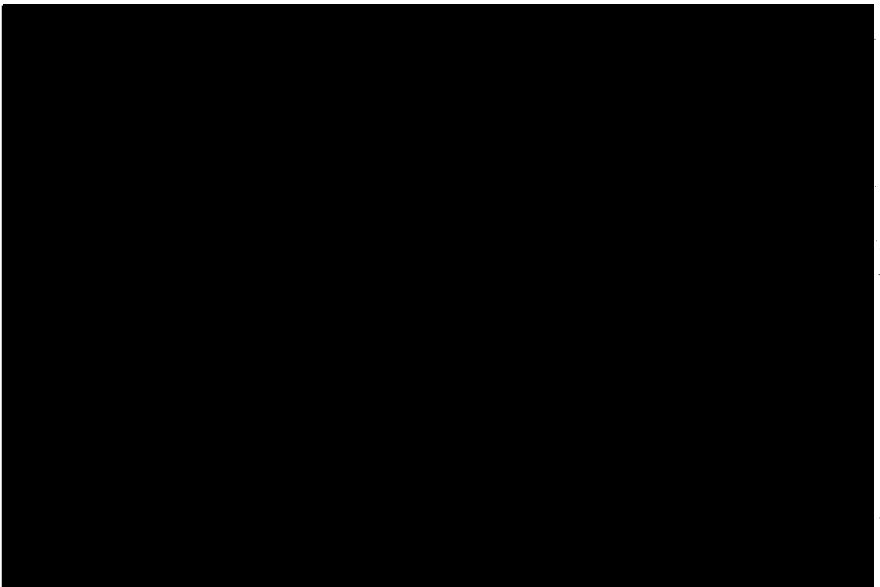
The fountains mingle with the River
And the Rivers with the Ocean,
The winds of Heaven mix for ever
With a sweet emotion;
Nothing in the world is single;
All things by a law divine
In one another’s being mingle.
Why not I with thine?
See the mountains kiss high Heaven
And the waves clasp one another;
No sister-flower would be forgiven
If it disdained its brother;
And the sunlight clasps the earth
And the moonbeams kiss the sea:
What are all these kissings worth
If thou kiss not me?

(Percy Bysshe Shelley)

Gioachino Rossini was an Italian composer best known for his operas, such as *Il barbiere di Siviglia*, *L’italiana in Algeri*, and *La Cenerentola*. In nineteen years he composed thirty-nine significant operas. “Una voce poco fa,” from *Il barbiere di Siviglia*, is sung after Rosina reads a letter from Lindoro, who is really Count Almaviva. She sings of her overwhelming love for Lindoro, in spite of her guardian, Dr. Bartolo.



Due to his remarkable musical style and avoidance of standard harmonies, French Romantic composer **Gabriel Fauré** made a significant impact on 20th-century music. His importance to French art song is most notably compared to Franz Schubert's fundamental influence on German Lieder.



Continued ...

Best known for his opera *Lakmé*, **Léo Delibes** was a French Romantic composer of operas, ballets, and other works for the stage. The reach of his influence included composers such as Tchaikovsky and Debussy. His notable and lush “Sous le dôme épais,” or the “Flower Duet,” appears in Act 1 of *Lakmé*. Mallika, a servant and friend, comforts Lakmé, the daughter of a Brahmin priest, as they gather flowers together by the river.

