



Portland Rossini Club

Celebrating its 145th Season

Presents

Vocal Works of Johannes Brahms

**Performed by Members and Friends of
Portland Rossini Club**

**Danielle Vayenas, Mary Johnston and Lurette Saul, sopranos
Jazmin DeRice* and Jenna Guiggey*, mezzo-sopranos
George Eisenhauer and Jesse Wakeman*, tenors
Joshua Miller*, baritone
and Mark Rossnagel, piano**



**Cathedral of Saint Luke
Portland, Maine**

**3:00 PM
Sunday, September 13, 2015**

President
Program chair

Cecile DeRoche-Gain
Lurette Saul

*Guest



The Portland Rossini Club begins its 145th season with Vocal Works of Johannes Brahms

Warum

**Luette Saul, Jazmin DeRice
George Eisenhauer, Joshua Miller**

Why then do songs resonate ever up towards heaven? They would draw down the stars that twinkle and sparkle above; or luna's lovely embrace; or the warm blissful days of the blessed gods towards us!
Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (1749-1832)

Die Mainacht

Danielle Vayenas

As the moon shines silver through the trees casting its sleepy light on the grass, the nightingale sings, and I wander sadly from bush to bush. Hidden, a pair of doves coo their pleasure, but I turn aside in search of deeper shade, and shed a tear. Oh when, you smiling face which like the dawn lights up my soul, will I find you here on earth? The tear burns my cheek.

Ludwig Heinrich Christoph Hölty (1748-1776)

Klänge #1

Mary Johnston, Jenna Guiggey

Out of the earth comes flowers, out of the sun comes light, out of the heart comes love, and from pain it is broken. And the flowers must wilt, and darkness follows light, and love is followed by yearning that the heart makes somber.

Klaus Groth (1819-1899)

Die Schwestern

Die Schwestern: We two sisters, we beauties, our faces so similar: identical as two eggs, identical as two stars.

We two sisters, we beauties, we have nut brown tresses: if you plait them together you can't tell them apart.

We two sisters, we beauties, we dress the same: walking in the meadow and singing hand in hand.

We two sisters, we beauties, we race each other at spinning. We sit together in an alcove, and sleep in the same bed.

O sisters two, you beauties, how the tables have turned: you love the same sweetheart, and now the song is over!

Eduard Möricke (1833-1897)

Wie bist du meine Königin

Jesse Wakeman

How blissful you are, my queen, when you are gentle and good! Merely smile, and spring fragrance wafts through my spirit blissfully! The brightness of freshly blooming roses, shall I compare it to yours? Ah, soaring over all that blooms is your bloom, blissful! Wander through dead wastelands, and green shadows will be spreading, even if fearful sultriness broods there without end...blissfully! Let me die in your arms! It is in them that Death itself, even if the sharpest pain rages in my breast... is blissful!

Georg Friedrich Daumer (1800-1875)

Sehnsucht

**Luette Saul, Jazmin DeRice
George Eisenhauer, Joshua Miller**

The waters run day and night: your yearning awakes. You think of times past, now so far away. You gaze out into the morning light and are alone. The waters run day and night; your yearning awakes.

Theodor Kugler (1808-1858)

Der Tod, das ist die kühle Nacht

Jazmin DeRice

Death is the cool night, life is the sultry day. It now grows dark; I'm drowsy, the day has wearied me. Above my bed rises a tree, the young nightingale sings there, it seems; she sings of naught but love - I hear it even in my dreams.

Heinrich Heine (1797-1856)

Es rauschet das Wasser

Jenna Guiggey, Joshua Miller

She: The water rushes and will not stay still; The stars pass merrily in the sky, the clouds advance merrily in the sky, and so love rushes and wanders there.

The waters are rushing, the clouds dissolving; yet the stars remain: wander and hover. And so it happens as well with Love: It sways, it stirs, and does not change.

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (1749-1842)

In Waldeseinsamkeit

Mary Johnston

I sat at your feet in the loneliness of the forest; The breath of the wind, like longing, went through the broad treetops. In mute struggle I sank my head into your lap, and my shaking hands I clasped about your knees. The sun set, the day lost its glow. Far, far, far away sang a single nightingale.

Karl von Lemcke (1831-1913)

Der Gang zum Liebchen

**Luette Saul, Jazmin DeRice
George Eisenhauer, Joshua Miller**

The Moon gleams down, I should yet again go to my darling. How does she fare? Alas, she's despondent and laments that I will never see her again in her life. The moon sinks in her life. The moon sinks briskly - hurrying so that nobody shall steal my love away. O coo, you doves! Whir, you breezes! So that nobody shall steal my love away.

Josef Wenzig (1807-1876)

So lass uns wandern

Danielle Vayenas, Jesse Wakeman

Ah, maiden, dear maiden, How dark are your eyes! I almost fear they've enchanted me, full of terrible cunning.

"And if my eyes were darker, much darker than they are now, even then, my love, I would never bewitch you."

The crow on that oak, look how she pecks at acorns! Who knows whom Heaven will one day send you as a bridegroom?

"And tell me, whom should it send? I gave you my word, as you know, beneath the green tree by our hut over there."

All right, then let us wander, you walking brightly by my side; a dress of green I shall buy you, my maiden. A dress of green, and not too long: so that you can walk with me and not be hindered on your way. We will wander gaily, across mountains and into valleys; the great wide woods will be our chamber.

Josef Wenzig (1807-1876)

Auf dem kirchhofe

Joshua Miller

The day was heavy with rain and disturbed by storms; I was walking among many forgotten graves, with weathered stones and crosses, the wreaths old, the names washed away, hardly to be read. The day was disturbed by storms and heavy with rain; on every grave froze the words "we were." The coffins slumbered calmly like the eye of a storm, and on every grave melted quietly the words: "we were healed."

Detlev von Liliencron (1844-1909)

O Schöne Nacht

**Luette Saul, Jazmin DeRice
George Eisenhauer, Joshua Miller**

Oh beautiful night! The moon is fabulously shining in its complete splendor in the sky. Around it, sweet company of little stars. Oh beautiful night! The dew is shimmering brightly on the green blades of grass. The nightingale sings ardently in the lilac bush, and the boy steals softly to his lover. Oh beautiful night!

Georg Friedrich Daumer (1800 - 1875)

Johannes Brahms

Johannes Brahms was born in Hamburg on May 7th, 1833, the son of a double bassist and a seamstress and the second of three children. As a teenager he was contributing to the family's modest income by playing at dance halls, brothels and along the city's docks. He began to compose also at an early age. In 1868, following the death of his mother, Brahms wrote what has become his most famous work, Ein Deutsche Requiem (A German Requiem), based not on the mass but on biblical texts, in German. It is often cited as one of the most important choral pieces of the 19th century, bringing together mixed chorus, solo voices and a complete orchestra. It was the success of the Requiem that cemented his European reputation, and led to further success and acclaim. In 1890 at the age of 57, Brahms decided to give up composing but was unable to stick to this decision: in the final years of his life he produced a number of masterpieces, including his clarinet quintet and the Vier ernste Lieder (four serious songs). His last public appearance was March 3rd, 1897, a performance of his fourth symphony which saw a standing ovation after each one of the movements. He died a month later, at the age of 63, probably from cancer of the liver.

Please join us for a reception following the performance

Many thanks to St. Luke's Cathedral for the use of their facilities for our programs

Today's Performers

Jazmin DeRice, Mezzo Soprano: A Maine native, Jazmin currently resides in NYC. Ms. DeRice has sung with USM Opera, Mannes Opera, PORTopera, Lincoln Arts Festival, Southern Maine Symphony Orchestra, and City Theater in Biddeford. Most recently, she was heard singing along side Don Carrigan of WCHS 6 with the St. Cecilia Chamber Choir's production of Purcell's *The Fairy-Queen*. DeRice is a recipient of the Lillian Nordica Award, first place NATS, and Bay Chamber Concert series for Vocal Excellence. While completing her studies at Mannes Conservatory, Ms. DeRice is a frequent soloist at the Reformed Church of Bronxville and performs in weekly art song recitals. DeRice received her Bachelor's and Master's degrees from USM under the guidance of Ellen Chickering and Margaret Yauger.

George Eisenhauer, Tenor: Originally from Pittsburgh, PA, George holds a Bachelor's degree in Music Performance from the University of Southern Maine and is currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in Music Education, as well as graduate studies in Music Performance. At USM, George studies with Ellen Chickering and has performed many principal roles in the opera workshop program, such as Rinuccio in Puccini's *Gianni Schicchi*, Alfred from Johann Strauss' *Die Fledermaus*, and selections from Handel's *Acis and Galatea* with the Southern Maine Symphony Orchestra. In Maine, George has been a soloist in the White Mountain Bach Festival's performance of Handel's *Messiah*, as well as the Penobscot Bay Singers' performance of Handel's *Messiah* last December. He has also performed the role of Frederic in Lincoln County Community Theater's production of Gilbert and Sullivan's *Pirates of Penzance*.

Jenna Guiggey, Mezzo-soprano: Jenna is a singer and music educator based in Portland. Jenna studied classical voice with Ellen Chickering and Bruce Fithian at the University of Southern Maine, earning degrees in music education and vocal pedagogy. While at USM, Jenna was a soloist in Handel's *Messiah*, Mozart's *Requiem*, and participated in numerous performances with the Opera Workshop, most recently as a Senator in Gilbert and Sullivan's comic operetta, *Iolanthe*. This summer, Jenna performed the roles of Medea and Delfa in scenes from Cavalli's *Il Giasone* at the Queens College Baroque Opera Workshop. In addition to performance, Ms. Guiggey maintains an active private vocal studio in the Greater Portland area, and directs choirs at Greely Middle School and The Boy Singers of Maine.

Mary Johnston, Soprano: Mary attended Boston Conservatory for both her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Opera. She has received additional education from the "Seagle Music Colony" in upstate New York and "Flagstaff in Fidenza" in Fidenza, Italy. She studies with Dr. Rebecca Folsom. Mary has enjoyed membership in the Music Honors Society *Pi Kappa Lambda* since her junior year of college. Recently, she has performed in *La Traviata* as Violetta, *The Mikado* as Peep-Bo, *Hansel and Gretel* as the Sandman, *The Old Maid and the Thief* as Mrs. Pinkerton, *La Rondine* as Magda, and *Don Pasquale* as Norina. In addition, Mary served as Soprano section leader for Boston's historic Old North Church under Libor Dudas's direction.

Joshua Miller, Baritone: Originally from Southwest Harbor, Josh is a graduate of the University of Southern Maine's vocal performance program. Joshua has most recently seen as The Father in *Hansel and Gretel* and Faulka in *Die Fledermaus*, and Dottore Grenvil in *La Traviata*. Joshua has been living in New York City while he pursues his opera career.

Mark Rosznagel, Piano: Mark holds a Bachelor of Music in organ performance from SUNY Binghamton and is finishing his Master's in piano performance at the University of Southern Maine, where he studies with Laura Kargul. This Fall he joins the faculty at USM to teach two courses of class piano, and begins his tenure as music director at First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church in Portland. He is active in the Greater Portland musical community as both soloist and collaborator and enjoys teaching piano to students of all ages and levels.

Lurette Saul, Soprano: Lurette holds degrees from the San Francisco Conservatory and University of Southern Maine. She serves on the board of the Portland Rossini Club, and teaches voice at at Bates College and at her studio in Portland.

Danielle Vayenas, Soprano: Danielle resides in Portland, Maine, and has performed as a featured concert soloist in Maine with groups including the Oratorio Chorale, Midcoast Symphony Orchestra, the Maine Music Society, Bowdoin Chorale, and the Choral Art Society, most recently having sung the Brahms *Requiem* with them. She has also sung in the greater Boston area, including a concert performance of operatic arias and duets in February with the Salem Philharmonic, and she has previously performed with the Longwood Opera, the Masterworks Chorale, and the Paul Madore Chorale. Works she has sung include Haydn's *Creation*, Mozart's *Requiem* and *Mass in C minor*, Brahms and Verdi's *Requiem*s and many other oratorio works, as well as selections from opera and Broadway. She has studied voice with David Goulet, leading to NATS awards in Maine and Boston, and has coached with Kathleen Scott. During her spare time, Danielle is Director of Communications at the University of Southern Maine.

Jesse Wakeman, Tenor: Jesse holds a Bachelor's degree in Music Education from the University of Southern Maine, and is currently pursuing a graduate degree in choral conducting. Jesse is one of the artistic directors for the Boy Singers of Maine and directs the Concert Choir, the premier treble ensemble for the group. His collegiate studies have given him experience in all forms of music, from opera to jazz, and have also fostered his love for composition. For the past several years he has joyfully served as the choir director for the North Yarmouth Congregational Church and has maintained a small private voice studio catering to young singers who are passionate about the vocal art. Jesse is an active performer, lending his talents to a variety of concert work and operatic roles, both at USM and various other professional organizations and events, including PORTopera, St. Mary's Schola and the White Mountain Musical Arts Annual Bach Festival. His efforts have won him several awards and honors such as the 100th Annual Lillian Nordica Memorial Scholarship and the Bay Chamber Concerts Young Stars Prize for Vocal Excellence.

