Still Falls the Rain: New Songs in the Desert

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Music

PRESENTS

Still Falls the Rain...
New Songs in the Desert

Stephen Jackson, composer

Wednesday, April 2nd, 2008
Fox Fine Arts Recital Hall 7:30pm
PROGRAM

Come, Woeful Orpheus (William Byrd 1543 -1623)
Dr. Elisa Wilson – Mezzo-Soprano / Dr. Esequiel Meza – Accompanist

Ancestors (Dr. Anita Barrows - Contemporary)
1 – 5
Dr. Orit Eylon – Mezzo-Soprano / Dr. Esequiel Meza – Accompanist

In Evening Air (Theodore Roethke 1908 - 1963)
1 – 4
Steven Jones – Tenor / Dr. Esequiel Meza – Accompanist

Three Songs for High Soprano (Sara Teasdale 1884 - 1933)
1. Barter
2. Come
3. At Night
Ellen Wilson – Soprano / Dr. Dominic Dousa – Accompanist

A Small Menagerie (Theodore Roethke 1908 - 1963)
1. The Yak
2. The Whale
3. The Donkey
Barbara Yarber – Soprano / Dr. Esequiel Meza – Accompanist

From "A House in Amherst" (Emily Dickinson 1830-1886)
1. Have you got a brook in your little heart
2. My river runs to thee
Dr. Elisa Wilson – Mezzo-Soprano / Dr. Esequiel Meza – Accompanist

Still Falls the Rain (Dame Edith Sitwell 1887 - 1964)
Mary Haddad – Soprano / Dr. Esequiel Meza – Accompanist

INTERMISSION
PROGRAM

Soprano / Dr. Esequiel Meza – Accompanist

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PROGRAM NOTES

It's been at least 10 years since I've written program notes for a composition recital, and the task never seems to get any easier. With the exception of the songs in the Emily Dickinson cycle, all of these pieces were composed in the last 10 months while I was convalescing from lymphoma. I could write some sort of detailed synopsis of what brought each of these pieces to fruition, but ultimately, they are all a celebration of life, both dark and bright. In many ways, the universe has given me a 2nd chance to listen to the creative spirit in and around us all. It is my sincere hope that something in this concert reaches out to you and reminds you to cherish each day and those who are close to you.

I have been honored to have the opportunity to work with the singers and pianists who have come together to perform these works, and I am grateful to everyone who has worked both on stage and behind the scenes to make this performance possible. I would be remiss if I didn’t extend a few formal thanks.

To the Doctors, Nurses and Staff at Thomason Hospital for bringing me back to the land of the living…

To the Angels of El Paso… for everything you give to those around you.

To all the singers who have tackled this music… none of which is easy to sing!

To Dr. Dominic Douza for sponsoring this event…

To Helen and Walter Mott for their support of local vocal arts as well as my own personal projects…

To Adam and Barbie Schydlower at Desert Moon Academy of the Arts… for

To Esequiel Meza for his unrelenting ability to bring new music to life… and for being a friend.

To Mary, Barbara and Ellen for believing…

To Adam and Barbie Schydlower at Desert Moon Academy of the Arts… for being a 2nd home for me…

To Margery Rehman and Anita Barrows for your words as well as your friendship…

"Be the change you want to see in the world." – Mahatma Ghandi

Stephen Jackson
El Paso, TX 2008

If you would like further information about any of the pieces on this recital, please feel free to contact me at scyo2@yahoo.com
The Kitty-Cat Bird (Theodore Roethke 1908 - 1963)
Dr. Elisa Wilson – Mezzo-Soprano / Dr. Esequiel Meza – Accompanist

On Another Floor (Ogden Nash 1902 - 1971)
1. Lines on Facing Forty
2. The Purist
3. The People Upstairs

Eileen Wilson – Soprano / Dr. Dominic Dousa – Accompanist.

From "Bal Masque"
1. Pierrot’s Song (Sara Teasdale 1884 - 1933)
2. Carnival Evening (Margery Rehman - Contemporary)

Steven Jones – Tenor / Dr. Esequiel Meza – Accompanist

Three Songs for Mezzo Soprano (Sara Teasdale 1884 - 1933)
1. Dusk in June
2. Dew
3. Desert Pools

Dr. Elisa Wilson / Dr. Dominic Dousa – Accompanist

Three Love Songs (Sylvia Plath 1932 - 1963)
1. Cinderella
2. Jilted
3. Mad Girl’s Love Song

Samantha Morales – Soprano / Dr. Esequiel Meza – Accompanist

The Serpent, Adam and I (Various Poets)
1. Theology (Ted Hughes 1930 - 1998)
2. Adam’s Complaint (Denise Levertov 1923-1997)
3. I Didn’t Go to Church Today (Ogden Nash 1902 - 1971)

April Reneau – Soprano / Dr. Dominic Dousa – Accompanist

Wild Geese (Mary Oliver - Contemporary)

Marsha Watley – Soprano / Dr. Esequiel Meza – Accompanist

Hope (Phillip Booth - Contemporary)

Dr. Elisa Wilson – Mezzo-Soprano / Dr. Esequiel Meza – Accompanist

Please join us for a reception following the recital