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Donte' Thompson, baritone. Senior recital

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DONTE' THOMPSON
BARITONE
SENIOR RECITAL

FROM THE STUDIO OF
DR. JENNIFER CABLE

ASSISTED BY
DR. JOANNE KONG,
PIANO

PERKINSON RECITAL HALL
THURSDAY, MARCH 2, 2023
7:30 PM

Department of Music



PROGRAM

Ich atmet' einen linden Duft from <i>Rückert-Lieder</i>	Gustav Mahler (1860-1911)
Verborgeneheit from <i>Mörrike-Lieder</i>	Hugo Wolf (1860-1903)
Du bist die Ruh	Franz Schubert (1797-1828)
Nun die Schatten dunkeln from <i>Drei Lieder</i> , op. 3a	Adolf Busch (1891-1952)
Adele Kelley, viola	
Johanna from <i>Sweeney Todd</i>	Stephen Sondheim (1930-2021)
Mab, la reine des mensonges from <i>Roméo et Juliette</i>	Charles Gounod (1818-1893)
I Need Not Go Two Lips from <i>I Said to Love</i>	Gerald Finzi (1901-1956)
For You There is No Song Gone Again is Summer the Lovely from <i>Five Millay Songs</i>	H. Leslie Adams, Jr. (b. 1932)
<i>Don Quichotte à Dulcinée</i> Chanson romanesque Chanson épique Chanson à boire	Maurice Ravel (1875-1937)

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Program Notes

Gustav Mahler (1860-1911) was an Austrian composer mostly known for his symphonies and 20th-century compositional techniques that blended Romanticism and early modernism. “Ich atmet’ einen linden Duft” paints a lovely description of the delicate fragrance of the lime tree with the association of love.

Hugo Wolf (1860-1903) was an Austrian Romantic composer famous for his *Lieder* (art songs). “Verborgenheit” is from one of Wolf’s most popular works, *Mörrike-Lieder*, that solidified him as a strong writer for the voice. The song is a powerful outpouring of emotion describing the unhappiness and depression lying deep within oneself; the text details the desire to be alone with little to no hope of a better future.

Viennese composer **Franz Schubert** (1797-1828) was known for his merging of Classical and Romantic compositional techniques, as well as his vast collection of *lieder*, including more than 600 works. “Du bist die Ruh” is a peaceful and passionate love song detailing the finding of joy in one’s loved one.

Adolf Busch (1891-1952) was a late Romantic violinist-turned-composer. Though originally popular in Germany, with the rise of Adolf Hitler, Busch fled and was forced to start over. After traveling in Europe, he eventually settled in Vermont and began focusing more exclusively on composing and performing in chamber groups that specialized in the works of Brahms, Schubert, and Beethoven. “Nun die Schatten dunkeln” describes when one is totally enamored with a loved one and dedicates oneself wholly and completely to them.

American composer and lyricist **Stephen Sondheim** (1930-2021) is widely regarded as one of the most important figures in musical theater. Known for his transparency of the darker aspects of humanity, he composed some of the most famous works for

Broadway, such as *Sweeney Todd* and *Into the Woods*. *Sweeney Todd* is about an exiled barber who returns to 19th-century London looking for revenge against the judge who framed him. “Johanna” is placed early in the musical; Anthony has just seen Johanna, the judge’s ward, for the first time and has immediately fallen in love with her. Completely oblivious and naïve to any circumstances surrounding their potential relationship, he vows to steal her away.

Charles Gounod (1818-1893) was a French Romantic composer mostly known for his operas *Faust* and *Roméo et Juliette*, as well as copious amounts of church music. *Roméo et Juliette* is based on the tragedy of the same name by William Shakespeare; it tells the story of two youths who fall in love despite their families’ age-old vendetta. “Mab, la reine des mensonges” is sung by Mercutio after he and Roméo arrive at the Capulets’ dinner party. It serves as a ballad to Queen Mab, the fairy queen of dreams. He excitedly explains how she inhabits dreams and gives illusion in vain.

English composer **Gerald Finzi** (1901-1956) was best known for his choral works and gifted word painting. Finzi saw most of his success after the outbreak of World War II, until he was diagnosed with Hodgkin’s disease and developed shingles. *I Said to Love* was collected posthumously by his wife and son and first performed at his memorial concert. “I Need Not Go” is a song detailing one being more casual than their partner in a relationship; though he knows he is flawed, he also knows she will still love him. “Two Lips” is a song of remembrance in which the author of the text, Thomas Hardy (Finzi’s favorite poet), recalls his relationship with his first wife from their first encounter up until her death.

H. Leslie Adams, Jr. (b. 1932) is a composer known for incorporating elements unique to African-American music into the Western classical style. Adams wrote *Five Millay Songs* out of admiration for the lyricism and affinity with nature of Edna St. Vincent Millay, one of his favorite poets. “For You There is No

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Song” is a painful song in which one wants nothing more than to be with their loved one, but they cannot be together, and “Gone Again is Summer the Lovely” compares the end of summer to the end of a relationship, with the change of the seasons indicating a change in personal development.

Maurice Ravel (1875-1937) was a French composer typically associated with Impressionism, and known for his unique sound of incorporating Baroque, jazz, and modernist elements in his works. He frequently experimented with musical form and composed very complex works. *Don Quichotte à Dulcinée* was originally composed for a film adaptation of the story of Don Quixote. During the composition of the songs, Ravel fell very ill and was fired and replaced, leaving the work to be performed instead as a cycle of three songs for baritone. “Chanson romanesque” reveals Don Quixote showing off to attract a woman. Anything she wants, he can give to her, and she has become the one thing that he regards to be higher than himself. “Chanson épique” is a prayer dedicated to Saint Michael and Saint George, in which Don Quixote asks them to use him and bless his blade. “Chanson à boire” is a drinking song in which Don Quixote is drunk, boisterous, and credits his joy to drinking frequently.

