

Florestan Recital Project presents: *The Creatures' Choir*
A world premiere event
Commissioned by Florestan Recital Project

Concert Room at the Boston Conservatory
April 13, 2007

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

The Lion
The Lamb
The Centipede

First Interlude: The Gazelle

John McDonald (b. 1959)
words by Carmen Bernos de Gasztold (b. 1919)
Translations by Rumer Godden (1907-1998)

“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