



COLLEGE OF MUSIC

University of North Texas
College of Music

Memorial Recital | Tuesday, December 6, 2022 | 6:30 pm | Recital Hall

**Students in the Division of Vocal Studies and Faculty
Remember DMA Soprano Sierra Jordan McCorvey
(April 2, 1991 – May 10, 2022)**

Heaven's a Beautiful PlaceSpiritual Art Song
arr. 2020 Dr. Roland M. Carter (b. 1942)

Cherisse Williams, soprano • Stephen Dubberly, piano

from *Five Elizabethan Songs* (1912).....Ivor Gurney/John Fletcher
(1890–1937)/(1579–1625)

4. Sleep

Sara Knoy, soprano • Stephen Dubberly, piano

from *Acht Gedichte aus Letzte
Blätter*, Opus 10 (1885).....Richard Strauss/Hermann von Gilm
(1864–1949)/(1812–1864)

1. Zueignung

Spencer Simpson, tenor • Stephen Dubberly, piano

8. Allerseelen

Christopher Rodriguez, baritone • Stephen Dubberly, piano

Porgi, amor, *Le nozze di
Figaro*, K. 492 (1786).....Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart/Lorenzo da Ponte
(1756–1791)/(1749–1838)

Kara Libby, soprano • Stephen Dubberly, piano

from *Fünf Lieder*, Opus 105 (1888)..... Johannes Brahms/Hermann Lingg
(1833–1897)/(1820–1905)

2. Immer leiser wird mein Schlummer

Maiya Williams, mezzo-soprano • Stephen Dubberly, piano

from *Horn Songs, Volume 3* (1860/1878)Johannes Brahms
arr. Verne Reynolds (1926–2011)
ed. Dr. J. Greg Miller (b. 1984)

3. Weg der Liebe, Opus 20, No. 2
4. So lass ins wandern!, Opus 75, No. 3

Stacie Mickens, horn • Trenton Carr, horn
Stephen Dubberly, piano

from *Fêtes galantes* (1891).....Claude Debussy/Paul Verlaine
(1862–1918)/(1844–1896)

3. Clair de lune

Nebbie (1906).....Ottorino Respighi/Ada Negri
(1879–1936)/(1870–1945)

from *Three Poems of Fiona*
MacLeod, Opus 11 (1918)..... Charles Griffes/William Sharp
(1884–1920)/(1855–1905)

- 1 The Lament of Ian the Proud

Victor Cardamone, tenor • Stephen Dubberly, piano

The Lord Bless You and
Keep You (1900).....Peter C. Lutkin (1858–1931)
Benediction setting of Numbers 6:24–26

all singers, Joel Wiley, students in Carol Wilson's studio

Amazing Grace (1835/1772) New Britain/John Newton (1725–1807)

all singers and audience

Ride On, King Jesus!.....African American Spiritual
arr. 1951 Hall Johnson (1888–1970)

Marquis Xavier McBride, tenor • Victor Cardamone, tenor
Stephen Dubberly, piano

Heaven's a Beautiful Place

Heaven's a beautiful place I
believe, believe.
Oh, Heaven's a beautiful place
I believe, believe.
There's no dying over there.
There's no crying over there 'cause
Heaven's a beautiful place.
All good people over there!
Heaven's a beautiful place, I
believe!

Zueignung

Ja, du weisst es, teure Seele,
Dass ich fern von dir mich quäle,

Liebe macht die Herzen krank,
Habe Dank.

Einst hielt ich, der Freiheit Zecher,

Hoch den Amethysten-Becher
Und du segnetest den Trank,
Habe Dank.

Und beschworst darin die Bösen,

Bis ich, was ich nie gewesen,

Heilig, heilig an's Herz dir sank,

Habe Dank.

Allerseelen

Stell' auf den Tisch die duftenden
Reseden,
Die letzten roten Asten trag' herbei,
Und lass uns wieder von der Liebe
reden,
Wie einst im Mai.

Gib mir die Hand, dass ich sie
heimlich drücke,
Und wenn man's sieht, mir ist es
einerlei,
Gib mir nur einen deiner süssen
Blicke,
Wie einst im Mai.

Es blüht und duftet heut' auf jedem
Grabe
Ein Tag im Jahr ist ja den Toten frei,

Komm an mein Herz, dass ich dich
wieder habe,
Wie einst im Mai.

Sleep

Come, sleep, and with thy sweet
deceiving
Lock me in delight awhile;
Let some pleasing dream beguile
All my fancies, that from thence
I may feel an influence,
All my powers of care bereaving.
Tho' but a shadow, but a sliding,
Let me know some little joy.
We, that suffer long annoy,
Are contented with a thought
Thro' an idle fancy wrought:
O let my joys have some abiding.

Dedication

Yes, you know, precious soul,
That I torment myself when I am far
from you;
Love can make a heart feel ill!
Thank you for that love.

I once held high the amethystine
goblet,
Drunk with freedom –
And you blessed the drink.
Thank you for the blessing of your
understanding love.

And you exorcised all evil from that
drink,
'Til I became what I had never been
before:
Sanctified, hallowed, I sank down
upon your heart.
Thank you for your transforming love!

All Soul's Day

Place on the table the fragrant
mignonettes,
Bring in the last red asters,
and let us talk of love again,
as once we did in May.

Give me your hand, so that I may
secretly press it;
and if someone sees, it's all one to
me.
Just give me one of your sweet
glances,
as once you did in May.

Flowers bloom and spread their
fragrance today on every grave;
one day in the year is sacred for
the dead.

Come close to my heart, so that I
can have you again,
as once I did in May.

Porgi, amor

Porgi, amor, qualche ristoro
 Al mio duolo, a' miei sospir!
 O mi rendi il mio tesoro,
 O mi lascia almen morir!

Immer leiser wird mein Schlummer

Immer leise wird mein Schlummer,
 Nur wie Schleier liegt mein Kummer,
 Zitternd über mir,
 Oft im Traume hör ich dich
 Rufen draus von meiner Tür,
 Niemand wacht und öffnet dir,
 Ich erwach und weine bitterlich.

Ja, ich werde sterben müssen,
 Eine andre wirst du küssen,
 Wenn ich bleich und kalt.
 Eh die Maienlüfte wehn,
 Eh die Drossel singt im Wald:
 Willst du mich noch einmal sehn,

Komm, o komme bald!

Clair de lune

Votre âme est un paysage choisi
 Que vont charmant masques et
 bergamasques
 Jouant du luth et dansant
 Et quasi tristes
 Sous leurs déguisements
 fantasques.

Tout en chantant sur le mode
 mineur
 L'amour vainqueur
 Et la vie opportune,
 Ils n'ont pas l'air de croire à leur
 bonheur
 Et leur chanson
 Se mêle au clair de lune.

Au calme clair de lune
 Triste et beau,
 Qui fait rêver les oiseaux dans les
 arbres
 Et sangloter d'extase les jets d'eau,

Les grand jets d'eau sveltes
 Parmi les marbres.

Porgi, my Love

Grant, love, some comfort
 To my grief, to my sighs!
 Either give me back my treasure,
 Or leave me at least to die.

My Slumber Becomes Softer and Softer

My slumber becomes softer and
 softer,
 My grief lies like a light veil
 Trembling over me.
 Often in my dream I hear you
 Calling outside my door,
 No one wakes and opens for you,
 I awake and weep bitterly.

Yes, I shall have to die;
 You will kiss another woman
 When I am pale and cold;
 Before the May breezes blow,
 Before the thrush sings in the forest:
 If you want to see me one more
 time,
 Come, oh come soon!

Moonlight

Your soul is a chosen landscape
 Charmed by masks and bergamasks
 Playing on the lute and dancing
 And almost sad
 Beneath their fanciful disguises.

While singing in the minor mode
 Of victorious love
 And the good life,
 They do not seem to believe in their
 happiness
 And their song
 Mingles with the moonlight.

With the calm moonlight,
 Sad and beautiful,
 Which makes the birds dream in
 the trees,
 And makes the fountains sob with
 ecstasy,
 The tall slender fountains
 Among the marble statues.

Nebbie

Soffro. – Lontan lontano
 Le nebbie sonnolente
 Salgono dal tacente
 Piano.

Alto gracchiando, i corvi,
 Fidati all' ali nere,
 Traversan le brughiere
 Torvi.

Dell' aere ai morsi crudi
 Gli addolorati tronchi
 Offron, pregando, i bronchi
 Nudi.

Come ho freddo!... Son sola;
 Pel grigio ciel sospinto
 Un gemito d'estinto
 Vola;

E mi ripete: Vieni,
 È buia la vallata.
 O triste, o disamata,
 Vieni!...

The Lament of Ian the Proud

What is this crying that I hear in the
 wind?
 Is it the old sorrow and the old
 grief?
 Or is it a new thing coming, a
 whirling leaf
 About the gray hair of me who am
 weary and blind?
 I know not what it is, but on the
 moor above the shore
 There is a stone which the purple
 nets of heather bind,
 And thereon is writ: She will return
 no more.
 O blown, whirling leaf, and the old
 grief,
 And wind crying to me who am
 old and blind!

The Lord Bless You and Keep You

The Lord bless you and keep you;
 The Lord lift his countenance
 upon you
 And give you peace, and give
 you peace
 The Lord make His face to shine
 upon you,
 And be gracious, be gracious;
 The Lord be gracious, gracious
 unto you.
 Amen.

The Mists

I suffer. – Faraway, very far away
 The somnolent mists
 Rise from the hushing
 Plain.

Loudly cawing, the crows,
 Steady on their black wings,
 Traverse the moorlands
 Menacingly.

Sharply biting into the air
 The grieving tree trunks
 Offer, praying, their branches
 Nude.

How cold I am!... I am alone;
 Driven through the gray sky
 A groan of the dead
 Flies;

And it repeats to me: Come,
 The valley is dark.
 Oh sad one, oh unloved one,
 Come!...

Amazing Grace

Amazing grace! How sweet the
 sound
 That saved a wretch like me!
 I once was lost, but now I'm found,
 Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart
 to fear,
 And grace my fear relieved;
 How precious did that grace appear
 The hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils, and
 snares,
 We have already come;
 'Twas grace that brought us safe
 thus far,
 And grace will lead us home.

When we've been there ten
 thousand years,
 Bright shining as the sun,
 We've no less days to sing God's
 praise,
 Than when we first begun.

Ride On, King Jesus!

Ride on, King Jesus, ride on the
conquerin' king.
Oh, Ride on, King Jesus, ride on.
No man hinder thee.
I was but young when I begun,
No man hinder thee.
But now my race is almost done,
No man hinder thee.
Oh, Ride on, King Jesus, ride on,
the conquerin' king.
Oh Ride on, King Jesus
No man hinder thee.
King Jesus rides a milk white horse,
No man hinder thee.
The river of Jordan he did cross,
No man hinder thee.
Oh, Ride on, King Jesus, ride on,
the conquerin' king,
Oh, Ride on, King Jesus, ride on,
No man hinder thee.
He's the King and the Lord.
No man hinder thee.
He's the first and the last.
He's the Lord of Lords.
Jesus is the Prince of peace.
No man hinder thee.
Oh, Ride on, King Jesus, ride on,
just ride on Jesus.
Ride on, King Jesus, ride on.
No man hinder thee.
Oh, Ride on, King Jesus, ride on,
just ride on,
Jesus, Ride on, King Jesus, ride on,
just ride on, Jesus,
Ride on, King Jesus, ride on,
Ride on, ride on, Jesus.
Ride on, Jesus!



Soprano **Sierra McCorvey** has been featured with the Youngstown Symphony Orchestra, Greenville Symphony Orchestra, Packard Band, and Mahoning Valley Chorale. McCorvey has sung several roles including Iris (Blitzstein's *The Harpies*, Kent State University), Fiordiligi (*Così fan tutte*, Youngstown State University), The Fairy (*Cendrillon*, Youngstown State University), Lily/ Strawberry Woman (*Porgy and Bess*, Cleveland Opera and Opera Western Reserve), 2nd Witch (*Macbeth*, Opera Western Reserve) and Suor Angelica (*Suor Angelica*, Youngstown State University). She worked on the role of Anina in Opera Western Reserve's covid-19 project, A Taste of La Traviata. Sierra was nominated for WKBN's Hometown Hero Award in 2018 for inspiring youth through the arts. Sierra won the Italian Scholarship League, SAI Competition and Tozzi Award scholarships. In 2016, she was nominated for the Distinguished Women of Appalachia award. In 2021 she won first place in the adult singer category at NATS-Ohio Chapter. Sierra graduated with a bachelor and master of music degree from Youngstown State University with Misook Yun in 2021 and began pursuing a doctor of musical arts at the University of North Texas in fall 2021 with Carol Wilson. Sierra was a Young Artist at Opera Western Reserve (2014–2021).

Recitals include: Fun With Opera at Opera Western Reserve 2021; We Shall Overcome soprano soloist at Thiel College with Greenville Symphony 2021; McDonough Honors Recital at McDonough Art Museum (virtual) 2021; Cleveland Musicians Against Racism Concert soprano soloist at Cleveland, Ohio (virtual) 2020; 28th Annual Black History Concert soprano soloist at Cleveland Institute of Music 2020; Choral Evensong soprano soloist at Cleveland Historic St Andrews 2020; Adventures in Opera soprano soloist at Guthrie Theatre in Grove City 2019; Selections from *Macbeth* concert version with Warren Philharmonic Orchestra 2019; Stained Glass Concert soprano soloist with Youngstown Symphony Orchestra 2018; Opera Cabaret soprano soloist with Opera Western Reserve 2017.

She was a graduate assistant in the College of Music's Admissions Office and previously taught voice, piano, flute, trumpet and oboe at Guitar Center Music & Arts in Canfield, OH where she virtually met with students on a weekly basis for 30-, 45- and 60-minute lessons (2020–2022); was an academic coach for the Trio Programs at Youngstown State University (2010–2021); taught voice at Byram Music in North Jackson, Ohio (2019–2021); was program director for a staff of 25 at Southside Fine Arts Academy in Youngstown, Ohio (2014–2019); and was music director at First United Methodist Church in Warren, Ohio (2015–2017).

From an interview she did in 2021: "My home, growing up, was always filled with such a great variety of music. I went to my grandmother's piano recitals and opera rehearsals with my aunt while I was young, and 'Sesame Street' had great opera divas that made opera so relatable and accessible to young minds. I would always try to mimic Denyce Graves as she sang a very 'child-friendly' *Habanera* to Elmo....I was a band nerd early in life, playing flute in the Warren Junior Military Band. I was singing and mimicking an operatic voice with the other kids in my section. My flute teacher said, 'hey, you have a really great voice' in passing and I held on to that. With the help and guidance of a community of great music teachers, I did not have to 'mimic' anymore....I love to teach; not just music, but 'how to have a better life in general' — a phoenix rising from the ashes type of curriculum. My jobs outside of music have been in working with inner-city students; mentoring them in life and education. I worked with nonprofit programs such as Heartreach Neighborhood Ministries; Mind, Body and Soul; and Upward Bound....My hobbies are taking photographs and painting. I spend a lot of time at museums trying to gain an understanding of present-day and historic culture for the shows/operas I am involved in. I also continue to lend my voice to my church choir at Holy Family Parish in Poland, Ohio....I know I want to be involved in the art form in some capacity. The preservation of the art is in its 'sharing' — and it does not have to be at the Metropolitan Opera. It's happening right here in Youngstown. We are bringing beautiful music and great stories into our own communities and creating our own stories. Mozart and Puccini are not the only great opera composers. The beautiful voices of opera are still very much alive."