

**Florestan Recital Project  
Season 9: 2009-2010**

***“The Landscape of American Song”***

*Season nine includes two milestones in Florestan’s performance history. In September, Florestan presented BarberFest: The Complete Songs of Samuel Barber as part of the Voice of America festival under the direction of Gil Rose. In addition to Barber’s published gems, concerts include his previously-unheard unpublished songs, which were obtained by special permission from the U.S. Library of Congress and Barber’s estate.*

*Florestan toasted its final year of residency at Dickinson College with the American Vanguard Festival, a four-day feast of contemporary American songs. Together with composer Libby Larsen and other guest artists, Florestan explores the myriad styles and influences that shape today’s American song repertoire, and celebrate the collaborations between performers, poets, and composers that drive its evolution. The festival features world premiere performances of five song cycles, four of which were commissioned by Florestan.*

# ***The Creatures' Choir***

Commissioned and premiered by Florestan Recital Project in 2007

Rubendall Recital Hall

October 2, 2009

## ***The Creatures' Choir: Songs and Interludes for Voice and Piano***

John McDonald (b. 1959)

words by Carmen Bernos de Gasztold (b. 1919)

translations by Rumer Godden (1907-1998)

The Lion

The Lamb

The Centipede

First Interlude: The Gazelle

"Fleet, light, my heart stifled with wild fear...that my life might be a race run straight to the haven of Your love..."

The Snail

The Swallow

The Starfish

Second Interlude: The Hedgehog

"Yes, Lord, I prick! Life is not easy—but You know that—When people see me, my anxious nose searching for fat slugs...why can't they leave me alone?"

The Ladybird

The Toad

The Mother Hen

Third Interlude: The Camel

"...Carrying my royalty in the aristocratic curve of my neck from oasis to oasis..."

The Mole

The Lizard

The Whale

Fourth Interlude: The Gnat

The Parrot

The Spider

The Fly

Fifth Interlude: The Peacock

"...A royal train, Lord, more scintillating than jeweled enamel...True, my discordant cry shames me a little—and it is humiliating to make me remember my meager heart..."

The Oyster

The Seagull

The Bear

Sixth Interlude: The Flea

"I jump. I bite."

The Beaver

Little Song

Jessica Bowers, mezzo-soprano & John McDonald, pianist

## **Barberfest: Concert #1**

**Distler Performance Hall  
Tufts University**

**Friday, September 25, 7pm**

**Nuvoletta**, opus 25 (1947)

James Joyce (1882-1941),  
from *Finnegan's Wake*

Sarah Pelletier, soprano & Shiela Kibbe, pianist

**The Daisies**, opus 2 (1927)

James Stephens (1882-1950)

**With Rue my Heart is Laden**, opus 2 (1928)

A.E. Housman (1859 – 1936)

**Bessie Bobtail**, opus 2 (1934)

James Stephens

Shadi Ebrahimi, soprano & Linda Osborn-Blaschke, pianist

**Of that so sweet imprisonment** (*10 Early Songs*; 1935)

James Joyce (from Chamber Music)

**Love at the door** (*10 Early Songs*; 1934)

words by Meleager (Greek),

trans. by John Addington Symonds (1840-1893)

Joe Dan Harper, tenor & Anne Kissel, pianist

**Au Clair de la Lune** (unpublished; 1926) manuscript inscription: "A modern setting of the old Folk-tune"

**La Nuit** (unpublished; 1925)

Alfred Meurath (dates unknown)

Sarah Pelletier, soprano & Shiela Kibbe, pianist

**Mémoires Passagères**, opus 27 ("To Francis Poulenc and Pierre Bernac"; 1950-51)

Puisque tout passé

Rainer Maria Rilke (1875-1926)

Un cygne

Tombeau dans un parc

Le clocher chante

Départ

Joe Dan Harper, tenor & Anne Kissel, pianist

### **Pause**

**Strings in the earth and air** (*10 Early Songs*; 1935)

James Joyce (from *Chamber Music*)

**My Fairyland** (unpublished; 1924)

Robert T. Kerlin (dates unknown)

**Monks and Raisins**, opus 18 (1943)

José Garcia Villa (1908-1997)

**Thy Love** (unpublished; 1926)

Elizabeth Barrett Browning (1806-1861)

Shadi Ebrahimi, soprano & Linda Osborn-Blaschke, pianist

**Dere Two Fella Joe** (unpublished; 1924)

manuscript inscription: "An Encore  
Song in French-Canadian Dialect"

**Ask Me To Rest** (unpublished; 1926)

Edward Hicks Streeter Terry

(exact dates unknown; late 19<sup>th</sup> century)

Joe Dan Harper, tenor & Anne Kissel, pianist

**A Nun Takes the Veil**, opus 13 (1937)

Gerard Manley Hopkins (1844-1889)

**Slumber Song of the Madonna** (*10 Early songs*; 1925)

Alfred Noyes, (1880-1958)

**October Weather** (unpublished; 1923)

words attributed to Barber

Shadi Ebrahimi, soprano & Linda Osborn-Blaschke, pianist

**Three Songs**, opus 45 (1972)

Now Have I Fed and Eaten up the Rose

James Joyce,

after German of Gottfried Keller (1819-1890)

A Green Lowland of Pianos

Czeslaw Milosz (1911-2004),

trans. from the Polish by Jerzy Harasymowicz (1933-1999)

O Boundless, Boundless Evening

Christopher Middleton (b. 1926)

after German of Georg Heym (1887-1912)

Sarah Pelletier, soprano & Shiela Kibbe, pianist

## Barberfest: Concert #2

Distler Performance Hall  
Tufts University

Saturday, September 26, 7pm

**Nursery Songs** (unpublished, "To Sara"; 1920-1923)

Traditional

Jack and Jill  
God Bless You  
I Do Not Like Thee, Dr. Fell  
Tom, Tom, the Piper's Son  
I Love Little Pussy  
Two Old Men  
The Rockaby Lady

Janna Baty, mezzo-soprano & John McDonald, pianist

**Three Songs**, the words from Old England (unpublished; 1925-1926)

Lady, When I Behold the Roses  
An Earnest Suit to his Unkind Mistress  
Hey Nonny No!

John Wilbye (1574-1638)  
Sir Thomas Wyatt (1503-1542)  
words from Christ Church Manuscript

Aaron Engebret, baritone & Alison d'Amato, pianist

**Two Songs of Youth** (unpublished; 1925)

Invocation to Youth  
I Never Thought that Youth Would Go

Laurence Binyon (1869-1943)  
Jessie B. Rittenhouse (1869-1948)

**Peace** (unpublished; 1935)

Paul Elmer More (1864-1937),  
from the Sanskrit of Bhartrihari (ca. 570-651)

Janna Baty, mezzo-soprano & John McDonald, pianist

**Fantasy in Purple** (unpublished; 1925)

Langston Hughes (1902-1967)

**Watchers** (unpublished; 1926)

Dean Cornwell (dates unknown)

Aaron Engebret, baritone & Alison d'Amato, pianist

**The Secrets of the Old**, opus 13 (1938)

William Butler Yeats (1865-1939)

**The Queen's Face on the Summery Coin**, opus 18 (1942)

Robert Horan (b. 1922)

**Sure on this Shining Night**, opus 13 (1938)

James Agee (1909-1955)

Janna Baty, mezzo-soprano & John McDonald, pianist

### Pause

**There's nae lark** (*10 Early Songs*; 1927)

Algernon Swinburne (1837-1909)

**Night Wanderers** (*10 Early Songs*; 1935)

William Henry Davies (1871-1940)

**In the dark pinewood** (*10 Early Songs*; 1937)

James Joyce (1882-1941), from *Chamber Music*

**Love's Caution** (*10 Early Songs*; 1935)

William Henry Davies

Janna Baty, mezzo-soprano & John McDonald, pianist

**Despite and Still**, Opus 41 (1968)

A Last Song  
My Lizard  
In the Wilderness  
Solitary Hotel  
Despite and Still

Robert Graves (1895-1985)  
Theodore Roethke (1908-1963)  
Robert Graves  
James Joyce, from *Ulysses*  
Robert Graves

Aaron Engebret, baritone & Alison d'Amato, pianist

## Barberfest: Concert #3

Distler Performance Hall  
Tufts University

Sunday, September 27, 1:30pm

**Beggar's song** (*10 Early Songs*; 1936) words by William Henry Davies (1871-1940)  
**Stopping by woods on a snowy evening** (unpublished; 1935) words by Robert Frost (1874-1963)

Aaron Engebret, baritone & Alison d'Amato, pianist

**Music, When Soft Voices Die** (unpublished; 1926) words by Percy Bysshe Shelley (1792-1822)  
**Two Poems of the Wind** (1924) words by "Fiona Macleod,"  
Little Children of the Wind pseudonym of William Sharp (1855-1905)  
Longing

Joe Dan Harper, tenor & Anne Kissel, pianist

**Mother, I can not mind my wheel** (*10 Early Songs*; 1927) words by Walter Savage Landor (1775-1864)  
**Man** (unpublished; 1926) words by Humbert Wolfe (1885-1940)

Sarah Pelletier, soprano & Shiela Kibbe, pianist

**Serenader** (*10 Early Songs*; 1934) words by George Dillon (1906-1968)

Aaron Engebret, baritone & Alison d'Amato, pianist

**Rain has fallen**, opus 10 (1935) words by James Joyce (1882-1941),  
**Sleep now**, opus 10 (1935) from *Chamber Music* (1907)

Joe Dan Harper, tenor & Anne Kissel, pianist

**I hear an army**, opus 10 (1936) words by James Joyce, from *Chamber Music*

Aaron Engebret, baritone & Alison d'Amato, pianist

**Nocturne**, opus 13 (1940) words by Frederic Prokosch (1908-1989)

Joe Dan Harper, tenor & Anne Kissel, pianist

**Hermit Songs**, opus 29 (1952-1953)

At Saint Patrick's Purgatory	13 <sup>th</sup> C., trans. by Sean O'Faolain (1900-1991)
Church Bell at Night	12 <sup>th</sup> C., trans. by H. M. Jones (1892-1980)
St. Ita's Vision	attributed to St. Ita, 8 <sup>th</sup> C., trans. by Chester Kallman
The Heavenly Banquet	attributed to St. Brigid, 10 <sup>th</sup> C., trans. by Sean O'Faolain
The Crucifixion	text from <i>The Speckled Book</i> , 12 <sup>th</sup> C., trans. by H. M. Jones
Sea-Snatch	8 <sup>th</sup> -9 <sup>th</sup> C.
Promiscuity	9 <sup>th</sup> C.
The Monk and His Cat	8 <sup>th</sup> -9 <sup>th</sup> C., trans. by W.H. Auden (1907-1973)
The Praises of God	11 <sup>th</sup> C., trans. by W.H. Auden
The Desire for Hermitage	8 <sup>th</sup> -9 <sup>th</sup> C., based on a trans. by Sean O'Faolain

Sarah Pelletier, soprano & Shiela Kibbe, pianist

# ***An Afternoon of Vocal Chamber Music***

Rubendall Recital Hall

November 8, 2009

Joe Dan Harper, tenor  
Lynn Holding, mezzo-soprano  
Jeb Wallace, horn  
Blanka Bednarz, violin  
Aubrey Holmes, violin  
Elizabeth Kuefler, viola  
Cheung Chau, cello  
Anne Kissel, piano

## ***Canticle II: Abraham and Isaac***

Benjamin Britten (1913-1976)  
from the medieval Chester Miracle Plays

## ***Canticle III: Still Falls the Rain***

Benjamin Britten  
Edith Sitwell (1887-1964),  
from *The Canticle of the Rose*

*Pause*

## ***Three Wedding Songs***

Robert Deemer  
Edgar Allan Poe (1809-1849)

## ***On Wenlock Edge***

On Wenlock Edge  
From far, from eve and morning  
Is my team ploughing  
Oh when I was in love with you  
Bredon Hill  
Clun

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)  
A. E. Housman (1859-1936),  
from *A Shropshire Lad*

**Florestan Recital Project presents  
The American Vanguard Festival at Dickinson College  
Concert #1**

Rubendall Recital Hall

Thursday, March 4, 2010 7pm

**Pre-concert talk, "The Concert Hall That Fell Asleep and Woke Up as a Car Radio"**  
Libby Larsen, guest composer

**Concert, "Poets in Love," by Florestan Recital Project**

**Selections from *Myrthen* lieder, op 25**

Hochländers Abschied  
Hochländisches Wiegenlied  
Hauptmann's Weib  
Jemand  
Die Hochländer-Witwe  
Im Westen

Robert Schumann (1810-1856)  
words after Robert Burns (1759-1796)

Martha Guth, soprano; Aaron Engebret, baritone; Alison d'Amato, pianist

***Poets in Love* for tenor, baritone, and four-hand piano**

Thea Musgrave (b. 1928)

**\*Florestan commission and world premiere, 2009**

I. Я пришёл к тебе с приветом ("I have come to you with greetings")	words by Afanasy Fet (1820-1892)
II. O Mistress Mine	words by William Shakespeare (1564-1616)
III. Westron wynde when wyll thow blow	words by Anonymous, 16 <sup>th</sup> C.
IV. Wenn ihr Freunde vergesst	words by Friedrich Hölderlin (1770-1843)
V. La peregrine vox y el claro acento	words by Juan de Tasis (1582-1622)
VI. Eros, wie she ich dich hier!	words by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (1749-1832)
VII. Ich bin wie eine Fahne von Fernen umgeben	words by Ranier Maria Rilke (1875-1926)
VIII. The night has a thousand eyes	words by Francis William Bourdillon (1852-1921)
IX. Beautiful is she, this woman	words from <i>3 Songs from the Haida</i>
X. Que no quiero amores	words by Anonymous, c. 1554
XI. Crede ratem ventis	words by Pentadius (circa 3 <sup>rd</sup> C.)
XII. Lament him, Mauchline husbands a'	words by Robert Burns
XIII. Vrai Dieu, qu'amoureux ont de peine!	words from a <i>chanson populaire</i> , 15 <sup>th</sup> C.
XIV. In the blithe days of honeymoon	words by James Boswell (1740-1795)
XV. Fummo un tempo felici	words by Torquato Tasso (1544-1595)
XVI. О, как на склоне наших лет ("O, how tenderly yet with apprehension")	words by Fedor Tyutchev (1803-1873)
XVII. Music, when soft voices die	words by Percy Bysshe Shelley (1792-1822)

Joe Dan Harper, tenor; Aaron Engebret, baritone;  
Alison d'Amato and Anne Kissel, pianists

**Florestan Recital Project presents**  
**The American Vanguard Festival at Dickinson College**  
**Concert #2**  
**Friday, March 5, 2010 7pm**  
**Rubendall Recital Hall**

**“An Evening with Libby Larsen”**

**Selections from *Miss Manners on Music***

Prologue  
Manners at a concert

Dominick Argento (b. 1927)  
words by Judith Martin/“Miss Manners”

Lynn Holding, mezzo-soprano; Anne Kissel, pianist

**Selections from *Myrthen lieder, op 25***

Lied der Braut I  
Lied der Braut II  
Aus den hebräischen Gesängen

Robert Schumann (1810-1856)  
words by Friedrich Rückert (1788-1866)  
words by Rückert  
words after Lord Byron (1788-1824),  
German adaptation by Theodor Körner (1791-1813)

Martha Guth, soprano; Aaron Engebret, baritone; Alison d’Amato, pianist

**“I find my feet have further goals”**

Libby Larsen (b. 1950)  
words by Emily Dickinson (1830-1866)

Dickinson College Choir  
Sean M. Paar, director

***Try Me, Good King: Last Words of the Wives of Henry VIII***

Katherine of Aragon  
Anne Boleyn  
Jane Seymour  
Anne of Cleves  
Katherine Howard

Libby Larsen

Martha Guth, soprano; Anne Kissel, pianist  
*Intermission*

**“Slang” for violin, clarinet, and piano**

Libby Larsen

Blanka Bednarz, violin; Elisabeth Stimpert, clarinet; Alison d’Amato, piano  
Sarah Skaggs, Paula Aarons, Paige Meredith, and Julieta Rabinovich, dancers

**Selections from *Miss Manners on Music***

Manners for contemporary music  
Envoi

Dominick Argento  
words by Judith Martin/“Miss Manners”

Lynn Holding, mezzo-soprano; Anne Kissel, pianist

***The Peculiar Case of Dr. H.H. Holmes, for baritone and piano***

*\*Florestan commission and world premiere, 2010*

Libby Larsen  
libretto by Larsen, adapted from  
*Holmes’ Own Story, 1895*

I. I State my Case  
II. As a Young Man  
III. I Build my Business  
IV. Thirteen Ladies and Three Who Got Away (Grande Waltz Macabre)  
V. Evidence

Aaron Engebret, baritone; Alison d’Amato, pianist

**Florestan Recital Project presents  
The American Vanguard Festival at Dickinson College  
Concert #3**

**Rubendall Recital Hall**

**Saturday, March 6, 2010 7pm**

**Selections from *Myrthen lieder*, op 25**

Der Nussbaum  
Weit, Weit

Sitz ich allein  
Setze mir nicht  
Aus den östlichen Rosen

Robert Schumann (1810-1856)  
words by Julius Mosen (1803-1867)  
words after Robert Burns (1759-1796);  
Text adapted by Wilhelm Gerhard (1780-1858)  
words by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (1749-1842)  
words by Goethe  
words by Friedrich Rückert (1788-1866)

Martha Guth, soprano; Aaron Engebret, baritone; Alison d'Amato, pianist

***Apparition: Elegiac Songs and Vocalises for Soprano and Amplified Piano***

George Crumb (b. 1929)

The Night In Silence Under Many A Star  
Vocalise 1, Summer Sounds  
When Lilacs Last In The Dooryard Bloom'd  
Dark Mother Always Gliding With Soft Feet  
Vocalise 2, Invocation To the Dark Angel  
Approach Strong Deliveress!  
Vocalise 3, Death Carol ("Song of the Nightbird")  
Come Lovely And Soothing Death  
The Night In Silence Under Many A Star

words by Walt Whitman (1819-1892)

Tony Arnold, soprano; Jacob Greenberg, pianist

***Dickinson Songs, for tenor and piano***

Stephen Paulus (b. 1949)

*\*Florestan commission and world premiere, 2010*

Ample make this bed  
The grass so little has to do  
Surgeons  
I'm nobody!

words by Emily Dickinson (1830-1866)

Joe Dan Harper, tenor; Anne Kissel, pianist

***Intermission***

***Of Challenge and of Love***

Elliot Carter (b. 1908)

High on Our Tower  
Under the Dome  
Am Klavier (at the Piano)  
Quatrains from Harp Lake  
End of a Chapter

words by John Hollander (b. 1929)

Tony Arnold, soprano; Jacob Greenberg, pianist

**Poem**

Christopher Berg (b. 1949)

**Song**

words by Frank O'Hara (1926-1966)

**A Pig in the House**

Libby Larsen (b. 1950)

**The Second Law**

words by Alvin Greenberg

**Judged by the Company One Keeps**

Daron Aric Hagen (b. 1961)

**Touch Me**

words by Stephen Sandy (b. 1934)

**Another Reason Why I Don't Keep a Gun in the House**

David Sisco (b. 1974)

words by Anonymous

Tom Cipullo (b. 1960)

words by Stanley Kunitz (1905-2006)

Tom Cipullo

words by Billy Collins (b. 1941)

Paul Sperry, tenor; Alison d'Amato, pianist

**Florestan Recital Project presents  
The American Vanguard Festival at Dickinson College  
Concert #4**

**Rubendall Recital Hall**

**Sunday, March 7, 2010 4pm**

**“As I Walked Out One Evening”** (from *Evidence of Things Not Seen*)      Ned Rorem (b. 1923)  
words by W.H. Auden (1907-1973)  
Joe Dan Harper, tenor; Martha Guth, soprano; Aaron Engebret, baritone; Lynne McMurtry, mezzo-soprano  
Alison d’Amato, pianist

**Recuerdo**      John Musto (b. 1954)  
Echo      words by Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)  
Recuerdo      words by Edna St. Vincent Millay (1892-1950)  
A Last Song      words by Louise Bogan (1897-1970)

Lynne McMurtry, mezzo-soprano; Alison d’Amato, pianist

**Stars, I have seen them fall**      Daniel Pinkham (1923-2006)  
words by A.E. Housman (1859-1936)

**My Grandmother’s Ghost** (from *When Love Was Gone*)      words by James Wright (1927-1980)  
**Milkweed** (from *When Love Was Gone*)      words by James Wright

Joe Dan Harper, tenor; Anne Kissel, pianist

**The Daughter of Capulet**      Thomas Pasatieri (b. 1945)  
\*world premiere performance      words by William Shakespeare  
(1564-1616); from *Romeo and Juliet*

Martha Guth, soprano; Alison d’Amato, pianist

**Intermission**

**Selections from *Myrthen lieder, op 25***      Robert Schumann (1810-1856)  
Freisinn      words by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (1749-1842)  
Die Lotusblume      words by Heinrich Heine (1797-1856)  
Du bist wie eine blume      words by Heine  
Widmung      words by Friedrich Rückert (1788-1866)

Martha Guth, soprano; Aaron Engebret, baritone; Alison d’Amato, pianist

**“Bronx, NY, April 18, 1945”** (from *Write About the Silence Here*)      Paul Preusser (b. 1974)  
\*Florestan commission, 2004      words from a letter by Myra A. Strachner

Lynne McMurtry, mezzo-soprano; Alison d’Amato, pianist

**“Grounded”** (from *Facing Forward/Looking Back*)      Jake Heggie (b. 1961)  
words by Eugenia Zukerman (b. 1944)

**“Mother in the Mirror”** (from *Facing Forward/Looking Back*)      words by Armistead Maupin (b. 1944)

Martha Guth, soprano; Lynne McMurtry, mezzo-soprano; Anne Kissel, pianist

**Unquiet Spirit: Five settings of Maxine Kumin Poems**      Robert Pound (b. 1970)  
for tenor, baritone, and piano      words by Maxine Kumin (b. 1925)  
\*Florestan commission and world premiere, 2010

Mulching (baritone)  
Solstice (tenor)  
What you do (Duet, baritone and tenor)  
Ascending (baritone)  
First Rain of Spring (tenor)

Joe Dan Harper, tenor; Aaron Engebret, baritone; Alison d’Amato and Anne Kissel, pianists