

Program Notes

Richard Strauss (1864-1949)

Cacilie, 1849

Allerseelen, 1885

Kornblumen, 1984

Morgen, 1894

Strauss's songs contain passionate poetry and richly textured accompaniments. One of Strauss's main inspirations was his wife, Pauline who was a soprano he often collaborated with. "Morgen" was one of the pieces he composed in celebration of their marriage. The beautiful piano interlude sets an atmosphere of wonder and rapture. "Cacilie" was added to this set at the last minute and features a passionate vocal line. "Allerseelen" translates to All Souls Day, a day dedicated to remembering the deceased. This love song is set against the background of a graveside flower. "Kornblumen" stands out as one of his earlier works and is more youthful and was likely performed at parties.

Douglas Stuart Moore (1893-1969)

The Letter aria from *Ballad of Baby Doe*, 1956

Baby Doe writes a letter to her mother, saying that her marriage to Harvey Doe, the miner, is over. She continues by telling her that she has found her soulmate in Horace Tabor and they both love each other equally. However, Tabor is married and, torn between her love and what is right, she feels that she must leave.

Florence Price (1927-1953)

An April Day 1949

Sympathy (undated)

Hold Fast to Dreams 1945

Florence Price was an African American classical composer, organist, pianist and teacher. She was the first African American woman to have her work performed by a symphony. Dunbar's Poem "Sympathy" depicts a caged bird wishing to be free, a symbolism for oppression. The setting is especially relevant to Price's experiences and the obstacles she faced as an African American Composer whose works have historically been overlooked. "The poet Langston Hughes dreamed of reaching the clouds. The central theme in his poem 'Dreams' declared: 'Hold fast to dreams' / because without them, life is a 'broken winged bird / That cannot fly.' Epitomizing the Harlem Renaissance movement that peaked in the 1920s, calling for substantive economic and political changes for all African Americans (W Jason Miller)."

Kundiman (Filipino Art Songs)

Sa Kabukiran 1941 by Manuel P Velez

Byan Ko 1928, by Constancio de Guzman (1903-1982)

Ang Maya 1905 by Jose Estrella (1870-1943)

Ikaw ang Mahal Ko by Levi Celerio (1910-2001)

The Song "Sa Kabukiran" reminisces of the beauty of the countryside. A movie based on this song was released in 1947 and was popularized by the famous soprano, Sylvia La Torre. "Bayan ko", is notably one of the most famous patriotic songs from the Philippines and known as the second official national anthem. Jose Estrella was known for his waltzes and Filipinoizing Spanish zarzuela often with subtle nationalistic symbolism. Ang Maya comes from the Filipino sarswela *Filipinas para los Filipinos* a piece written in

response to a racist law passed in the US banning the marriage between a Filipino man and an American Woman. *Ikaw ang mahal ko* is a classic love song that has been reprised by many pop singers today.

Rodgers and Hammerstine 1902–1979, 1895–1960

I have dreamed from the King and I 194

Lun Tha and Tuptim are forbidden to be together, as Tuptim has been gifted to the king. They sing of how they have dreamt of loving each other in freedom.

Adam Guettel (b.1964)

Beauty is from Light in the Piazza 2003, Adam Guettel (b.1964)

It is Clara's first day in Florence. A young Italian man catches her hat in the wind and they are instantly smitten. Her mother steers her away bringing her to the Uffizi Gallery.

Verdi (1813-1901)

Caro nome from *Rigoletto* 1851

Gilda has just been visited by the Duke disguised as the poor student Gualtier Malde and is completely infatuated with him.