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Northeastern PA



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The  
*Arts*

at First Presbyterian Church

Presents

# Songs, Old and New



*Featuring the voices of Northeastern Pennsylvania*  
*March 5, 2023*

Program	
Rick Hoffenberg, piano	
Il mio bel foco.....	Benedetto Marcello (1686-1739)
Voi che sapete.....	Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)
From <i>Le Nozze di Figaro</i>	Abigail Zieger, mezzo-soprano
Evening Prayer.....	Engelbert Humperdinck (1854-1921)
Brother come and dance with me	
From <i>Hansel and Gretel</i>	Jennifer Cowgill, soprano Ellen Rutkowski, mezzo-soprano
Will There Really Be a Morning? .....	Ricky Ian Gordon (b.1956)
Non mi dir.....	Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)
From <i>Don Giovanni</i>	Elise Mark, soprano
The Singer.....	Michael Head (1900-1976)
	Wes Poole, tenor
Sull’ aria.....	Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)
From <i>Le Nozze di Figaro</i>	Jennifer Cowgill, soprano Elise Mark, soprano
Pie Jesu.....	David Burge (1930-2013)
Silent Heart.....	Joseph Knaus (1980-2011)
Nightfall .....	Lori Laitman (b. 1955)
What if Some Little Pain .....	Ned Rorem (1923-2022)
	Ellen Rutkowski, mezzo-soprano
Flower duet.....	Léo Delibes (1836-1891)
From <i>Lakmé</i>	Elise Mark, soprano Abigail Zieger, mezzo-soprano
Joy .....	Ricky Ian Gordon (b.1956)
Ah! Je veux vivre .....	Charles Gounod (1818-1893)
From <i>Roméo et Juliette</i>	Jennifer Cowgill, soprano
Honor and Arms .....	George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)
From <i>Samson and Delilah</i>	
Widmung .....	Robert Schumann (1810-1856)
	M. Moses Andradé, bass

Intermission	
Litany.. .....	John Musto (b.1954)
From <i>Shadow of the Blues</i>	
Blue.....	William Bolcom (b.1938)
From <i>Cabaret</i>	
Deseo .....	David Burge (1930-2013)
From <i>La Noche del Huerto</i>	Ellen Rutkowski, mezzo-soprano
Think of Me .....	Andrew Lloyd Webber (b.1948)
From <i>Phantom of the Opera</i>	Jennifer Cowgill, soprano
Fly Me to the Moon.....	Bart Howard (1915-2004)
Someone to Watch Over Me.....	George Gershwin (1898-1937)
	Abigail Zieger, mezzo-soprano
My House .....	Tim Minchin (b.1975)
From <i>Matilda</i>	Elise Mark, soprano
All the Things You Are .....	Jerome Kern (1885-1945)
I Left My Heart in San Francisco .....	George Cory (1920-1978)
The Way You Look Tonight .....	Jerome Kern (1885-1945)
	Wes Poole, tenor
Give Me Jesus .....	Moses Hogan (1957-2003)
Ol’ Man River .....	Rodgers/Hammerstein (1902-1979)/(1895-1960)
	M. Moses Andradé, bass

**Rick Hoffenberg** is an Associate Professor at Marywood University, where he serves as Director of Choral Activities and Co-Chair of the Department of Music, Theatre, and Dance. He is also Music Director of the Wyoming Seminary Civic Orchestra, based in Kingston, PA. Dr. Hoffenberg has spent the past 22 summers at Chautauqua Opera, where he is a pianist, coach, and assistant conductor on the music staff. As a pianist, he has performed at Orchestra Hall in Chicago; the Music Institute of Chicago; Rockefeller Chapel in New York City; and Richardson Auditorium, Taplin Auditorium, and Bristol Chapel, all in Princeton, New Jersey. He was the state winner, division winner, and national finalist in the 1994 MTNA Wurlitzer Piano Competition. He holds degrees from Princeton University, Yale University, and Westminster Choir College of Rider University.

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www.fpccs.org

**Elise Mark** is renowned for her spellbinding voice and captivating stage presence, Elise Mark is an exceptionally versatile soprano, equally adept at performing classical and contemporary music. Named a semifinalist in Annapolis Opera's 2019 Vocal Competition, recent roles include Donna Anna (cover), Mabel in *Pirates of Penzance*, Adele in *Die Fledermaus*, Josephine in *H.M.S Pinafore*, Adelaide in *The Enchanted Pig*, Susanna in *Le nozze di Figaro*, and two world opera premiers, Ahed in *Friday After Friday* and Fran in *@Giselle*, *Love Fran*. Upcoming performances include her debut with Wilmington Concert Opera as the Sandman in *Hänsel und Gretel*. In addition to her performances on the operatic stage, Elise also performs and collaborates regularly on projects that showcase classical music in unique, intimate, or nontraditional ways, with organizations including Creative Becoming, Opera on Tap, and ENA Ensemble.

**M Moses Andradé:**

Born in Kingston, Jamaica, Moses has served as a Pastor for 26 years in The Seventh-day Adventist Church; he has three young adult daughters, and enjoys singing Hymns, Sacred Classical Music, and Spirituals.

**Wes Poole**

is a native of Greenville, SC. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Vocal Performance from Newberry College in Newberry SC, and a Master of Divinity degree from Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia, SC. He is currently the pastor of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Wilkes-Barre, PA, and Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Kingston. Since first moving to the area in 2000, Wes has been a featured tenor soloist with a number of ensembles at many different venues in NEPA. Wes has served on the voice faculty at Marywood University, and has been a featured soloist with the Marywood Concert Choir and the Arcadia Chorale.

**Ellen Rutkowski**, mezzo soprano, is well-known regionally as a soloist, recitalist, and voice teacher. Mrs. Rutkowski received Bachelors' degrees in Music Therapy and Psychology from College Misericordia, and a Masters' degree in Music Education with a concentration in vocal pedagogy from Marywood University. She is a retired high school music teacher and is a part-time faculty member of Marywood University's Department of Music, Theater, and Dance, teaching Opera Workshop, German Diction, Vocal Methods, History of Rock Music, and Applied Voice. She is a student of Samantha Guevrekian of Scranton, coaches with Ruth Drucker of Baltimore, and for many years, studied with the late Dr. Thomas Houser of New Holland.

**Abigail Zieger**, mezzo-soprano, received her Bachelor of Sacred Music and Master of Education from Clarks Summit University. She is a vocal soloist and choral member of several ensembles in her region, including the Arcadia Chorale, Voce Angelli, and Mostly Opera. She has also appeared with her husband, Timothy Zieger, for live and recorded performances of original music in programs like WVIA's Homegrown Music and WBRE's PA live! Abigail is an active music educator and works as a teaching artist for Lincoln Park Performing Arts Charter School, a community music educator for the Wyoming County Cultural Center, and an independent music and voice teacher. Abigail resides with her husband and four children in Factoryville, PA.

**Dr. Jennifer Griffith Cowgill** is Associate Professor of Voice at Marywood University. Before coming to Marywood she was an Associate Professor of Voice at the University of Alabama. Dr. Cowgill is in increasing demand as a vocal pedagogy lecturer and clinician. She is a published author in the NATS (National Association of Teachers of Singing) *Journal of Singing* and has presented research at the Voice Foundation conference in Philadelphia. Dr. Cowgill was recently a faculty guest artist for the *Bassi Brugnatelli Conducting and Voice Symposium* in Robbiate Italy. As a soprano, she has performed a wide variety of repertoire in recital, concert, oratorio, opera and musical theater throughout the United States, England and Italy. Her most recent opera roles include Pamina in *The Magic Flute*, Rosalinda in *Die Fledermaus*, Zerlina in *Don Giovanni* and Hanna in *The Merry Widow*. She was a featured finalist in the *International Camille Coloratura Competition* where she received an Honorable Mention in her division. Dr. Cowgill participated in summer voice programs including *Chautauqua*, *Tanglewood* and *Dicapo Opera*. She holds degrees from Oberlin Conservatory, Peabody Conservatory and Florida State University.

## Translations

### **Il mio bel foco**

My fire of love,  
however far  
or near I might be,  
never changing,  
will always be burning  
for you, dear eyes.  
That flame which kindled me  
is so pleased with my soul  
that it never dies.  
And if fate entrusts me to you,  
lovely rays of my beloved sun,  
my soul will never be able  
to long for any other light.

### **Voi che sapete**

You who know what love is,  
Ladies, see if I have it in my heart.  
I'll tell you what I'm feeling,  
It's new for me, and I understand nothing.  
I have a feeling, full of desire,  
Which is by turns delightful and miserable.  
I freeze and then feel my soul go up in flames,  
Then in a moment I turn to ice.  
I'm searching for affection outside of myself,  
I don't know how to hold it, nor even what it is!  
I sigh and lament without wanting to,  
I twitter and tremble without knowing why,  
I find peace neither night nor day,  
But still I rather enjoy languishing this way.  
You who know what love is,  
Ladies, see if I have it in my heart.

### **Non mi dir**

I, cruel?  
Ah no, my dearest!  
It grieves me much to postpone  
a bliss we have for long desired  
But what would the world say?  
Do not tempt the fortitude

of my tender heart,  
which already pleads your loving cause.  
Say not, my beloved,  
that I am cruel to you:  
you must know how much I loved you,  
and you know what I am true.  
Calm your torments,  
if you would not have me die of grief.  
One day, perhaps, Heaven again  
will smile on me.

### **Sull' Aria**

On the breeze  
What a gentle little zephir  
A little zephir  
This evening will sigh  
Under the pines in the little grove.  
And the rest he'll understand,  
Certainly he'll understand.

### **Pie Jesu**

Jesus, merciful Lord  
Let them rest in peace.

### **Flower Duet**

Under the thick dome where the white jasmine  
With the roses entwined together  
On the river bank covered with flowers laughing in the morning  
Let us descend together!  
Gently floating on its charming risings,  
On the river's current  
On the shining waves,  
One hand reaches,  
Reaches for the bank,  
Where the spring sleeps,  
And the bird, the bird sings.  
Under the thick dome where the white jasmine  
Ah! calling us  
Together!  
Under the thick dome where white jasmine  
With the roses entwined together

## Translations

On the river bank covered with flowers laughing in the morning  
Let us descend together!  
Gently floating on its charming risings,  
On the river's current  
On the shining waves,  
One hand reaches,  
Reaches for the bank,  
Where the spring sleeps,  
And the bird, the bird sings.  
Under the thick dome where the white jasmine  
Ah! calling us  
Together!

### **Je veux vivre**

Ah!  
I want to live  
In this dream that intoxicates me  
Again this day!  
Sweet flame,  
I keep you in my soul  
Like a treasure!  
This intoxication  
Of youth  
Alas, don't last just one day!  
Then the time comes  
When we cry  
The heart gives way to love  
And happiness flees without return.  
Ah!  
I want to live  
In this dream that intoxicates me  
Again this day!  
Sweet flame,  
I keep you in my soul  
Like a treasure!  
Away from the gloomy winter  
Let me sleep  
Before stripping it.  
Ah!

Sweet flame,  
Stay in my soul  
Like a sweet treasure  
For a long time again!

### **Widmung**

You my soul, you my heart,  
You my rapture, O you my pain,  
You my world in which I live,  
My heaven you, to which I aspire,  
O you my grave, into which  
My grief forever I've consigned!  
You are repose, you are peace,  
You are bestowed on me from heaven.  
Your love for me gives me my worth,  
Your eyes transfigure me in mine,  
You raise me lovingly above myself,  
My guardian angel, my better self!

### **Deseo**

Only your warm heart  
Nothing more.  
My paradise is a place  
Without a nightingale  
And no harps,  
With a quiet river  
And a small fountain.  
Without wind gusting  
On the foliage, nor with  
A star that would like  
To be a leaf.  
A place of rest.  
Our kisses are there,  
Mirrors of sound  
That echo from afar.  
And your warm heart,  
Nothing more.