



Songs of Gratitude *Song Sets & Texts*

Evangelia Leontis, soprano

Stefano Donaudy *Amorosi miei giorni* **[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 (hers) may be all my splendor
And one smile of his (hers) may be all my treasure!

Who more blessed than I,
If she (he) does not thus have beside her (him)
A sweet and dear beloved object,
So that she (he) cannot yet say
She (he) 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 (hers) may be all my splendor
And one smile of his (hers) may be all my treasure!

Antonín Dvorák *Songs My Mother Taught Me* **[Adolf Heyduk]**

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.

Francis Poulenc *Priez pour paix* **[Charles, Duc d'Orléans]**

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.

MaKayla McDonald, soprano

John Corigliano *Postlude: Forever Young*

[Bob Dylan]

(from *Mr. Tambourine Man*)

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

Felix Mendelssohn *Sonntagsmorgen*

[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!

Florence Price *Hold Fast to Dreams*

[Langston Hughes]

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.

Richard Strauss *Zueignung*

[Hermann von Gilm]

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

Once I, drinker of freedom,
Held high the amethyst beaker,
And you blessed the drink,
Have thanks.

And you exorcised the evils in it,
Until I, as I had never been before,
Blessed, blessed sank upon your heart,
Have thanks.

Megan Roth, mezzo-soprano

**Reynaldo Hahn *Le Rossignol des Lilas*
[Léopold Dauphin]**

O first nightingale to appear
Among the lilac beneath my window,
How sweet to recognise 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!

Jake Heggie *Paper Wings*

[Frederica von Stade]

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.

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.

Charles Ives *In the mornin'*

[traditional]

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!

Felix Mendelssohn *Sonntagsmorgen*

(duet with MaKayla McDonald)

Wes Hunter, tenor

**Samuel Barber *Sure on This Shining Night*
[James Agee]**

Sure on this shining night
Of starmade 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

Richard Hundley *Will There Really Be a Morning?*

[Emily Dickinson]

Will there really be a "Morning"?
Is there such a thing as "Day"?
Could I see it from the mountains
If I were as tall as they?
Has it feet like Water lilies?
Has it feathers like a Bird
Is it brought from famous countries
Of which I have never heard?
Oh some Scholar! Oh some Sailor!
Oh some Wise Men from the skies!
Please to tell a little Pilgrim
Where the place called "Morning" lies!

Gioacchino Rossini *La Danza*

[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.

Edward Vogel, baritone

Moses Hogan *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?

John Musto *Litany* [Langston Hughes] (from *Shadow of the Blues*)

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.

Ralph Vaughan Williams *Silent Noon* [Dante Gabriel Rossetti]

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.

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.

Julia Scott Carey, piano

Franz Liszt *Ave Maria*

Franz Liszt *Frühlingsglaube*

(piano solo transcriptions of the Franz Schubert works)