



University of North Texas
College of Music

Senior Recital | Saturday, April 26, 2025 | 8:00 p.m. | Paul Voertman Concert Hall

Erica Vanessa Menasco, soprano
Cristian García Castillo, piano

Les oiseaux dans la charmille,
from *Les contes d'Hoffmann* (1881) Jacques Offenbach
(1819–1880)
Libretto by Jules Barbier

Sweet Suffolk Owl,
from *Eight Songs* (1979) Richard Hundley
(1931–2018)
Poetry by Thomas Vautor

Postcard from Spain (1963)..... Richard Hundley
Text author unknown

Pippa's Song (1963)..... Ned Rorem
(1923–2022)
Poetry by Robert Browning

Ich folge dir gleichfalls,
from *St. John Passion*, BWV 245 (1724)..... Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685–1750)
Text author unknown

O Sleep! Why Dost Thou Leave Me?,
from *Semele*, HWV 58 (1744) George Frideric Handel
(1685–1759)
Libretto by William Congreve and Alexander Pope

-INTERMISSION-

Program six hundred seventy-seven of the 2024–2025 season
Photography and videography are prohibited

Pa-Pa-Pa-Papageno,
from *Die Zauberflöte*, K. 620 (1791) Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
(1756–1791)
Libretto by Emanuel Schikaneder
Jaden Jackson Cooper, bass

Bel Piacere, from *Agrippina*, HWV 6 (1709) G. F. Handel
Libretto by Cardinal Vincenzo Grimani
Lascia ch'io pianga, from *Rinaldo*, HWV 7 (1711) G. F. Handel
Libretto by Giacomo Ross

Caro Nome, from *Rigoletto* (1851) Giuseppe Verdi
(1813–1901)
Libretto by Francesco Maria Piave

-PAUSE-

The Last Time She Cooked For Me - Eulogy (2025) Erica Menasco
(b. 2002)

Irish Blessing (1985) James E. Moore Jr.
(1951–2022)
Text author unknown
Mattison Beezley, conductor

Program Notes, Texts and Translations

Les contes d'Hoffmann: Les oiseaux dans la charmille (1881)

Text by Jules Barbier

Les oiseaux dans la charmille
Dans les cieux l'astre du jour
Tout parle à la jeune fille d'amour!
Ah! Voilà la chanson gentille
La chanson d'Olympia! Ah!

The birds in the hedges,
The star of daylight in the sky,
Everything speaks to a young girl of love!
Ah! This is the sweet song,
The song of Olympia! Ah!

Tout ce qui chante et résonne
Et soupire, tour à tour,
Emeut son coeur qui frissonne d'amour!
Ah! Voilà la chanson mignonne
La chanson d'Olympia! Ah!.

Everything that sings and sounds
And sighs, in its turn,
Moves her heart, which trembles with love!
Ah! This is the darling song,
The song of Olympia! Ah!

Word-by-word translation by Ann Feeney, afeeney@Mcs.Net

Sweet Suffolk Owl (1979)

Text by Thomas Vautor

Sweet Suffolk Owl, so trimly dight
With feathers like a lady bright,
Thou singest alone, sitting by night,
Te whit, te whoo! Te whit, te whoo!

The note, that forth so freely rolls,
With shrill command the mouse controls;
And sings a dirge for dying souls,
Te whit, te whoo! Te whit, te whoo!

Postcard from Spain (1963)

Anonymous Text

The weather is here!
Wish you were...beautiful.

I'm having a fabulous
loved splendid Lisbon,
but ah Madrid!

Soon on to Tangiers,
London and Paris too,
See you, when I'm through.

Pippa's Song (1963)

Text by Robert Browning

The year's at the spring,
And day's at the morn;
Morning's at seven;
The hill-side's dew-pearl'd;
The lark's on the wing;
The snail's on the thorn;
God's in His heaven—
All's right with the world!

St. John Passion: Ich folge dir gleichfalls (1724)

Anonymous Text

Ich folge dir gleichfalls mit freudigen Schritten
Und lasse dich nicht,
Mein Leben, mein Licht.
Befördre den Lauf
Und höre nicht auf,
Selbst an mir zu ziehen, zu schieben, zu bitten.

I will follow you likewise with joyful steps
And will not let you go,
My life, my light.
Promote the course [of my life of faith]
And do not cease
Drawing, pushing, imploring my
yourself.

trans. Michael Marissen and Daniel R. Melamed

Semele: O Sleep! Why Dost Thou Leave Me? (1744)

Text by William Congreve, Alexander Pope

Oh sleep
Oh sleep, why dost thou leave me?
Why dost thou leave me?
Why thy visionary joys remove

Oh sleep
Oh sleep
Oh sleep, again deceive me
Oh sleep, again deceive me
To my arms
Restore my wand'ring love
My wand'ring love
Restore my wand'ring love

Again deceive me, oh sleep!
To my arms
To my arms
Restore my wand'ring love

Die Zauberflöte: Pa-Pa-Pa-Papageno (1791)

Text by Emanuel Schikaneder

PAPAGENO: Pa - Pa - Pa - Pa - Pa - Pa -
Papagenal!

PAPAGENA: Pa - Pa - Pa - Pa - Pa - Pa -
Papageno

PAPAGENO: Bist du mir nun ganz gegeben?

Have you now been completely given
to me?

PAPAGENA: Nun bin ich dir ganz gegeben

Now, I have been given completely to
you!

PAPAGENO: Nun so sey mein liebes
Weibchen!

Now, be my dear lovely wife?

PAPAGENA: Nun so sey mein
Herzenstäubchen!

Now, be my little dove of my heart!

BEYDE:

Welche Freude wird das seyn
Wenn die Götter uns bedenken
Unsrer Liebe Kinder schenken
So liebe kleine Kinderlein

BOTH:

What joy that will be
When the gods shower with gifts
And bestow or love with children
Our small children

PAPAGENO: Erst einen kleinen Papageno!

First a small Papageno!

PAPAGENA: Dann eine kleine Papagena!

Then a little Papagena!

PAPAGENO: Dann wieder einen Papageno!

Then again a Papageno!

PAPAGENA: Dann wieder eine Papagena!

Then again a Papagena!

PAPAGENO: Papageno!

PAPAGENA: Papagena!

BEYDE:

Es ist das höchste der Gefühle,
wenn viele, viele Papagena/Papageno
der Eltern Segen werden sein!

It is the highest of feelings
If many many Papagenos/Papagenas
The blessing of being Parents

Translation by Jaden Jackson Cooper

Agrippina: Bel Piacere (1709)

Text by Cardinal Vincenzo Grimani

Bel piacere è godere,

A great pleasure it is
to enjoy a faithful love!

È godere fido amor!

This suffices to make the heart happy.

Questo fa contento il core.

Beauty's splendor is no welcome guest
if it comes not from a faithful heart.

Di bellezza non s'apprezza lo splendor;

Se non vien d'un fido core.

La fermezza sol apprezza lo splendor,
Che provien d'un grato cor,

Firmness alone appreciates splendor,
That comes from a grateful heart

Rinaldo: Lascia ch'io pianga (1711)

Text by Giacomo Ross

Lascia ch'io pianga mia cruda sorte
E che sospiri la libertà
Il duolo infranga queste ritorte
De miei martiri sol per pietà

Let me weep for my cruel fate
And sigh after freedom
The duel breaks these
Of my sufferings, out of pity

Rigoletto: Caro Nome (1851)

Text by Francesco Maria Piave

Gualtier Maldè... nome di lui s'è amato,
Ti scolpisci nel core innamorato!

Walter Maldè... name of the man I love,
be thou engraved upon my lovesick heart!

Caro nome che il mio cor
Festi primo palpitar,
Le delizie dell'amor
Mi dei sempre rammentar!
Col pensier il mio desir
A te sempre volerà,
E fin l'ultimo mio sospir,
Caro nome, tuo sarà.

Beloved name, the first to move
the pulse of love within my heart,
thou shalt remind me ever
of the delights of love!
In my thoughts, my desire
will ever fly to thee,
and my last breath of life
shall be, beloved name, of thee.

The Last Time She Cooked For Me - for Elena Dolores (2025)

I would like to tell you a story.

I was 15 years old. I had just gotten off the bus and walked three blocks home to where I lived in Cypress. My grandmother, or as we called her, Malena – because she never wanted to be called “Grandma” or “Abuela”, just “Mama Elena” or “Malena” – was sweeping the back porch, even though there were no leaves. She had Alzheimer’s, which is a debilitating disease that renders a person into a shell of who they once were, but she liked to sweep the back porch, regardless. I opened the back gate of my backyard, and said hello to her and went inside. She followed me inside and saw me in the kitchen rifling through the pantry looking for something to eat. She spoke to me, “Erica, tienes hambre?” [Are you hungry?] I said, “Sí,” She replied, “Quieres una arepa?” [Do you want an arepa?] I was surprised. An arepa is a Venezuelan food that you can put stuff in, it’s made with corn masa and you can put stuff in it like black beans, cheese, chicken, avocado, etc. Her memory had already been slowly deteriorating and she would repeat herself and ask us weird questions and she tried to escape the house so we had to child proof all the doors that led outside. I couldn’t remember the last time she cooked for me, so of course I said yes. She made me one (1) arepa with cheddar cheese that I shredded so she didn’t have to. She pan fried it and stuffed it for me, still touching it while it was far too hot for my own hands. Mothers seem to have fireproof hands and she was a grandmother, my grandmother. That was the best damn arepa I have ever had.

Elena Dolores Chirinos de Kummerow was the last surviving member of her immediate family. I like to think of her as a survivor. She was born September 15, 1934 in Valencia, Venezuela. She lost her parents to Tuberculosis around five years old and she was raised by her grandmother with her sister and two brothers. She never finished high school, never went to college, and married my abuelo who also never went to college. Her oldest sister passed at 56 years old and her remaining brother passed just a few years ago. She lived in Caracas during the entire presidential downfall, it’s a dictatorship now. Her building was surrounded by protests, and police, and violence. But she stayed in Caracas because that was her home. She was officially diagnosed with Alzheimer’s at 76 [years old], but she moved here at 78 [years old] in 2016. How many people can say their grandma moved across the world at almost 80 years old? We loved having her around. Her mind went away quite slowly though, all things considered. Even though my abuelo had passed away when I was seven years old, she spoke to him all the time. She forgot that she didn’t like animals, which was some of the silver lining of Alzheimer’s, she ended up loving my cat, Mango. She lived through all of my years in grade school and almost all of my college years. She passed away on February 18th, 2025, at the age of 91. She is survived by 4 children, 5 grandchildren, and 2 great-grandchildren.

Irish Blessing (1985)

Anonymous Text

May the road rise to meet you.
May the wind be always at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face,
The rains fall soft upon your fields.
And until we meet again,
Until we meet again,
May God hold you
In the palm of His hand.

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Personnel

Soprano

Julianna Carden
Rachel Cunningham
Erica Vanessa Menasco

Tenor

William Parris
Caiden Reisinger
Ramero Vargas

Alto

Abigail Bahng
Arthur Keast
Maddie White

Bass

Ian Granado
Colin Busch-Kennedy
Jaden Jackson Cooper