IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC & THEATRE

Linda Tong
SOPRANO

JODI GOBLE | PIANO

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2020
4:30 PM
MARTHA-ELLEN TYE RECITAL HALL
LIVESTREAMED VIA WEBCAST
selections

Please be sure to make comments and show your support throughout the recital on the official Facebook Event Page, since we are unable to hold this event in person.

Armida dispietata...Lascia ch’io pianga  
from Rinaldo

George Frideric Händel  
(1685 - 1759)

Lachen und Weinen
An die Nachtigall
Nur wer die Sehnsucht kennt
Seligkeit

Franz Schubert  
(1797 - 1828)

Il Bacio

Luigi Arditi  
(1822 - 1903)

INTERMISSION - 10 MINUTES

What Baking Can Do  
from Waitress
Sara Bareilles  
(b. 1979)

So in Love  
from Kiss Me, Kate
Cole Porter  
(b. 1891 - 1964)

No One Else  
from Natasha, Pierre & The Great Comet of 1812
Dave Malloy  
(b. 1976)

Blah Blah Blah  
from Nice Work If You Can Get It
George Gershwin  
(1898 - 1937)

All Falls Down  
from Chaplin
Christopher Curtis  
(b. 1968)

program notes & translations

George Frideric Händel was born in Halle, Germany during the Baroque era. Although Händel showed great musical talent on the organ at an early age, his father wanted him to study law. Fortunately, Händel decided to pursue music at the age of eighteen. He spent four years in Italy, then moved to England where he spent the rest of his life composing many oratorios and Italian operas.

“Armida dispietata...Lascia ch’io pianga” is a soprano aria, whose melody was originally found in Händel's opera, Almira. Händel then used the tune again for his London opera Rinaldo in 1711. It is featured in the second act where the character Almirena is making a heartfelt plea for her liberty to her abductor Argante. Rinaldo was a triumphant opera where the aria is widely recognized from.

Lascia ch’io pianga (Let me weep)
Let me weep
My cruel fate,
And that I should have freedom.

The duel infringes within these twisted places,
in my sufferings
I pray for mercy.  
Translation by Aaron Green
Franz Schubert was born in Vienna, Austria. His parents encouraged him at an early age to take piano lessons and study music in school. Schubert had a small group of friends and patrons who organized informal concerts, called Schubertiades, to perform his pieces and those of his contemporaries. Although Schubert only lived to be thirty-two, he was extremely prolific. He wrote, among other works, approximately forty liturgical works, seven completed symphonies, hundreds of piano pieces, and over six hundred Lieder (art songs).

Lachen Und Weinen was published in 1826, with text from Friedrich Rückert’s collection of poems, Östliche Rosen. An die Nachtigall was published in 1829 during the Romantic era. It’s brevity, classical poise, and restraint are imbued with intimations of the era. Nur wer die Sehnsucht kennt is a poem by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, and is one of the songs of Mignon, a character in Goethe’s novel. Seligkeit was published in 1816 with text from poet Ludwig Heinrich Christoph Hölty.

Lachen und Weinen (Laughter and Tears)
Laughter and tears at any hour
Arise in love from so many different causes.
In the morning I laughed with joy;
And why I now weep
In the evening light,
Is unknown even to me.
Tears and laughter at any hour
Arise in love from so many different causes.
In the evening I wept with grief;
And why you can wake
In the morning with laughter,
I must ask you, my heart.

Translation by Richard Stokes

An die Nachtigall (To the Nightingale)
He lies sleeping upon my heart;
my kind tutelary spirit sang him to sleep.
And I can be merry and jest,
delight in every flower and leaf.
Nightingale, ah, nightingale,
do not awaken my love
with your singing!

Nur wer die Sehnsucht kennt (Only he who knows longing)
Only he who knows longing
knows what I suffer.
Alone, cut off from all joy,
I gaze at the firmament
in that direction.
Ah, he who loves and knows me
is far away.
I feel giddy,
my vitals are aflame.
Only he who knows longing
knows what I suffer.

Translations by Richard Wigmore

Seligkeit (Bliss)
Joys without number
Bloom in the halls of Heaven
For angels and transfigured souls,
As our fathers taught us.
How I’d love to be there
And rejoice eternally!

Translation by Richard Stokes
Seligkeit (Bliss) continued
A heavenly bride smiles
Sweetly on everyone;
Harp and psalter resound,
And there’s dancing and singing.
How I’d love to be there
And rejoice eternally!

I’d sooner stay here
If Laura smiles on me
With a look that says
I’ve to grieve no more.
Blissfully then with her
I’d stay forever here!

Il Bacio (The Kiss) continued
Your look is my delight,
your kiss is my treasure.
Ah! Come! Do not delay!
Ah! Come! Let us enjoy love’s
life-giving intoxication.
Ah!

Translation by Richard Stokes

Luigi Arditi was an Italian violinist, composer, and conductor. Arditi conducted opera throughout Italy and further in his career conducted in New York, Philadelphia, Germany, and London. Alongside conducting operas, Arditi wrote numerous songs and vocal waltzes, including one of his most popular pieces, Il Bacio.

Sara Bareilles is an American singer-songwriter, actress, and producer who has received numerous Grammy and Tony nominations for her works in pop and musical theatre. She composed and wrote lyrics for the 2015 Broadway musical, Waitress which has received a Tony award nomination for Best Original Score and a Grammy nomination for Best Musical Theatre Album.

What Baking Can Do, from the musical Waitress is based off the book by Jessie Nelson. It tells the story of Jenna Hunterson, a waitress and pie chef in the American South, who unexpectantly becomes pregnant and feels trapped in her unhappy marriage. Looking for a way out, she discovers a pie baking contest and its grand prize as her one chance.

Cole Porter was an American composer and songwriter. Many of his songs became standards in film and Broadway scores. Porter was classically trained growing up but was drawn to musical theatre. By the 1930s he was one of the major songwriters for the Broadway musical state. His most successful musical, Kiss Me Kate debuted in 1948 and won the first Tony Award for Best Musical.

So in Love derives from the musical Kiss Me Kate, which is a musical adaptation of William Shakespeare’s The Taming of the Shrew.
Dave Malloy is an American composer, playwright, lyricist, and actor. His theatrical works are often based on classical works of literature. Malloy was the composer, lyricist, orchestrator, musical director, and performer for his recent musical, *Natasha, Pierre & The Great Comet of 1812*. It opened on Broadway in 2016 and he reprised his role as Pierre for the final shows.

*Natasha, Pierre & The Great Comet of 1812* is a musical adaptation of a segment of the 1869 novel *War and Peace* by Leo Tolstoy. It is based on Volume II, Part V of the novel, focusing on Natasha’s affair with Anatole and Pierre’s search for meaning in his life. *No One Else* is sung by Natasha after a dispute with her prospective fiance’s family.

George Gershwin was an American composer and pianist whose compositions spanned both popular and classical genres. He began his career as song plugger but began composing Broadway theater works with Buddy DeSylva and his brother, Ira Gershwin. Gershwin and his brother wrote what was first a commercial failure turned into one of the most important operas of the twentieth century. He then composed a variety of film scores, with compositions being adapted for uses in film, television, and jazz standards.

*Nice Work If You Can Get It* is a musical featuring songs by the Gershwin brothers with known pieces such as *Someone to Watch Over Me* and *Blah, Blah, Blah*.

Christopher Curtis is a New York based composer and lyricist who has written the songs for the upcoming Pearl Studio/Netflix feature *Over The Moon*. His composing career began when he wrote television scores for Discovery Channel, TLC, and NBC.

His musical *Chaplin* debuted on Broadway and was nominated for eight Outer Critics Circle Awards including Best Musical and Best Score. The show is based on the life of Charlie Chaplin and premiered on Broadway in 2012. *All Falls Down* is sung by the character of real life American gossip columnist and actress Hedda Hopper, who named suspected communists and was a major proponent of the Hollywood Blacklist.

This recital is given in partial fulfillment of a Bachelor of Arts in Music degree. Linda is a student of Professor Chad Sonka.