

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

John McDonald (b. 1959)

The Lion

words by Carmen Bernos de Gasztold (b. 1919)

The Lamb

Translations by Rumer Godden (1907-1998)

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