

HOUGHTON COLLEGE

GREATBATCH SCHOOL OF MUSIC

presents

Collin J Zehr

Tenor

in

Junior Recital

Assisted by

Andrew Reith, Piano

Caleb Durant, Baritone

Recital Hall

Center for the Arts

Monday, March 01, 2021

8:00 p.m.

Program

Tuck Everlasting Chris Miller

Time b.1967

Les Miserables Claude-Michel Schönberg

Bring Him Home b.1944

The Secret Garden Lucy Simon

Lily's Eyes b.1943

Caleb Durant, Baritone

The Last Five Years Jason Robert Brown

If I Didn't Believe In You b.1970

Company Stephen Sondheim

Marry Me A Little b.1930

Pause

In the Heights

Lin Manuel Miranda

Breathe

b.1980

Newsies

Alan Menken

Santa Fe

b.1949

The Alchemists

Peter Mills

Golden

b.1973

Dear Evan Hansen

Pasek and Paul

For Forever

b.1985

Program Notes

My junior musical theatre recital is based off of the idea of “A Life in Reverse”. In everyone’s lives, there are regular milestones that define specific phases that all people go through: your first best friend, your first love, wanting to leave your childhood and explore the world, actually exploring the world. For many people, this coming of age experience is followed by marriage.. Inevitably, the joys of married life are accompanied by misunderstandings and turmoil. In some cases, marriage ends and heartbreak remains. As life draws to a close, many even accept that they have had their chance to experience life and can wholeheartedly wish for the next generation to experience a full and joyous life.

Each of the pieces selected for tonight’s recital will explore one of these moments in life. In order to consider these phases more consciously, we will be experiencing these moments in the reverse order.

Time, Tuck Everlasting

Time is an apt piece to begin this journey. ***Tuck Everlasting*** explores the question: “if you could live forever, would you?” Based off of Natalie Babbitt’s children’s novel with music composed by Christ Miller, Tuck Everlasting follows Winnie Foster, who is approached with the offer to drink from the fountain and spend eternity with her new found friends, the Tuck family. She must decide if she is willing to sacrifice the monumental moments that make life worth living. Miles Tuck, who has eternal life due to unknowingly drinking from the fountain of youth, shares the heartbreak he has experienced in his extensive lifetime.

Bring Him Home, Les Miserables

A musical based off of Victor Hugo’s 1862 novel, ***Les Miserables***, composed by Claude-Michel Schönberg, tells the story of Jean Valjean. During the 1832 Paris Uprising, Valjean finds out about the love between his adopted daughter and a

young revolutionary. Valjean disguises himself as a soldier and goes to find the boy in an attempt to protect him for his daughter's sake. Overnight during this uprising, Valjean prays that God will spare the boy's life, even if that means sacrificing his own.

Lily's Eyes, The Secret Garden

The Secret Garden is based on the 1911 novel of the same name by Frances Hodgson Burnett. The musical's script and lyrics are by Marsha Norman, with music by Lucy Simon. *The Secret Garden* tells the story of Archibald Craven. Since his wife Lily's untimely death, Craven lives an isolated life of mourning. Lily's sister and brother in law die of the Spanish Flu in India, leaving their young daughter an orphan. With no other living relatives, the girl is sent to live with her uncle at his manor. Archibald feels haunted by the memory of Lily once his niece arrives. Archibald's brother, Neville, who has managed all of Archibald's estate since his wife's death, is the first to notice Mary's resemblance to her late aunt. Neville then reveals his unrequited love for Lily that now haunts him. The two brothers examine the effects of Mary's arrival while never revealing their feelings to each other.

If I Didn't Believe In You, The Last Five Years

Jason Robert Brown's 2001 Off- Broadway hit tells the story of Jamie and Cathy, a contemporary couple throughout their 5 year relationship. Jamie, a hot-shot author riding the road to fame meets a young woman to whom he falls in love. Throughout their relationship, Jamie and Cathy experience the ebb and flow of a blossoming love but have the added effects of Jamie's increasing fame and Cathy's never ending struggle to get a job in theatre. Towards the end of the marriage, Jamie and Cathy fight about a party that Jamie feels obligated to attend while Cathy expresses exhaustion from endless parties and appearances that take her husband away from her. In his final plea to Cathy, he expresses the faith he has in her eventual success and hopes to gain her patience with him.

Marry Me a Little, Company

Stephen Sondheim's 1970 musical explores Bobby, a 35 year old who is facing a life crisis when he realizes that everyone around him is married or in a committed relationship and he is left as the only single friend. Throughout the show, Bobby interacts with the couples, and each reveals the ups and downs of relationships and the many dysfunctions that hide below the surface of what might seem as #couplegoals. At the wedding of two of the characters - Amy and Paul- Amy begins to panic and ends up leaving Paul at the altar. Bobby, wanting to comfort Amy, finds himself inexplicably proposing to Amy which jolts her back into reality. Before Amy leaves to go marry Paul, she tells Bobby, "you need to marry *some* body, not just some *body*". Bobby finds himself wishing for someone to Marry him a Little.

-Break-

Breathe, In The Heights

In the Heights, composed by Lin Manuel Miranda, tells the story of Nina, a young girl who is considered, by her neighborhood as "the one who made it out". During her first Semester at Sandford, she lost her scholarship and dropped out due to her need to work two jobs which caused her to receive low grades. As Nina returns home, she grapples with the difficulty of telling her parents about what she thinks will be a great disappointment. This is only exacerbated by pressure Nina feels from her community that held great pride in Nina's achievements.

Santa Fe, Newsies

Newsies is a musical based on a 1992 musical film which in turn was inspired by the real-life Newsboys Strike of 1899 in New York City. The show has music by Alan Menken with lyrics by Jack Feldman. Living in New York in 1899, a group of orphaned boys sell newspapers to make ends meet. Jack Kelly, a 17 year old who has been living as an orphan for most of his life, dreams of

escaping the life he is stuck in. At the crack of dawn he and his good friend, Crutchie, sit up and watch the sunrise over the city while dreaming of a life beyond New York.

Golden, The Alchemists

Peter Mill's, ***The Alchemists***, explores the life of five children in Regency England. Four boys, two being the sons of an important family, and two being the sons of the local vicar, are educated together by a tutor. The son of the local Vicar, Marcus, is among these children and forms a deep bond with the son of the family, Stanley. When a young girl, Anne, comes to the estate to live after being orphaned, she and Stanley take a quick liking to each other. The two decide to run away to America together and Stanley excitedly tells Marcus of this news. After learning this, Anne finds a deeply melancholy Marcus at work on a painting. As Marcus describes his painting to her, Anne begins to understand that Marcus' feelings for Stanley run far deeper than she had imagined.

For Forever, Dear Evan Hansen

Description includes mention of suicide

Dear Evan Hansen is a musical with music and lyrics by Benj Pasek and Justin Paul that follows a young man suffering from extreme social anxiety, Evan. He finds himself caught up in a lie after another boy at school kills himself. The day that the boy - Connor - dies, he writes his name in large letters over Evan's arm cast as an apology for shoving him earlier in the day. As part of Evan's therapy, he writes letters to himself stating: "Dear Evan Hansen, today is going to be a great day and here is why..." and signs it "sincerely, your best and most dearest friend- me" In this particular letter, he writes about his love for Zoe, Connor's sister. When Connor accidentally reads this letter, he storms off. After his death, Connor's parents find the letter and assume that it is Connor's suicide note. Since the letter is addressed to Evan, they are confused and confront Evan about their relationship. Despite efforts to set the record straight, Evan feels the need to provide comfort to Connor's parents and does not correct them when they

insist that Evan and Connor were friends. Overcome with joy after discovering that Connor had a friend, The Murphys invite Evan to dinner where they begin asking him about their friendship. Evan, wanting to comfort the family, begins telling them a made up story about a day the two boys spent together recently. As he tells this story, he gets so caught up in it that he almost begins to believe it himself. All Evan has ever wanted is a friend and this story is just as important for him as it is for the Murphy family.

We would like to thank the Houghton College administration for its faithful support of the Greatbatch School of Music.

Shirley A. Mullen, President

Paul Young, Dean of Faculty

Dale Wright, Chief Financial Officer

Greatbatch School of Music Faculty, Staff, and Administration

As a courtesy to the performer and your fellow audience members, please be certain that all cell phones, watch alarms, and pagers are either turned off or set for silent operation. Flash photography can be very disconcerting to performers and is not permitted during the performance. Thanks for your consideration.