

Spring 3-7-2015

Senior Recital: Julia Boscov-Ellen, conducting and composition

Julia Boscov-Ellen

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THE DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC
VASSAR COLLEGE

Senior Recital

Julia Boscov-Ellen,
conducting and composition

Saturday, 7 March 2015
1:30 PM
Martel Recital Hall
Skinner Hall of Music

Please silence all cell phones or other personal electronic devices and refrain from texting. Use of these instruments may disturb other audience members and will cause interference with in-house recording and webcasting.

Program

Mahagonny Choir

Neither Angels, nor Demons, nor Powers Timothy C. Takach
(b. 1978)

Plane Boy Diana Hill '07
(b. 1985)

Earth Song Frank Ticheli
(b. 1958)

Vassar College Women's Chorus

Hotaru Koi arr. Rō Ogura
(1916-1990)

Rose Trilogy Eleanor Daley
(b. 1955)
I. A Red, Red Rose
II. The White Rose
III. The Lost Rose
Nick Ginsburg '18, *piano*

Vassar College Choir

Sicut Cervus Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina
(c. 1525-1594)

Sancta Maria Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
(1756-1791)

Maria Ramsey '15 and Timothy Yoo '17, *violins*,
Jaylin Remensperger '17, *viola*, and David Toto '16, *cello*,
Sarah Johnson '16, *organ*

INTERMISSION

Borrelia String Quartet Julia Boscov-Ellen
(b. 1993)

Maria Ramsey '15 and Timothy Yoo '18, *violins*,
Jaylin Remensperger '17, *viola*, and David Toto '16, *cello*

For an Optimist Boscov-Ellen

Damon Yizhou Jiang '17, *oboe*
Sarah Johnson '16, *piano*

Advice from Rumi Boscov-Ellen

Regina Kraweic '15, Madison Hayes '15, and
Ana Isabel Torruella '17, *mezzo-sopranos*,
Maria Ramsey '15 and Timothy Yoo '18, *violins*,
Jaylin Remensperger '17, *viola*, and David Toto '16, *cello*,
Hanna Rivera '18, *oboe*, Damon Yizhou Jiang '17, *English horn*,
Daniel Gu '17, *French horn*

Program notes

Borrelia String Quartet

The title of this piece, “Borrelia,” is a deceptively beautiful word. It makes me think of the aurora borealis, or perhaps some sort of flower. In reality it is a genus of bacteria—specifically, a spirochete that can cause Lyme disease. The music is not meant to be programmatic; there is no narrative involved, the name just reflected my state of mind (and body).

For an Optimist

This is an ode to two constant sources of light and inspiration—one real, one fictional. They are sweet, simple, playful (if a bit clumsy), incredibly loving and loyal to a fault. It is easy to underestimate them, since optimism is sometimes confused with naïveté; this is a mistake. To stay positive in difficult times takes more courage than they get credit for.

Advice from Rumi

I wrote this piece for a group of musicians at the Siena Summer Music Festival; it was written, rehearsed and performed in the span of about a week and a half. Rumi’s poetry has been a constant presence in my household since before I was born. Even so, I’ve only grown to appreciate him recently. The balance of insight and joy that comes through in the text pulls me in, and, while it’s not included in this piece, his sense of humor is also spectacular. Although the text I chose to set resonates with me strongly, perhaps Rumi’s wisest words are still: “Either give me more wine or leave me alone.”



Thank you

While this is technically listed as my senior recital, a glance at the rest of the program should be enough to make it clear that today is not just about me, but also about all of the fantastic performers who join me on this stage. I am incredibly lucky to have met so many talented musicians while at Vassar, and even luckier to call them my friends. This community is an excellent example of music’s extraordinary ability to unite people. My love of conducting, singing, and composing stems from the way music helps me connect with others. For the past four years the Vassar Music Department has introduced me to so many people who share my

passion. Making music with other people has been a tremendous source of comfort, especially in the more difficult moments. “Music and singing/have been my refuge,” as Ticheli says, “and music and singing/shall be my light.”

There are so many people to thank that I don’t know where to begin. Thank you to Christine Howlett, of course, for your wisdom, guidance and support and for being such an incredible role model. Choir has been my favorite part of Vassar and I truly don’t know what I would have done without you, or WOCO in general. To Richard Wilson, for pushing me past my comfort zone even though my compositions tend to be “stubbornly diatonic,” and for helping me to expand my horizons. Thank you to Michael Pisani and Todd Crow for your kindness, patience, and advice. To Kathryn Libin and Susan Botti, thank you both for being such engaging professors and setting excellent examples for women making music (or really for anyone making music). Thank you to Amy Kawa for all of your help and kindness and for being such a wonderful boss. To Barbara Olsen, thank you so much for always being there to give me some much-needed perspective and for reminding me that some monkeys are just not part of my circus. I’m not sure when “correlate advisor” turned into “life coach” but I’m extremely grateful for your help. Thank you to my family for your constant encouragement and cat pictures. To my incredible, supportive, beautiful and talented friends: I could not possibly have done this without you. Most of all, of course, thank you to the performers who are helping me today. I hope you have had as much fun on this journey as I have.

Mahagonny Choir

Soprano I

Sunny Gaughen '18
Maddie Pollis '16
Maria Ramsey '15

Soprano II

Mengyu Chen '17
Ilana Waite '18
Margaret Yap '15

Alto

Anna Abrams '18
Melanie Donnelly '17
Pilar Jefferson '15
Sarah Johnson '16
Cassandre Stirpe '15

Tenor

Ben Liu '15
Nick Ruggeri '18
Joseph Sopchak '16

Bass

Pietro Geraci '18
Michael Oosterhaut '18
Logan Pitts '17
Patrick Walker '16

Vassar College Women's Chorus

Soprano I

Laura Barreto '17
Elisabeth Boyce-Jacino '18
Tonya Ingerson '18
Emma Mathes '17
Maddie Pollis '16
Maria Ramsey '15
Karen Ratcliffe '16

Soprano II

Ashley Barad '16
Catherine Belleza '18
Marissa Hashizume '15
Mary Leshner '16
Gloriana Macagnone '18
Hanna Rivera '18
Sarah Rodeo '17
Aja Saalfeld '15

Alto I

Hannah Joy Braak '18
Rachel Fuerstman '16
Emma Glassman '16
Sarah Dolan '18
Madison Hayes '15
Regina Krawiec '15

Alto II

Melanie Donnelly '17
Pilar Jefferson '15
Sarah Johnson '16
Insun Kang '17

Vassar College Choir

Soprano

Lydia Ciaputa '15
Corinne Cotta '16
Sophie Dewil '17
Asia Howard '16
Chiara Mannarino '18
Ruby Pierce '16
Malinda Reese '16
Sarah Rodeo '17
Imani Russell '18
Hannah Snyder-Samuels '15
Gileann Tan '17
Nora Telford '18
Ana Isabel Torruella '17
Mira Villevik '17

Alto

Victoria Abut '18
Anna Brashear '15
Andrea Friscia '15
Alex Gittens '18
Sarah Goldberg '18
Savannah Holcomb '15
Sarah Johnson '16
Bailey Kenny '17
Jay Leichtman '18
Alexandra Prow '15
Allegra Robertson '15
Margaret Yap '15

Tenor

Patrick Brady '15
Josh Bruce '16
Nick Ginsburg '18
Jeff Kim '16
Francis Kundi '18
Benjamin Liu '15
Jordan Peyer '18
John Rezes '18
Jack Rowland '15
Nick Ruggeri '18
Lukas Sarnow '17
Daniel Young '17

Bass

Ari Bell '18
Zach Brashear '18
Tymon Dickson '15
Dylan Fruh '17
Jason Goldman '18
Jeremy Middleman '18
Andrew Murphy '15
Michael Oosterhout '18
Logan Pitts '17
Kevin Ritter '15
Joseph Sopchak '16
Spencer Virtue '16
Patrick Walker '16