Benjamin Britten was a 20th century British composer born in 1913. Britten studied music at the Royal College of Music in London. Inspired heavily by Henry Purcell, Britten sought to show the beauty of the English language through song. Britten always sets text in an odd or unique way, in tune with 20th century musical sensibilities, and often sets texts that are humorous and/or uplifting.

In Oliver Cromwell and The Foggy, Foggy Dew, Britten focuses on bringing out the humor in the text. In “The Ash Grove,” one can hear Britten’s 21st century sensibilities as the piano and vocal line begin to clash with each other.

James Taylor was born on March 12, 1948, in Boston, Massachusetts. He is an American singer-songwriter who has gone through many different styles of music, but is known best for his intimate acoustic guitar-driven pieces. Taylor has many musical accomplishments, including five Grammy Awards, an induction into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, and the sale of over 100 million records worldwide. Taylor is also one of my personal musical heroes.

Taylor was nominated for Record of the Year in 1971 for his rendition of “You’ve Got a Friend,” and won Best Male Pop Performance with the song. The song was written by Carole King in 1971 and the two musicians essentially shared the piece. In fact, King wrote the lyrics to “You’ve Got a Friend” in response to hearing the lyrics, “I’ve seen lonely times when I could not find a friend,” from the song “Fire and Rain” by James Taylor.

This recital is given in partial fulfillment of a Bachelor of Music Degree in Vocal Music Education. Christian is a student of Professor Chad Sonka.
Les cigales (The cicadas)
As the sun climbs higher and higher, patches of shade keep shrinking and noise multiplies on every side: it is noon, summer noon is singing!

Directed by the blazing star is a chorus, who have rehearsed their parts, broadcasting a raucous cantata with resolute and tireless hearts

The cicadas, those tiny fellows, out-vibrato the loudest cellos. The cicadas’ concerted din outperforms any violin!

They overdo it, the cicadas; they indulgently wallow in among the old olive-trees and the flowers of the dusty hollow.

Enchanted with their power to sing, they press on with their crazy musicking. Through the branches and browning grasses their unremitting song takes wing.

The cicadas, those tiny fellows, out-vibrato the loudest cellos. The cicadas’ concerted din outperforms any violin!

And since for the work-weary peasants the abundant sun of summer pours the magic potion of slumber, all is still, to mark this special hour... except for these fanatics filling in the spaces between the chimes of the distant church tower!

The cicadas, those tiny fellows, out-vibrato the loudest cellos. The cicadas’ concerted din outperforms any violin!

Translation by Peter Low
**Program Notes and Translations**

**Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart** was a prolific and extremely influential Classical composer born in Salzburg, Austria in 1756. Mozart was competent in keyboard and violin from a very early age and began composing music at the age of five. His first major job as a musician was playing for the Salzburg Court. After becoming tired of the position, he chose to move to Vienna to focus on composition. He died at the age of 35, but his legacy is everlasting, as he wrote more than 600 pieces of music during his lifetime.

*Don Giovanni* premiered in 1787, and is one of Mozart’s most enduring operas. In this aria, Masetto is furious that Don Giovanni is trying to woo his fiancé away from him.

Oh yes, I understand, sir!
I bow my head and go.
Since you will it so,
I won’t say anything.
You’re a gentleman,
Of that I’m in no doubt, indeed:
That’s clear from the gracious favour
You bestow on me.
Wanton hussy!
You’ve undone me!
I’m coming! I’m coming!
Stay then!
There’s a fine thing!
Let my lord make
A lady of you!

*Translation by Camila Argolo Freitas Batista*

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**Villanelle des petits canards (Villanelle of the little ducks)**

They go, the little ducks,
All at the side of the river,
Like good country folk!

Paddlers and wrigglers,
Happy to trouble the clear water,
They go, the little ducks,

They seem a little silly,
But they are at their business,
Like good country folk!

In the water full of tadpoles,
Where light grass trembles,
They go, the little ducks,

Marching in separate groups,
In a regular pace
Like good country folk!

Amorous and nasal,
Each one with its hearsay,
They go, the little ducks,
Like good country folk!

Translation by Brian Charles Witkowski

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**Antonio Caldara** was a Baroque Italian composer from Venice. Caldara was a member of the choir at St. Mark’s Cathedral in Venice. Later, he became the court composer for Charles IV, the Duke of Mantua. Finally, he settled in the court of Charles III, who would become the Holy Roman Emperor. Caldara was best known for his operas, cantatas, and oratorios.

‘Alma del core’ comes from *La costanza in amor vince l’inganno*, or *Faithfulness in Love Defeats Treachery*. It is Baroque performance practice to add ornaments to the return of the aria’s A section, in order to add interest to the melody line.

Translation by Camila Argolo Freitas Batista
Schäfers Klagelied (Sorrowful Song of the Shepherd)

On yonder hill
I have stood a thousand times,
leaning on my staff
and looking down into the valley.

I have followed the grazing flocks,
watched over by my dog,
I have come down here
and do not know how.

The whole meadow is so full
of lovely flowers;
I pluck them, without knowing
to whom I shall give them.

From rain, storm and tempest
I shelter under a tree.
The door there remains locked;
for, alas, it is all a dream.

There is a rainbow
above that house!
But she has moved away,
to distant regions.

To distant regions and beyond,
perhaps even over the sea.
Move on, sheep, move on!
Your shepherd is so wretched.

Translation by Richard Wigmore

Emmanuel Chabrier was a French Romantic composer born in 1841.

Chabrier’s family disapproved of him pursuing a career in music, and so Chabrier decided to pursue law instead. While at law school, Chabrier kept studying music on the side, and spent most of his free time practicing piano and composing. In the late 1880s, Chabrier decided to make music his full-time career.

Volailleries, or the Barnyard Suite, is a collection of songs written about various animals on poems of Edmond Rostand and Rosemonde Gérard. Villanelle des petits canards describes little ducks as they enjoy their day-to-day lives. Les cigales is a song about cicadas and the wondrous and awe-inspiring sounds they make.

Translation by Tamara Beaudoin

Giacomo Carissimi was an Italian Baroque composer who was baptized in 1605. Unlike many other famous composers, little is known about Carissimi’s youth and upbringing. He is credited with further developing the style of recitative introduced by Monteverdi, and is known for his chamber cantatas and oratorios.

“Vittoria, mio core!” contains many long melismatic runs that were common in vocal writing of this era.

Victory, my heart!
Weep no more.
Low servitude to love
is over.

The ungodly woman
decieved you
with glances and glances
and untrue caress;

Deceit and sorrow
have no more place,
The embers of her cruel fire
have gone out!

Her laughing eyes don’t shoot
arrows any longer,
which struck a mortal wound
in my breast:

Translation by Richard Wigmore

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Translation by Tamara Beaudoin