



## **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)