



**Songs of Gratitude
November 22, 7pm**

**Wes Hunter, tenor • Evangelia Leontis, soprano
MaKayla McDonald, soprano • Megan Roth, mezzo-soprano
Edward Vogel, baritone • Julia Carey, piano**

Program

Part 1: Hope and Faith

My Lord What a Morning

My Lord, what a morning
My Lord, what a morning
Oh, my Lord, what a morning
When the stars begin to fall.

Arranged by H. T. Burleigh [traditional]

Done quit all my worldly ways
Gonna join that heavenly band.

My Lord, what a morning
My Lord, what a morning
Oh, my Lord, what a morning
When the stars begin to fall.

MaKayla McDonald

In the mornin'

In the mornin' when I rise,
Give me Jesus!
You can have all the world, but
Give me Jesus!
'Twixt the cradle and the grave,
Give me Jesus!
You can have all the world, but
Give me Jesus!

Charles Ives [traditional]

Megan Roth

Deep River

Deep river, my home is over Jordan.
Deep river, Lord, I want to cross over into campground.
Oh, don't you want to go to that gospel feast?
That promised land, where all is peace?

Moses Hogan [traditional]

Edward Vogel

Sonntagsmorgan

Felix Mendelssohn [Johann Ludwig Uhland]

This is the day of the Lord!
I am alone on the wide meadow;
yet only one morning bell,
then silence near and far.

Adoring, I kneel here.
O sweet shudder! Secret stirring!
As if many knelt unseen
and prayed with me.

The sky near and far,
it is so serene and solemn,
altogether as if it would open up!
This is the day of the Lord!

MaKayla McDonald and Megan Roth

Part 2: Loved Ones

Amorosi miei giorni

Stefano Donaudy [Alberto Donaudy]

My amorous days,
Who could ever forget you,
Now that, adorned with all the blessings,
You give peace to my heart
And perfume to my thoughts?
To be able, so, as life advances,
To fear no longer the anxieties
Of a life of deceptions,
With this hope alone:
That one look of his may be all my splendor
And one smile of his may be all my treasure!

Who more blessed than I,
If she does not thus have beside her,
A sweet and dear beloved object,
So that she cannot yet say
She knows what love is?
Ah, may I so, as life advances,
Fear no longer the anxieties
Of a life of deceptions,
With this hope alone:
That one look of his may be all my splendor
And one smile of his may be all my treasure!

Evangelia Leontis

Le Rossignol des Lilas

Reynaldo Hahn [Léopold Dauphin]

O first nightingale to appear
Among the lilac beneath my window,
How sweet to recognize your voice!

There is no song like yours!
Faithful to the bonds of love,
Trill away, divine little being!
O first nightingale to appear
Among the lilac beneath my window!
Night or morning—O how
Your love-song strikes to my heart!
Such ardour re-awakens in me
Echoes of April days long past,
O first nightingale to appear!

Megan Roth

Silent Noon

Your hands lie open in the long fresh grass,
The finger-points look through like rosy blooms:
Your eyes smile peace.
The pasture gleams and glooms
'Neath billowing skies that scatter and amass.

Ralph Vaughan Williams [Dante Gabriel Rossetti]

All round our nest, far as the eye can pass,
Are golden kingcup fields with silver edge
Where the cow-parsley skirts the hawthorn hedge.
'Tis visible silence, still as the hour glass.

Deep in the sunsearched growths the dragon-fly
Hangs like a blue thread loosened from the sky: -
So this winged hour is dropt to us from above.
Oh! clasp we to our hearts, for deathless dower,
This close-companioned inarticulate hour
When twofold silence was the song of love.

Edward Vogel

Paper Wings

When I was young, I lived in Greece with my mother,
That's right, Greece.
We lived in a house,
A house with a great big balcony.
And Signorina, ah! Was my nanny.

Jake Heggie [Frederica von Stadel]

One day, Signorina made me wings out of paper,
That's right, paper wings—
And for days and days I pretended to fly
Over the rooftops of Athens.

Megan Roth

Songs My Mother Taught Me

Songs my mother taught me in the days long vanished,
Seldom from her eyelids were the tear drops banished.
Now I teach my children each melodious measure;
Often tears are flowing from my memory's treasure.

Antonín Dvorák [Adolf Heyduk]

Evangelia Leontis

Julia Carey

Part 3: Compassion and Joy

La Danza

Gioacchino Rossini [Conte Carlo Pepoli]

Already the moon is in the middle of the sea, Mamma mia, we will jump!
The time is good for dancing
Those in love will not fail.
Soon we dance round and round,
My beauties, come here,
A beautiful and cheerful young man
Will go up to each one,
Until a star shines in the sky
And the moon will shine.
The most handsome and the most beautiful
All night will dance.

Wes Hunter

Litany

John Musto [Langston Hughes]

Gather up
In the arms of your pity
The sick, the depraved,
The desperate, the tired,
All the scum
Of our weary city.
Gather up
In the arms of your pity.
Gather up
In the arms of your love—
Those who expect
No love from above.

Edward Vogel

Sure on This Shining Night

Samuel Barber [James Agee]

Sure on this shining night
Of star made shadows round,
Kindness must watch for me
This side the ground.
The late year lies down the north.
All is healed, all is health.
High summer holds the earth.
Hearts all whole.
Sure on this shining night I weep for wonder
Wandering far alone
Of shadows on the stars.

Wes Hunter

Come On Up To the House

Well, the moon is broken and the sky is cracked
Come on up to the house
The only things that you can see is all that you lack
Come on up to the house

All your crying don't do no good
Come on up to the house
Come down off the cross, we can use the wood
You gotta come on up to the house
Come on up to the house

Come on up to the house
The world is not my home
I'm just a-passing through
You got to come on up to the house

There's no light in the tunnel, no irons in the fire
Come on up to the house
And you're singing lead soprano in a junkman's choir
You got to come on up to the house

Does life seem nasty, brutish and short
Come on up to the house
The seas are stormy and you can't find no port
Got to come on up to the house, yeah

There's nothing in the world that you can do
You gotta come on up to the house
And you been whipped by the forces that are inside you
Gotta come on up to the house
Well, you're high on top of your mountain of woe

Evangelia Leontis

Part 4: Our Wish for You

Hold Fast to Dreams

Hold fast to dreams
For if dreams die
Life is a broken-winged bird
That cannot fly.
Hold fast to dreams
For when dreams go
Life is a barren field
Frozen with snow.

Florence Price [Langston Hughes]

MaKayla McDonald

Priez pour paix

Pray for peace, sweet Virgin Mary,
Queen of Heaven and mistress of the world.
In your courtesy, have
the saints pray too,
and address your Son,
begging His Highness to deign to look on His people,
whom He redeemed with His blood,
and to banish war which destroys all.
Do not weary of our prayers.
Pray for peace, pray for peace,
the true treasure of joy.

Francis Poulenc [Charles, Duc d'Orléans]

Evangelia Leontis

Postlude: Forever Young

May God bless and keep you always
May your wishes all come true
May you always do for others
And let others do for you
May you build a ladder to the stars
And climb on every rung
May you stay forever young
Forever young, forever young
May you stay forever young
May you grow up to be righteous
May you grow up to be true
May you always know the truth
And see the lights surrounding you
May you always be courageous
Stand upright and be strong
May you stay forever young
Forever young, forever young
May you stay forever young
May your hands always be busy
May your feet always be swift
May you have a strong foundation
When the winds of changes shift
May your heart always be joyful
May your song always be sung
May you stay forever young
Forever young, forever young
May you stay forever young

John Corigliano [Bob Dylan]

MaKayla McDonald

Zueignung

Yes, you know it, dearest soul,
How I suffer far from you,
Love makes the heart sick,
Have thanks.

Richard Strauss [Hermann von Gilm]

MaKayla McDonald