Spring 4-2-2016

Senior Recital: Karen Ratcliffe, soprano

Karen Ratcliffe

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THE DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC
VASSAR COLLEGE

Senior Recital

Karen Ratcliffe, soprano

assisted by
David Alpher, piano

Saturday, 2 April 2016
1:30 PM
Martel Recital Hall
Skinner Hall of Music
Please silence all cellphones and refrain from using handheld devices during the performance. Use of these instruments will disturb other audience members and cause interference with in-house recording and webcasting.

**Program**

12 Poems of Emily Dickinson

1. Nature, the gentlest mother
2. There came a wind like a bugle
3. Why do they shut me out of Heaven?
4. The world feels dusty
5. Heart, we will forget him
6. Dear March, come in!
7. Sleep is supposed to be
8. When they come back
9. I felt a funeral in my brain
10. I’ve heard an organ talk sometimes
11. Going to Heaven!
12. The Chariot

**INTERMISSION**

Sonnets from the Portuguese

1. I thought once how Theocritus had sung
2. My letters!
3. With the same heart, I said, I’ll answer thee
4. If I leave all for thee
5. Oh, Yes!
6. How do I love thee?

**Acknowledgements**

In my four years at Vassar, I have improved as a musician and a singer in ways I’d never thought possible. Preparing for this recital has been both a joy and a trial, and though I’m extremely proud of what I’ve accomplished, I could not have made it this far without the help of many people.

Thanks to my advisor, Kathryn Libin, for inspiring me daily and encouraging my growth as a student and a musician. Thanks to Jennie Litt for your whimsical words, patient coaching, and for trusting me with your beautiful songs. Thanks to the music department, particularly Michael Pisani, Christine Howlett, Ashley Jackson, Justin Patch, and Peter McCulloch, for their skill as educators and supportive mentors. Special thanks to Amy Kawa for her crucial logistical assistance throughout this process.

Thanks to everyone with whom I’ve sung in these spaces: WoCo, Mads, BAM: your voices and your love have changed me for the better both as a singer and a person, and I will be forever grateful.

Thanks to my family, especially my parents Stephen and Anita, for instilling in me a love of music and singing and for supporting me every step along the way. Thanks also to Galen and Hollace: your friendship means more than I can ever say.

Thanks to Emily Dickinson and Elizabeth Barrett Browning for your stunning ways with words, and to Aaron Copland and Libby Larsen for your intricate and sometimes maddeningly difficult melodies. I have learned so much from you.

Above all, enormous thanks and gratitude to David and Drew for their tutelage, support, countless hours of work, and unwavering faith in me.

Now, let’s have some fun!

“And I’d like to look a little more at such a curious earth.”

Please join us in Thekla Hall after the recital for refreshments and celebration.