



University of North Texas College of Music

Lecture Recital | Wednesday, April 9, 2025 | 1:30 p.m. | Recital Hall

Jessica Ferring Glenn, soprano
Kate Stevens, piano
Hamin Kim, cello

Inspiring a Spark of Imagination:
An Examination of Poet and Composer
Alan Louis Smith's Vocal Chamber Song Cycle
for Soprano, Cello, and Piano, *To the Muse*

- To the Muse (2017)..... Alan Louis Smith
1. Baudelaire's Invalid Flowers (1955–2023)
 2. If Every Ear (Mondnacht) Text by Alan Louis Smith
 3. Some Enchanted Evening
 4. Là ci darem la mano (or "Making life out of what we want it to be")
 5. Francis Poulenc's Thank-you Note to Louise de Vilmorin

Abstract

To the Muse (2017) is a chamber song cycle by Alan Louis Smith (1955–2023) scored for soprano, cello, and piano. A distinguished collaborative pianist, vocal coach, and pedagogue, Smith was also a prolific composer whose works were commissioned and performed by notable artists and institutions. While his early compositions have garnered scholarly attention, many of his later works, including *To the Muse*, remain underexplored. This cycle features Smith's own poetry and explores the theme of creative inspiration. The cycle is notable for its use of "response texts," or poems written in reaction to external stimuli. Drawing on a range of sources, including renowned poets, poetry, art song, popular music, and opera, Smith weaves textual and musical references throughout the work. This dissertation discusses the source material for each of the cycle's poems and examines both Smith's poetry and music.

Program five hundred twenty three of the 2024–2025 season
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