

endures as one of the greatest French composers of art songs. Although he destroyed most of his earlier works, his collection of 16 songs (and one unfinished opera) were written for what he called the “violin-voice” or a voice capable of flexible phrasing and intensity of tone, and also demonstrated a unique sophistication in uniting text with fairly elaborate contrapuntal elements in the accompaniment. He abruptly stopped composing in 1885, at age 36, most likely due to a mental illness known at the time as “neurasthenia” or a weakening of the nerves. "Chason triste", from *Op. 2, no. 4* was composed in 1868, "Le manoir de Rosemonde" written in 1870, and "L'invitation au voyage" - the most well known of Duparc's songs - written in 1879."

"Gradual" from Misa Azteca, Joseph Julian Gonzales (1992)

A native of California, Joseph Julian Gonzales is an award-winning film and television score composer. After a burst of inspiration in the early 1990s, he began a 25-year journey to combine the European Latin Mass and sensibility with native Mexican/Nahuatl beliefs at the time of the Conquest. His masterful 8-movement symphonic oratorio with choir, soloists, orchestra and Aztec percussion spins rhythms, instruments, text, philosophical, metaphysical/existential questions and concerns into a musical concert masterpiece.

"Gradual" is the third movement of Misa Azteca and is sung entirely in Nahuatl, the native tongue of the Aztecs. It is based on the poetic text of the Cantantes Mexicanos, highly metaphorical song narratives describing the life of the Aztecs. Specifically, the "Gradual" is a lamentation, rooted in the quest for heaven and atonement.

#### BIOGRAPHY

Katie Harman Ebner is a critically acclaimed soloist whose career skyrocketed after being crowned Miss America 2002. Katie has headlined full-scale productions and concerts with prestigious organizations such as the Boston Pops Orchestra, Denver Philharmonic, Tuscaloosa Symphony, Shreveport Symphony, Oregon Symphony, Vancouver Symphony, Newport Symphony, Gold Coast Opera, Obsidian Opera, Eugene Opera, Astoria Music Festival, Portland SummerFest, and Staged! Musical Theater Company. She also stars in a touring namesake show, "Katie Harman & Friends" featuring rich orchestral arrangements penned by the great Norman Leyden, Glen Miller's arranger during/post-WWII and former conductor for the Oregon Symphony Pops. She resides with her family in Southern Oregon, and is currently pursuing a Master of Music Performance at Southern Oregon University.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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This recital is presented in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Music Performance.

This recital is under the direction of Laurie Anne Hunter and Dr. Paul French.

# OREGON CENTER FOR THE ARTS

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## AT SOUTHERN OREGON UNIVERSITY

Katie Harman Ebner

Graduate Vocal Recital

and

Laurie Anne Hunter, piano

## Sky Songs: A Nature-Inspired Collection of Contemporary & Romantic Works

Music at SOU

April 23, 2016 ▪ 7:30 p.m.

SOU Music Recital Hall

## PROGRAM NOTES

### "The Year's at the Spring" from *Three Browning Songs, Op. 44*, Amy Marcy Beach (1900)

Amy Marcy Cheney Beach (also known widely as Mrs. H.H.A. Beach after marrying Dr. Henry Harris Aubrey Beach) was the first successful American female composer of large-scale compositions for orchestra, chorale, chamber, solo piano and voice. As a pianist, she was acclaimed for concerts she gave in the United States and in Germany. She was most popular, however, for her solo songs, of which she wrote about 150. "The Year's At the Spring" from *Three Browning Songs, Op. 44* is perhaps Beach's best-known work, composed in 1900. The text was taken from Robert Browning's poem *Pippa Passes*, where a young, innocent silk-winding girl sings a song imploring those around her to seek virtue – a statement to society as a whole, where Browning meant to highlight the perceived immorality of the times.

### *Sky Songs*, Gene Koshinski (2013)

*Sky Songs*, scored for voice and percussion, was written in 2013 by Dr. Gene Koshinski, professor of Percussion at the University of Minnesota Duluth. The work is a reflection of Koshinski's ongoing interest to combine the two oldest musical traditions in the world. The compositional process was heavily driven by melody and rhythm, however the text played an integral role in helping him to choose the sounds and colors heard throughout the piece. The poetry was written by Carl Sandburg, and is considered by Koshinski to be the perfect vehicle in which to explore the combinatorial possibilities of these two musical art forms.

### *Three Songs of Innocence*, Arnold Cooke (1957)

Born in turn-of-the-century Yorkshire, Arnold Cooke was a longtime professor of music at Cambridge University and a prolific British composer of over 160 works for chamber, solo instruments, orchestra and one (known) opera, over the span of six decades. *Three Songs of Innocence* was written in 1957 and based on William Blake's *Songs of Innocence and Experience*, a collection of poems meant to investigate (as noted by William Blake in his subtitle) "two contrary states of the human soul". Although the poems were largely thought to be directed at children, since much of the imagery depicts children, animals and flowers, they are in fact allegorical and were meant to reflect Blake's deeply held political and spiritual beliefs.

### *Der Hirt auf dem Felsen* ("The Shepherd on the Rock"), Franz Schubert (1828)

Schubert composed *Der Hirt auf dem Felsen* during the final months of his life in 1828, and died just before his 32nd birthday. During his lifetime, he composed over six hundred vocal works (mainly Lieder), seven complete symphonies, sacred music, operas, incidental music and a large body of chamber and piano music. *Der Hirt auf dem Felsen* was written as a belated response to a request from the operatic soprano Pauline Anna Milder-Hauptmann, a friend of Schubert. She had requested a showpiece that would allow her to express a wide range of feelings. It was published a year and a half after Schubert's death. Verses were based on the poetry of Wilhelm Müller, as well as text by Karl August Varnhagen von Ense. The Lied is sectioned in three parts, with intricate clarinet and voice interplay. The first section is warm as the lonely shepherd, high on the mountain top, listens to the echoes rising from below. The second section becomes quite dark as the shepherd expresses his all encompassing grief and loneliness. The third and last section is a sign of hope as the shepherd anticipates the coming of Spring and with it rebirth.

### *Three Mélodies*, Henri Duparc (1868-1879)

Both brilliant and troubled, Henri Duparc had a very brief career as a composer, yet still

## Sky Songs: A Nature-Inspired Collection of Contemporary & Romantic Works

The Year's at the Spring, from *Three Browning Songs, Op. 44* Amy Marcy Beach  
(1867-1944)

*Sky Songs* Gene Koshinski  
(b. 1980)

- I. Child Moon
- II. Sunsets

Kevin Younker, Percussion

*Three Songs of Innocence* Arnold Cooke  
(1906-2005)

- I. Piping Down the Valleys Wild
- II. The Shepherd
- II. The Echoing Green

Chelsea Villanueva, Clarinet

*Der Hirt auf dem Felsen* Franz Schubert  
(1797-1828)

Chelsea Villanueva, Clarinet

Three Mélodies Henri Duparc  
(1848-1933)

- Chanson triste, from *Op. 2, no. 4*  
Le manoir de Rosemonde  
L'invitation au voyage

Gradual, from *Misa Azteca* Joseph Julian Gonzalez  
(b. 1963)

Kevin Younker, Percussion  
Misa Azteca Chorus, Members of Rogue Valley Chorale