Senior Recital
Matthew Bao, baritone
Daniel Seyfried, piano

A Recital for the Seasons!

March 26, 2022 8:00 pm Nelson Music Room

Summer

Ein Mädchen oder Weibchen  Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)
   Die Zauberflöte

Fußreise No.10  Hugo Wolf (1860-1903)
   Mörike Lieder

Fall

Chant d’àutomne Op. 5, No. 1  Gabriel Fauré (1845-1924)
Les Yeux Noir  arr. Matthew Bao (b. 2000)

Intermission

Winter

Songs of Travel  R Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)
   The Vagabond
   The Roadside Fire
   The Infinite Shining Heavens
   Bright is the Ring of Words
   I Have Trod the Upward and the Downward Slope

Spring

Don Giovanni  Mozart
   Deh, vieni alla finestra
   Là ci darem la mano

Francesca Herrera, soprano

Aprile  Paolo Tosti (1846-1916)
Program Notes

When I was faced with the choice of song for my recital, I had a few pieces I already wanted to perform and was left to fill in the holes. At the time, the pieces I wanted to perform were parts of the English and Italian section of the recital and each had a distinctive theme (English was sad and reminiscing while Italian was amorous). This gave me the idea of making my repertoire for each language have a distinct mood and base each language off a season. Thus, I found songs that fit into each season; German would represent summer, French fall, English winter, and Italian spring.

For the German section, the songs are lighthearted and give the audience an easy feeling. From Papageno’s desperate yet humorous plea for a wife to the beautiful morning walk of Fussreise, this set is an easy introduction to the season of summer.

For the French, the songs leave a feeling of parting. Fauré says goodbye to fall in Chant d’Automne. Les Yeux Noir also says goodbye to a lover with a mad undoing of the singer. I stumbled upon the Russian song Очи чёрные over the summer and found French lyrics for the song through a group called Pomplamousse Music. Taking their lyrics, I made my own arrangement of the piece.

For the English, I took the Songs of Travel by Vaughn Williams as it introduced the journey of a life. From the stubborn attitude of the Vagabond to the acceptance presented at the end of the song cycle, the Songs of Travel show the end of a life, perfectly in conjunction with the season of winter.

Ending of the recital on Winter would be rather sad, so rest assured there will be rebirth. The Italian section of the recital focuses on love, whether that be from the seductor Don Giovanni or from the candid singer of Aprile. Just like the flower bloom, so shall love. For Là ci darem la mano, I am working with Francesca Herrera, an amazing friend and colleague of mine. She is a wonderful soprano who will be having her own recital on April 9th!
About Me

My name is Matthew Bao and I am from Madison, Alabama. I am a senior, majoring in Music, with the intention to go to medical school; however, I will be taking 2 gap years before doing so. I started singing when I was 3 (at that time it was along with the TV) but it quickly grew into a lifelong hobby for me. I joined my middle school choir at 12 and have been singing ever since. At Duke, I am part of Opera Theater (our show is April 16th in Baldwin Auditorium!) and was also part of Chorale and the a cappella group Something Borrowed Something Blue. Aside from music, I also do research at the Di Talia Lab.

Special Thanks

I want to specially thank my Voice Teacher, Ted Federle, for being there at every moment in preparation for this recital. Without him, I would not sound like I do now. I also want to specially thank my accompanist Daniel Seyfried who stuck with me all the times I messed up my rhythm and even met me outside of lessons to help me. Of course, a special thanks goes out to Francesca Herrera for agreeing to duet with me. Thanks goes out to the Music Department at Duke because without them, this would not be possible. And lastly, A special thanks to my parents who have supported me through my time as a musician.