

*The Senior Recital of*  
**Megan Odland**

SATURDAY, DEC 2ND, 2023  
ARDMORE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**Megan Odland, Mezzo Soprano**

with

Eunice Jeon, Piano

Christian Hankerson, Piano

Megan Odland is a student of Rev. Perry Brisbon.

This recital is given in partial fulfillment of the requirements  
for the Bachelors of Science in Music Education.

# Repertoire

Lascia ch'io pianga.....George Frideric Handel  
(1685-1759)

Du bist de Ruh.....Franz Schubert  
(1797-1828)

Romance.....Claude Debussy  
(1862-1918)

Think of Me.....Andrew Lloyd Webber  
From *Phantom of the Opera* (b. 1948)

On my Own.....Claude-Michel Schönberg  
From *Les Misérables* (b. 1944)

Someone Like You.....Music by Frank Wildhorn & Lyrics by Leslie Bricusse  
From *Jekyll & Hyde* (b. 1958) (1931-2021)

You Don't Know This Man.....Jason Robert Brown  
From *Parade* (b.1970)

My Man.....Music by Maurice Yvain & English lyrics by Channing Pollock  
From *Ziegfeld Follies* (1891-1965) (1880-1946)

Still Hurting.....Jason Robert Brown  
From *The Last Five Years* (b. 1970)

What Baking Can Do.....Sara Bareilles  
From *Waitress* (b.1979)

Suddenly Seymour.....Music by Alan Menken & lyrics by Howard Ashman  
From *Little Shop of Horrors* (b. 1949)  
Featuring Richie Izzo

Seasons of Love.....Jonathan Larson  
From *Rent* (1960-1996)

Featuring Kiersten Brecht, Ambrose Bushelli, Richie Izzo, Caroline Herring,  
Andrew Destefano, Amelia Thomas, Catherine Thomas, Ashlynne Pillai, Payge Shaw,  
Jalen White, & Aryana Zook

Defying Gravity.....Stephen Schwartz  
From *Wicked* (b. 1948)

# Program Notes

## Lascia ch'io pianga

By George Frideric Handel

"Lascia ch'io pianga", or "Let me weep," is from Handel's opera *Rinaldo*, that premiered in 1711. Its melody is also referenced in Act II of Handel's opera, *Almira*. This aria is sung by the character Almirena after being abducted by an evil sorceress. Throughout the piece, she has no hope of escaping and prays for mercy. As a second generation Italian-American, performing Italian repertoire excites me and allows me to connect with my culture and heritage in a special way. Dedico questo spettacolo ai miei nonni.

## Du bist de Ruh

By Franz Schubert

The text of "Du bist de Ruh," or "You are rest and peace," is from a set of poems by the German poet Friedrich Rückert. This piece is in triple meter and is marked *larghetto* and *pianissimo*. The simplicity of the melody often hides the complexity of the piece because it requires perfect legato and breath support. My favorite line of this poem is: "The canopy of my eyes by your splendor alone is lit, O, fill it completely!"

## Romance

By Claude Debussy

Claude Debussy was a French composer whose works were a driving force in music of the 20th century. He challenged musical traditions and developed an original system of harmony and musical structure that reflected the ideas of Impressionist and Symbolist painters and writers of the Romantic era. "Romance" is featured in his *Deux Romances*, a collection of romantic compositions that captivate his unique style. This piece exudes a sense of tenderness and longing through the use of mesmerizing melodic phrases and chromatic harmonies that add a sense of melancholy.

## Think of Me

By Andrew Lloyd Weber

From *Phantom of the Opera*

"Think of Me" is sung by the leading soprano in *Phantom of the Opera*, Christine Daaé. The song appears in an opera that the company is performing. This moment is crucial to the plot of the musical because it is the first time the audience hears Christine sing. Elissa backed out of the performance, and Christine fills in as an understudy. Tentatively, she begins to sing, and as she gains confidence throughout the piece, she amazes everyone with her voice.

## On my Own

By Claude-Michel Schönberg

From *Les Misérables*

In this song, Éponine expresses her undeniable love for her best friend, Marius. Meanwhile, he is in love with another woman. Éponine is wandering alone and is captivated by her hopeful and imaginative thoughts of being with Marius. However, she is confronted with the reality that her fantasies are not real. Despite Éponine's loneliness, her unrequited love for Marius never ceases. Soon after she sings "On my Own," she sacrifices her life for Marius in battle. Dying in his arms, she is finally happy; for that is the only place she ever longed to be.



### Someone Like You

By Frank Wildhorn & Leslie Bricusse

From *Jekyll & Hyde*

*Jekyll & Hyde* is a musical loosely based on the 1886 novella *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* by Robert Louis Stevenson. Dr. Henry Jekyll uses himself as an experimental subject and accidentally creates two versions of himself: Jekyll (a passionate and romantic doctor), and his alter-ego, Hyde (a terrifying madman). In this piece, Lucy has just arrived at Jekyll's residence with an aggressive bruise on her back. She shares with Jekyll that a man named Hyde inflicted it. Stunned by his actions, Jekyll treats her wound; Lucy is unaware that they are the same person. Having been treated terribly by men all of her life, she is thankful for Jekyll's help and wonders about what it would be like to be loved by him.

### You Don't Know This Man

By Jason Robert Brown

From *Parade*

Set in 1913, *Parade* is based on the true story of a Jewish man named Leo Frank who was accused of murdering a 13-year-old girl, and is convicted in a sham trial. This piece is sang by Leo's wife, Lucille, after Leo has been arrested and the press has begun making antisemitic attacks against Leo. I fell in love with this piece and the full musical score of *Parade* immediately upon hearing it this summer. As a singer-actor, I have been itching to share this strong, female character with an audience. The orchestration of this piece is powerful in it's simplicity and it's conversational lyrics blatantly highlight Lucille's fierce advocacy for her husband and social injustice.

### My Man

Music by Maurice Yvain & lyrics by Channing Pollock

From *Ziegfeld Follies*

"My Man," or "Mon Homme," was originally composed with French lyrics by Jacques-Charles and Albert Willemetz. The piece was popularized in English-speaking countries through the 1921 recording by Ziegfeld Follies with famous vocalist, Fanny Brice. The Follies were a series of revues mounted by Florenz Ziegfeld Jr. that were known for their display of beautiful chorus girls, elaborate costumes and vibrant scenic design that inspired later Broadway shows, vaudeville and variety shows. For this performance, I drew inspiration from Barbra Streisand's rendition of the piece in context of the musical *Funny Girl* that was based on Fanny Brice's success with the Follies.

### Still Hurting

By Jason Robert Brown

From *The Last Five Years*

"Still Hurting" is the opening number of *The Last Five Years*, a two-person musical that dissects a failed, five-year relationship between Cathy Hiatt and Jamie Wellerstein. This show is unique in it's storytelling because Jamie's side of the story is told in chronological order, while Cathy's side is told in reverse order. The only time the two characters intersect is when they reminisce on their wedding. The style of this piece draws from a number of musical genres, including pop, jazz, classical and folk, which is one of the compositional qualities that Jason Robert Brown is notorious for.

## What Baking Can Do

By Sara Bareilles

From *Waitress*

*Waitress* has quickly become one of the most beloved musicals of this decade. It follows the life of Jenna, a waitress and a baker, as she copes with pregnancy by an abusive husband, dreams of a new life and learns to celebrate the joys of motherhood and friendship. Throughout this piece, Jenna paints the picture that baking is how she makes sense of the world. When she bakes, she feels connected to her mother, who was also trapped in a loveless marriage. This song encompasses a deep meaning disguised by an upbeat tempo, which often reflects how we carry ourselves.

## Suddenly Seymour

Music by Alan Menken & lyrics by Howard Ashman

From *Little Shops of Horrors*.

This duet takes place between Audrey and Seymour in Act II of *Little Shop of Horrors* after the death of Orin Scrivello, Audrey's abusive, sadistic boyfriend. As Audrey feels guilty about his death she is comforted by Seymour, and the two finally reveal their feelings for each other. I have the joy of singing this duet with Richie Izzo as Seymour. It also features Jalen White on drums, and my talented ensemble: Aryana Zook, Amari Dickerson, Caroline Herring, Kiersten Brecht, Ambrose Bushelli, Ashlynn Pillai, Amelia Thomas, Catherine Thomas, Payge Shaw, and Andrew Destefano.

## Seasons of Love

By Jonathan Larson

From *Rent*

This song begins with one of the most well-recognized ostinato piano motifs that introduces the harmonic framework for the ensemble to sing "Five hundred twenty-five thousand six hundred minutes," the number of minutes in a common year. The lyrics challenge the audience to consider this essential question: What is the proper way to quantify the value of a year in the human life? The ensemble's answer being: "Measure in love." I dedicate this piece to my family; my solid rock in love, who continually fixes my eyes on the love of God. 1 Corinthians 13:13 states, "And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love." I pray that everyone would soak up the joy and hope in this uplifting piece!

## Defying Gravity

By Stephen Schwartz

From *Wicked*

*Wicked* follows the friendship of two young witches: Elphaba, whose skin is green, and Glinda, who is blonde and beautiful. Their unlikely friendship becomes an unbreakable bond and their story explains how Elphaba becomes the Wicked Witch and Glinda the Good Witch. Elphaba believed that The Wizard of Oz could give her purpose and take away her green complexion so that she would no longer be an outcast. However, she sings this piece after finding out that The Wizard is a fraud. Elphaba vows to do everything in her power to fight against The Wizard and his sinister plans, and proclaims that she wants to live without the limits and rules that others have set before her. "Defying Gravity" was the first piece I ever performed at Eastern, and I am excited for it to demonstrate my growth as it is the finale piece of my senior recital. As I take a leap of faith towards my future in the arts, I resonate deeply with the powerful message of perseverance in this song.

# *Lascia ch'io pianga*

## Italian Lyrics

Lascia ch'io pianga  
Mia cruda sorte  
E che sospiri  
La libertà

Lascia ch'io pianga  
Mia cruda sorte  
E che sospiri  
La libertà

E che sospiri  
E che sospiri  
La libertà

Lascia ch'io pianga  
Mia cruda sorte  
E che sospiri  
La libertà

Il duolo infranga  
Queste ritorte  
De' miei martiri  
Sol per pietà  
De' miei martiri  
Sol per pietà

Lascia ch'io pianga  
Mia cruda sorte  
E che sospiri  
La libertà

## English Translation

Let me weep over my  
cruel fate,  
And that I long for  
freedom!

Let me weep over my  
cruel fate,  
And that I long for  
freedom!

And that I long,  
And long that I long for  
freedom!

Let me weep over my  
cruel fate,  
And that I long for  
freedom!

Let me weep over my  
cruel fate,  
And that I long for  
freedom!  
And that I long, and that I  
long for freedom!

Let me weep over my  
cruel fate,  
And that I long for  
freedom!

# *Du bist die Ruh*

## German Lyrics

Du bist die Ruh  
Der Friede mild  
Die Sehnsucht du  
Und was sie stillt

Ich weihe dir  
Voll Lust und Schmerz  
Zur Wohnung hier  
Mein Aug und Herz

Kehr ein bei mir,  
Und schließe du  
Still hinter dir  
Die Pforten zu

Treib andern Schmerz  
Aus dieser Brust.  
Voll sei dies Herz  
Von deiner Lust

Dies Augenzelt  
Von deinem Glanz  
Allein erhellt,  
O füll es ganz!

Dies Augenzelt  
Von deinem Glanz  
Allein erhellt,  
O füll es ganz!

## English Translation

You are repose  
and gentle peace  
You are longing  
and what stills it

Full of joy and grief  
I consecrate to you  
my eyes and my heart  
as a dwelling place

Come in to me  
and softly close  
the gate  
behind you

Drive all other grief  
from my breast  
Let my heart  
be full of your joy

The canopy of my eyes  
by your splendor alone is  
lit  
O, fill it completely!

The canopy of my eyes  
by your splendor alone is  
lit  
O, fill it completely!



# Romance

## French Lyrics

L'âme évaporée et  
souffrante  
L'âme douce, l'âme  
odorante  
Des lis divins que j'ai  
cueillis  
Dans le jardin de ta  
pensée,  
Où donc les vents l'ont-ils  
chassée,  
Cette âme adorable des lis?

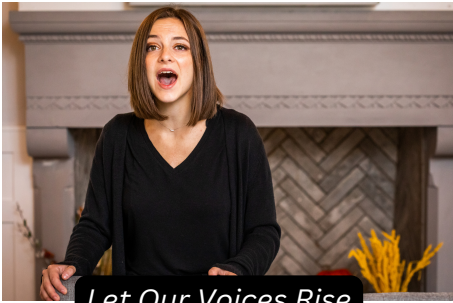
N'est-il plus un parfum  
qui reste  
De la suavité céleste  
Des jours où tu  
m'enveloppais  
D'une vapeur surnaturelle,  
Faite d'espoir, d'amour  
fidèle,  
De béatitude et de paix?

## English Translation

The spent and suffering  
soul,  
The sweet soul, the soul  
steeped  
In the divine lilies I  
gathered  
In the garden of your  
thoughts,  
Where have the winds  
dispersed it,  
This adorable lilies' soul?

Does not a single scent  
remain  
Of the heavenly softness  
Of the days when you  
enclosed me  
In a supernatural mist,  
Made of hope, of faithful  
love,  
Of bliss and of peace?

# Photos



*Let Our Voices Rise*



*Almost, Maine*



*The Illusion*



*The Morning Show*



*Still Here*



*Still Here*



*Department Recital*



*The Illusion*



*Conquer the Night*



*Conquer the Night*



*Working: A Musical*



*Fight*



*Cast & Crew of Fight*

# Acknowledgements

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- **Ary, Amari, Caroline, Kiersten, Ambrose, Ashlynnne, Amelia, Catherine, Payge and Andrew:** Thank you for making beautiful music with me. Your talents blow me away. I love singing with you!



A woman with long brown hair, wearing a light blue dress with a floral pattern of orange and red flowers, stands on a gravel path in a lush green forest. She is smiling and looking back over her shoulder. The path is surrounded by dense foliage and trees, with sunlight filtering through the leaves.

# *Thank you!*

FOR I KNOW THE PLANS I HAVE FOR YOU, DECLARES THE LORD,  
PLANS TO PROSPER YOU AND NOT TO HARM YOU, PLANS TO GIVE  
YOU HOPE AND A FUTURE.

JEREMIAH 29:11