

# FREE CONCERT SERIES IN THE RICHARD BRADSHAW AMPHITHEATRE

PRESENTED BY



TD READY  
COMMITMENT

VOCAL SERIES

November 27, 2023, 12 p.m.

## *LIEBESLIEDER WALTZES*

### ARTISTS OF THE COC ENSEMBLE STUDIO

Karoline Podolak, soprano

Alex Hetherington, mezzo-soprano

Wesley Harrison, tenor

Korin Thomas-Smith, baritone

Brian Cho, pianist

Mattia Senesi, pianist

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The Free Concert Series in the Richard Bradshaw Amphitheatre is supported by the Free Concert Series Endowment Fund, established in honour of Richard Bradshaw by an anonymous donor



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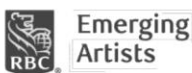
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## THE PROGRAM

Liebeslieder Waltzes, Op. 52..... Johannes Brahms

Rede, Mädchen, allzu liebes  
Am Gesteine rauscht die Flut  
O die Frauen  
Wie des Abends schöne Röte  
Die grüne Hopfenranke  
Ein kleiner, hübscher Vogel  
Wohl schön bewandt war es  
Wenn so lind dein Auge mir  
Am Donaustrande  
O wie sanft die Quelle  
Nein, es ist nicht auszukommen  
Schloss auf, und mache Schlösser  
Vögelein durchrauscht die Luft  
Sieh, wie ist die Welle klar  
Nachtigall, sie singt so schön  
Ein dunkeler Schacht ist Liebe  
Nicht wandle, mein Licht  
Es bebet das Gesträuche

Liebeslied-Lieder ..... John Greer

Life and Love  
Miss Twye  
A Lady with Technique & Frustrated Male  
Monogamy  
The Good Girl  
The Garter  
Chastity  
To the Moon  
The Sex Situation  
Anecdote  
Unfortunate Coincidence  
Superfluous Advice  
Superfluous Response  
A Very Short Song  
The Dance of Love and Romance

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## COMING UP NEXT AT THE FREE CONCERT SERIES

Tue. Dec. 5, 2023, 12–1 p.m.

VOCAL SERIES

Artists of the COC Ensemble Studio

*Songs of Cecilia Livingston*

Artists of the COC Ensemble Studio perform vocal works by COC Composer-in-Residence, Cecilia Livingston, who is praised for her “radiant and openhearted musical language” (*Vocal Arts DC*) and her “vast and curious creative mind” (*WholeNote Magazine*).

Fri. Dec. 8, 2023, 12–1 p.m.

VOCAL SERIES

Artists of The Glenn Gould School

*Rebanks Family Fellowship Showcase*

This performance showcases vocalists from the Rebanks Family Fellowship and International Performance Residency Program at The Royal Conservatory's Glenn Gould School, which is designed as a catalyst for launching successful professional careers of extraordinary Canadian emerging artists who have completed their formal training.

## YOU MIGHT ALSO LIKE...

Thu. Dec. 14, 2023, 12–1 p.m.

VOCAL SERIES

Artists of the COC Ensemble Studio

*Winter Celebrations*

Artists of the COC Ensemble Studio celebrate the winter season with beloved songs, both sacred and secular, that evoke both the cold of the natural world and the warmth of the winter holidays.

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**Rede, Mädchen, allzu liebes (Tell me, my sweetest girl)**

Tell me, my sweetest girl,  
Who with your glances  
Have kindled in my cool breast  
These wild, passionate feelings!

Will you not relent, will you,  
With an excess of virtue,  
Live without love's rapture,  
Or do you wish me to come to you?

To live without love's rapture,  
Is a bitter fate I would not suffer.  
Come, then, with your dark eyes,  
Come, when the stars beckon!

**Am Gesteine rauscht die Flut (The wildly lashed waves)**

The wildly lashed waves  
Dash against the rocks;  
Whoever has not learnt to sigh  
Will learn it when he loves.

**O die Frauen (O women)**

O women, o women,  
How they delight the heart!  
I should have long since turned a monk,  
Were it not for women!

**Wie des Abends schöne Röte (Like a lovely sunset)**

Like a lovely sunset  
I, a humble girl, would glow,  
And find favour with one alone,  
Radiating endless rapture.

**Die grüne Hopfenranke (The green tendrils of the vine)**

The green tendrils of the vine  
Creep low along the ground.  
How gloomy, too,  
The lovely young girl looks!  
Why, green tendrils!  
Why do you not stretch up to the sky?  
Why, lovely girl!  
Why is your heart so heavy?  
How can the vine grow tall  
Without support?

How can the girl be joyful,  
When her lover's far away?

**Ein kleiner, hübscher Vogel (A pretty little bird)**

A pretty little bird flew off  
Into a garden full of fruit.  
Were I a pretty little bird,  
I'd not hesitate, I'd do the same.  
But treacherous lime-twigs lay in wait;  
The poor bird could not fly away.  
Were I a pretty little bird,  
I'd hesitate, not do the same.  
The bird alighted on a fair hand,  
The lucky thing wanted nothing more.  
Were I pretty little bird,  
I'd not hesitate, I'd do the same.

**Wohl schön bewandt war es (All seemed rosy)**

All seemed rosy  
At one time  
With my life,  
With my love!  
Through a wall,  
Through ten walls,  
My lover's gaze  
Would reach me.  
But now, alas,  
I stand in front  
Of his cool gaze,  
Neither his eyes,  
Nor his heart,  
Takes note of me.

**Wenn so lind dein Auge mir (When you gaze at me so tenderly)**

When you gaze at me so tenderly  
And so full of love –  
All the gloom that assails me  
Fades away.  
Oh, do not let this love's  
Sweet ardour vanish!  
No one will love you  
As truly as I.

**Am Donaustrande (On the Danube's shore)**

On the Danube's shore there stands a house,  
From its windows a rosy girl looks out.  
The girl is excellently guarded,  
Ten bolts are fixed to her door.

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Ten bolts of iron – a mere trifle!  
I'll break them down,  
As though they were glass.

**O wie sanft die Quelle (Ah, how gently the stream)**

Ah, how gently the stream  
Meanders through the meadow!  
Ah, how sweet, when love  
Finds itself requited!

**Nein, es ist nicht auszukommen (No, it is not possible)**

No, it is not possible  
To put up with these people;  
They interpret everything  
So spitefully.

If I'm happy, they say,  
I harbour lewd desires;  
If I'm quiet, they say,  
I'm madly in love.

**Schlosser auf, und mache Schlösser (Locksmith, come, make me padlocks)**

Locksmith, come, make me padlocks,  
Padlocks without number!  
So that once and for all I can shut  
Their malicious mouths.

**Vögelein durchrauscht die Luft (A little bird flies through the skies)**

A little bird flies through the skies,  
Searching for a branch;  
Thus does one heart seek another,  
Where it might rest in bliss.

**Sieh, wie ist die Welle klar (See how clear the waves are)**

See how clear the waves are,  
When the moon shines down!  
You, my dearest love,  
Love me in return.

**Nachtigall, sie singt so schön (The nightingale sings so sweetly)**

The nightingale sings so sweetly,  
When the stars are sparkling –  
Love me, dear heart,  
Kiss me in the dark!

**Ein dunkeler Schacht ist Liebe (Love is a dark pit)**

Love is a dark pit,  
An all too dangerous well;  
I tumbled in, alas,  
Can neither hear, nor see,  
Can only recall my rapture,  
And only bemoan my grief.

**Nicht wandle, mein Licht (Do not wander, my love)**

Do not wander, my love, out there  
In the fields!  
The ground would be too wet  
For your tender feet.

The paths and tracks  
Are all flooded out there,  
So abundantly have my eyes  
Been weeping.

**Es bedet das Gesträuche (The foliage trembles)**

The foliage trembles,  
Where a bird in flight  
Has brushed against it.  
And so my soul  
Trembles too, shuddering  
With love, desire and pain,  
Whenever it thinks of you.

*(Texts: Georg Friedrich Daumer  
Translations: Richard Stokes)*

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### Life and Love

Oh, life is a glorious cycle of song,  
A medley of extemporanea;  
And love is a thing that can never go wrong;  
And I am Marie of Rumania.

*(Text: Dorothy Parker)*

### Miss Twye

Miss Twye was soaping her breasts in the bath  
When she heard behind her a meaning laugh  
And to her amazement she discovered  
A wicked man in the bathroom cupboard.

*(Text: Gavin Ewart)*

### A Lady with Technique & Frustrated Male

As I was letting down my hair  
I met a guy who didn't care;  
He didn't care again to-day -  
I love 'em when they get that way!

One night I met when stepping out  
A gal who wasn't thereabout;  
I said 'Hel-lo! And how are you!'  
She didn't say; so I never knew.

*(Text: Hughes Mearns)*

### Monogamy

Accursed from their birth they be  
Who seek to find monogamy,  
Pursuing it from bed to bed -  
I think they would be better dead.

*(Text: Dorothy Parker)*

### The Good Girl

Words of comfort to be scratched on a mirror:  
Helen of Troy had a wandering glance,  
Sappho's restriction was only the sky,  
Ninon\* was ever the chatter of France,  
But oh, what a good girl am I!

*(Text: Dorothy Parker)*

### The Garter

Why blush, dear girl, pray tell me why?  
You need not, I can prove it:  
For though your garter met my eye,  
My thoughts were far above it.

*(Text: anonymous)*

### Chastity

No, no, for my Virginity,  
When I lose that", says Rose, "I'll die!"

"Behind the elms, last Night", cry'd Dick,  
"Rose, were you not extremely Sick?"

*(Text: Matthew Prior)*

### To the Moon

Oh Moon, when I look on thy beautiful face,  
[Careening] along through the boundaries of space,  
The thought has quite frequently come to my mind,  
If ever I'll gaze on thy glorious behind.

*(Text: anonymous)*

### The Sex Situation

Woman wants monogamy;  
Man delights in novelty.  
Love is woman's moon and sun;  
Man has other forms of fun.  
Woman lives but in her lord;  
Count to ten, and man is bored.  
With this the gist and sum of it,  
What earthly good can come of it?

*(Text: Dorothy Parker)*

### Anecdote

So silent I when Love was by  
He yawned and turned away;  
Now Sorrow clings to my apron-strings,  
I have so much to say.

*(Text: Dorothy Parker)*

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### Unfortunate Coincidence

By the time you swear you're his,  
Shivering and sighing,  
And he vows his passion is  
Infinite, undying-  
Lady, make a note of this:  
One of you is lying.

*(Text: Dorothy Parker)*

### Superfluous Advice

Should they whisper false of you,  
Never trouble to deny;  
Should the words they say be true,  
Weep and storm and swear they lie.

*(Text: Dorothy Parker)*

### Superfluous Response

We men have many faults,  
Poor women have but two:  
There's nothing good they say;  
There's nothing good they do.

*(Text: anonymous)*

### A Very Short Song

Once, when I was young and true,  
Someone left me sad -  
Broke my brittle heart in two;  
And that is very bad.

Love is for unlucky folk,  
Love is but a curse.  
Once there was a heart I broke;  
And that, I think, is worse.

*(Text: Dorothy Parker)*

### The Dance of Love and Romance

With Love the need, Romance the food,  
United in our solitude  
For ev'ry daughter, ev'ry son  
The dance goes on.

So weep and ache and storm and smart.  
Rail and curse the gods above,  
Then tend your broken, battered heart  
And love.

*(Text: anonymous)*

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# Artists of the COC Ensemble Studio



Artists of the COC Ensemble Studio: (l-r) pianist Brian Cho, mezzo-soprano Alex Hetherington, tenor Wesley Harrison, soprano Karoline Podolak, mezzo-soprano Queen Hezumuryango, pianist Mattia Senesi, sopranos Charlotte Siegel and Ariane Cossette, and baritone Korin Thomas-Smith

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### **Brian Cho – pianist**

Brian Cho studied in London, Ontario, where he completed his Bachelor of Musical Arts and Masters in Collaborative Piano at Western University and has since participated in the Orford Summer Music Academy, the Accademia Europea Dell’Opera, and, most recently, Music Academy of the West. He won first place in the 2023 Marilyn Horne Song Competition and has been nominated numerous times in the Classical Musician of the Year category of the Forest City London Music Awards. In addition to being an accomplished concert pianist and music director, Cho is the co-founder and head coach of Can of Soup Collective, a non-profit organization dedicated to making opera accessible and relatable to wider audiences.

### **Wesley Harrison – tenor**

Hailing from Windsor ON, Wesley Harrison, named in 2023 as one of CBC’s “30 hot classical musicians under 30,” is a tenor who holds his master’s degree in opera and voice performance from McGill University as well as a bachelor in vocal performance from Wilfrid Laurier University. In 2022, before placing third in the Canadian Opera Company’s Ensemble Studio Competition, he earned the Jacqueline Desmarais Foundation bursary, the Jean-Paul Jeannotte bursary; in 2021, he was also a finalist in the Wirth Vocal Prize. During his time in Montreal, Harrison was able to work with various local composers and companies such as Luna Pearl Woolf and Sortilegio and took great joy in the collaborative process of these workshops. Recent roles include Don Ottavio in *Don Giovanni* and Valcour in *L’amant anonyme* (Opera McGill). This season Harrison can be seen on the COC’s mainstage performing as First Prisoner in *Fidelio* and Parpignol in *La Bohème*.

### **Alex Hetherington – mezzo-soprano**

Mezzo-soprano Alex Hetherington, named in 2023 as one of CBC’s “30 hot classical musicians under 30,” was most recently seen on the COC mainstage as Mercédès in *Carmen* (2022) and the Attendant in *Salome* (2023). Her recent concert performances include Mozart’s *Requiem* (National Arts Centre), *Songs from the House of Death* (Victoria Symphony), and *Neruda Songs* (University of Toronto Symphony Orchestra). Past operatic credits include Rosina in *The Barber of Seville*, Carmen in *La tragédie de Carmen* (UofT Opera), Nicklausse in *Les contes d’Hoffmann*, and [Riley] in Tapestry Opera’s *R.U.R. A Torrent of Light*, for which she won a 2022 Dora Mavor Moore Award. Hetherington holds a master’s in opera performance from the University of Toronto and has a passion for contemporary music, composition, and innovative recital programming. She can be seen at the COC this season as the Second Handmaiden in *Medea*, and in a relaxed performance of *The Cunning Little Vixen* as the Dog.

### **Karoline Podolak – soprano**

Toronto-born Polish-Canadian soprano Karoline Podolak holds a master’s degree from the Karol Szymanowski Academy of Music in Poland. She had her operatic debut at Silesian Opera House as Zuzia in Moniuszko’s *Verbum Nobile*, and Adele in Strauss’ *Die Fledermaus*. Recent opera credits include Violetta in *La Traviata* at the National Opera and Ballet of Bulgaria, and Fire/Princess/Nightingale in Ravel’s *L’enfant et les sortilèges* with Opéra de Montréal. Last season, Podolak was a member of the Atelier Lyrique of Opéra de Montréal. Since 2021, she has been a Jeune

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Ambassadeur Lyrique of Théâtre Lyrichorégra 20. In 2022, she took home both the First Prize and the Audience Choice Award at the Canadian Opera Company's Ensemble Studio Competition. This past year, Podolak won a George and Nora London Foundation Award and Second Prize at the Loren L. Zachary Competition in Los Angeles.

#### **Mattia Senesi – pianist**

Mattia Senesi is an Italian pianist born in Arezzo, Italy. He graduated with honours at Istituto Superiore di Studi Musicali (ISSM) Franci of Siena and then completed his master's in piano performance with honours at ISSM Mascagni of Livorno. During his studies, Senesi won several national and international competitions, both as a soloist and as part of chamber music ensembles. He has collaborated with different choirs and opera ensembles in Italy and North America, such as Coro Voceincanto, Ensemble Modulation, Choir Massenet, University of Tennessee Opera Theater, and Opera Viva! Summer program in Verona, Italy. Currently, Senesi is completing his doctorate in Collaborative Piano at the University of Montreal, where he also served as a collaborative pianist for Projet Nouvel Opéra, Opéra de l'Université de Montreal, and for the university's École LUMI.

#### **Korin Thomas-Smith – baritone**

Korin Thomas-Smith holds a Master of Music in Opera and a bachelor's in voice performance from the University of Toronto, and has completed a Master of Musical of Musical Arts at Yale University. Thomas-Smith is a past participant of the Ravinia Steans Music Festival, the Music Academy of the West, and the Rebanks Family Fellowship and International Performance Residency at the Royal Conservatory of Music. Recently, Thomas-Smith was a Young Artist at the Glimmerglass Festival, performing as Argante in Handel's *Rinaldo*. In 2021, he was named one of CBC Music's "30 hot classical musicians under 30."

#### **Liz Upchurch – Head of Music, Ensemble Studio**

Liz Upchurch is a graduate of the Royal Academy of Music in London, England, where she won several prizes as a solo pianist and accompanist. As a music director, vocal coach and répétiteur she has worked in 21st-century and traditional opera, music theatre, and theatre. She has also covered a wide range of working techniques with singers, actors and instrumentalists in community and educational projects. For many years she worked with young artists at the Britten-Pears School in Aldeburgh where she played for masterclasses with artists such as Anthony Rolfe Johnson, Suzanne Danco, William Pleeth and Dame Joan Sutherland. Ms. Upchurch has also worked at the Kammeroper Schloss Rheinsberg festival in Germany and the National Theatre in London. She held a faculty position in the 20th-century opera and song program at the Banff Centre for the Arts and was répétiteur and chorus director at Edmonton Opera. As a pianist she has performed all over Europe and has been broadcast with the BBC, Norwegian Radio and CBC. Ms. Upchurch also appeared as a judge on Bravo's hit series, *Bathroom Divas: So you want to be an opera singer!*

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