

HOUGHTON COLLEGE

GREATBATCH SCHOOL OF MUSIC

presents

Ethan M. Carr

Tenor

in

Senior Voice Recital

Assisted by

Dr. Sharon Johnson, Piano

Andrew Reith, Piano

Wesley Chapel
Center for the Arts
Monday, 03 08, 2021
8:00 p.m.

Program

Waving Through A Window
From Dear Evan Hansen

Benj Justin Pasek
Justin Paul
(1985 and 1985)

Lamento

Henri Duparc
(1848-1933)

The Lady Must be Mad
from Illyria

Peter Mills
(1973)

Sogno

Paolo Tosti
(1846-1916)

Pause

Stranger
from Big Fish

Andrew Lipka
(1953)

Op. 49 Fünf Lieder
4. Wiegenlied

Johannes Brahms
(1833-1897)

Religion
Hymn

Charles Ives
(1874-1954)

I Long For Your Heart

Ethan M. Carr
(1999)

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Ethan Carr, a student of Professor Luke Ogden, is performing this recital in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Bachelor of Music degree in Music Education in Voice.

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.

Program Notes

Waving Through A Window was composed by the dynamic duo, **Benj Pasek** and **Justin Paul** who have come to compose several of the last decades most memorable musicals. One such musical, is *Dear Evan Hansen*. This is the story of a young man in high school named Evan Hansen who suffers from bullying and social anxiety disorder. The story is about his attempt to find a place in his school where people see him and like him. When another student commits suicide, he decides to fabricate a relationship with the deceased boy to comfort his family. While gaining him a lot of the attention he craves, including from the girl of his dreams; this obviously leads to many problems, climaxing with his eventual decision to risk losing the popularity he has gained by revealing the truth to everyone.ⁱ

Toward the beginning of the musical, we get a glimpse of the way Evan sees his life. He feels unseen, as if he is waving through a window, but no one ever sees him. This song, “Waving Though a Window” is incredibly energetic but filled with internal turmoil, as Evan opens up about how left out of life he feels. In life, we sometimes feel like we are all alone, and there is no one standing beside us. This song explores that feeling.

Lamento, composed by **Henri Duparc**, is a lament for a passed loved one. As the protagonist walks through the cemetery to visit their loved ones, they notice the beauty of the scene; the yew trees, and the doves cooing. The doves sing, and it is as if the vocalist’s loved one’s soul sings with them, reminding them of their loved one. Life can be devastating at times. While, during our life we may sometimes feel like an outsider, similar to Evan Hansen, other times, life’s sting, comes in the form of losing those who we love. We feel alone, because those closest to us, have died.

Translation

**Connaissez-vous la blanche tombe
Où flotte avec un son plaintif
L’ombre d’un if?
Sur l’if une pale colombe,
Triste et seule au soleil couchant,
Chante son Chant**

**Do you know the White tomb
Where with plaintive sound, floats
The shadow of a yew tree?
On the yew a pale dove,
Sad and alone in the setting sun,
Sings its song**

**On dirait que l’âme éveillée
Pleure sous terre à l’unisson
De la chanson,**

**As though the awakened soul
Weeps, under the earth, in unison
With the song,**

Et du malheur d'être oubliée
Se plaint dans un roucoulement
Bien doucement,

Ah! Jamais plus près de la tombe
Je n'irai, quand descend le soir
Au manteau noir
écouter la pale colombe
Chanter, sur la branche de l'if,
Son chant plaintif

And from the unhappiness of being
forgotten
Moans in cooing sounds
Very softly

Ah! Nevermore near the tomb
Shall I go, when night descends
In its black cloak,
To hear the pale dove
Sing on the branch of a yew
Its plaintive song

(Translated by Kimball Walters)ⁱⁱ

Illyria is a musical re-telling of Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* composed by **Peter Mills**. This hilarious comedy involves twins, named Sebastian and Viola who are shipwrecked on the island of Illyria, and believe each other to be dead. Viola impersonates her brother and becomes a servant of the Duke. She tries to help him win the affection of the Countess, but instead falls in love with the Duke. The Countess however, falls in love Viola, believing her to be Sebastian. Sebastian, knowing none of this, ends up in the Countesses presence, and finds a rich and beautiful woman making romantic advances on him. The song, ***The Lady Must be Mad*** ensues as he is initially freaked out by this situation, but eventually decides, "if she likes me, who cares if she's mad?" This is an example of how love can be fun and exciting in life, but it also comes as a kind of warning: be careful in where you look for love. Not everyone gets a fairytale ending, but we can still hope, nonetheless. Maybe we will get lucky like Sebastian.ⁱⁱⁱ

You see your beloved. She is right before you, with beautiful eyes searching into your soul. You know you should not love her. It would not be right for you to hold her close, so you fight the desire to kiss her. You will be strong. Then she leans close, and her lips meet yours. You are overtaken with the joy of her touch, so you reach out to take hold of her. But she is gone. You wake, and it was all a dream. ***Sogno***, by **Francesco Paolo Tosti** is another example of how we long for love in life, though yet again, the song comes with a warning, misplaced love can be toxic. Though love is filled with joy, love can also bring pain and regret.

Translation

Ho sognato che stavi a' ginocchi,
Come un santo che prega il Signor ...
Mi guardavi nel fondo degli occhi,
Sfavillava il tuo sguardo d'amor.

Tu parlavi e la voce sommessa...
Mi chiedea dolcemente mercè...
Solo un guardo che fosse promessa,
Imploravi, curvata al mio piè.

Io tacevo e coll'anima forte
Il desio tentatore lottò.
Ho provato il martirio e la morte
pur mi vinsi e ti dissi di no.

Ma il tuo labbro sfiorò la mia faccia...
E la forza del cor mi tradì.
Chiusi gli occhi,ti stesi le braccia...
Ma, sognavo...E il bel sogno svanì.

I dreamt that you were on your knees
Like a saint praying to the Lord.
You were looking deep into my eyes,
With a glowing look of love.

You were speaking quietly,
Asking me sweetly for forgiveness.
That she be allowed just one glance,
You begged, curled at my feet.

I stayed silent and, with a strong will,
Fought the irresistible desire.
I had faced martyrdom and death;
Still, I forced myself to say no.

But then your lips touched my face,
And my heart betrayed me.
I closed my eyes, reached out to you;
But I had been dreaming, and that
beautiful dream vanished

(Translated by Giuseppe Genesi)^{iv}

In this section of our program, we turn to a section of life know as parenthood. For some people life is always a dream. The musical *Big Fish* by **Andrew Lippa** is a fun and energetic musical that also tugs on our heart strings. Edward Bloom is the father of Will Bloom. However, Edward has many fantasies regarding his life, and his adult son Will, is unable to believe all his fanciful tales. However, When Edward's health begins to decline, and Will's wife Josephine is expecting a child, Will finds that he wants to learn the truth about his father. He no longer wants to shut his father out of his life, or his son's life. The song *Stranger* gives us a look at Will as he works through his emotions regarding the strangeness of becoming a father, as well as his estranged father.^v

Wiegenlied, by **Johannes Brahms**, is simply a lullaby. Tomorrow is Christmas, and a father sings this lullaby to his baby as she falls asleep, praying God will grant her another day. He prays the angels would watch over her and she would dream of the beauty of Christmas and paradise.

As we work our way through life, imagine the paradise the father sings of, which is heaven itself. His daughter is in the hospital and Christmas is nearing. She is not doing well, and this lullaby, while sweet and relaxing for his child is also a plea to God that his child might survive for one more Christmas, before she meets Him in Heaven.

Translation

Guten Abend, gut' Nacht,
Mit Rosen bedacht,
Mit Nägelein besteckt
Schlupf' unter die Deck'.
Morgen früh, wenn Gott will,
Wirst du wieder geweckt.

Good evening, good night,
Canopied with roses,
Bedecked with carnations,
Slip beneath the coverlet.
Tomorrow morning, if God wills,
You shall be woken again.

Guten Abend, gut' Nacht,
Von Englein bewacht!
Die zeigen im Traum
Dir Christkindleins Baum:
Schlaf' nun selig und süß,
Schau im Traum's Paradies.

Good evening, good night,
Watched over by angels!
In your dreams they'll show you
The Christmas Tree:
Sleep sweetly now and blissfully,
Behold Paradise in your dreams.
(Translated by Richard Stokes)^{vi}

Among *Charles Ives'* 114 songs, *Religion* is a short but powerful piece. Though many of his harmonies may not be considered traditional, the piece speaks to the need for God, for the heart lives by faith, and though the lips may deny having faith, by declaring you believe in nothing, you actually declare you believe something. Therefore, there is no unbelief.

Composed to the first verse of a poem by John Wesley, with the same name, Ives', *Hymn* is another example of his less than traditional harmonies. Using the melody to paint the text, Ives helps us understand the meaning of this verse. Notice at the end, when we find rest in God, we finally hear a major chord. We can find peace with God in our lives. He is the peacemaker, and we can find rest in him.

Life is not only about the major events that take place, like getting married and having children. Most importantly, life is about meeting your personal Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. As I have lived my life, I have realized over and over again how I have fallen short in many ways.

However, God still loves me. I do my best to let his love overflow from me into others, but I do not always succeed. The song *I Long For Your Heart*, by *Ethan Carr*, puts to music the longing of my heart: That I would become more like Christ and less like myself; That he would renew my heart and my soul. King David was known as a man after God's own heart. In this song, I plea that my heart would become the same.

ⁱ Baronet, Laura. "Dear Evan Hansen Musical." *Stage Agent*, stageagent.com/shows/musical/7745/dear-ewan-hansen.

ⁱⁱ Gautier, Theophile, and Henri Duparc. *French Song Anthology*, by Kimball Walters, Hal Leonard, 2009, pp. 55–59.

ⁱⁱⁱ "Illyria Synopsis." *Theatrical Rights Worldwide*, www.theatricalrights.com/show/illyria/.

^{iv} "I Dreamt a Dream That You Were on Your Knees." Translated by Mario Giuseppe Genesi, *Lieder Net*, 2003, www.lieder.net/lieder/get_text.html?TextId=122645.

^v Ballenger, Rebecca. "Big Fish." *Stage Agent*, stageagent.com/shows/musical/3393/big-fish.

^{vi} Stokes, Richard. "Wiegenlied." *Oxford Lieder*, 2005, www.oxfordlieder.co.uk/song/783.