University of Maryland School of Music Presents

NEW MUSIC AT MARYLAND

FRENCH COMPOSERS OF THE 20TH AND 21ST CENTURIES

November 29, 2016 . 8 pm
GILDENHORN RECITAL HALL
at The Clarice
University of Maryland School of Music Presents

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I Want.................................................................Bryce Fuhrman

Matt Rynes, bass clarinet
Jon Clancy, vibraphone

Little Dream Pieces, Vol. 5.................................William Kenlon

XXI. Gary
XXII. The Fox
XXIII. Neil’s Album
XXIV. Teeth
XXV. Luckily...

Sarah Best, mezzo-soprano
Matthew Daley, piano

Uyuni........................................................................Pablo Salazar

Anto Meliksetian, violin
Brian Kim, cello
Sarah Barham, piano

Two Poems by William Butler Yeats.....................Nolan Veldey

I. These are the Clouds
II. To an Isle in the Water

T.J. Moeng, baritone
Gregory Ridgway, piano

Hymn........................................................................Matthew Arling Samson

Amanda Fry, horn
Jonah Yeh, piano

Heavy Wood................................................................Ray Fields

The Daraja Ensemble
Grace Ju Yeon Wang, flute
Michael Homme, oboe
Michele Von Haugg, clarinet
Joshua Blumenthal, french horn
Samuel Fraser, bassoon and beat box

Special Guest:
Mary Coy Whitmore, bassoon
William Kenlon, *Little Dream Pieces, Vol. 5*

The more I dream, the more I find that many dreams are not profound, life-changing inspirations, but rather assemblies of odd, incongruous, and sometimes mundane images and ideas that can be more befuddling than enlightening. My series of “Little Dream Pieces,” begun in 2011, exists as an ongoing project of setting simple, matter-of-fact accounts of such dreams as art songs.

XXI. Gary

I’d always known that Gary was kind of a creep,
But when he crossed the line, and I let him know,
How did it become my fault?
I stand by my actions. Back off, Gary.

XXII. The Fox

In a small bedroom with a low ceiling,
Three of us were talking when we were interrupted by a sound—
rustling, scratching, clawing—
A fox came bursting through the drywall.
Its bright red body was a blur as it ran about the room
In a frenzy.
We all sat and observed in complete silence.

XXIII. Neil’s Album

Neil Armstrong recorded a folk album in the mid-seventies.
When I listened to it, I found it pleasant,
but unremarkable—
no great leap for mankind.

XXIV. Teeth

First, it was an incisor.
Next, two molars.
The rest followed—one... by... one.

XXV. Luckily...

I followed them to their house and hid behind the S.U.V. in the driveway
When they found me, I ran and they drove.
They were gaining on me until,
luckily,
Suddenly,
I could fly.

Pablo Salazar, *Uyuni*

*Uyuni*, a work for violin, cello, and piano, was inspired by the largest salt flats in the world located in Uyuni Bolivia.
Nolan Veldey, Two Poems by William Butler Yeats

These two poems, though not related, were texts that I found naturally musical, and full of emotion and imagery. “These are the Clouds,” written during the Irish revolutionary period, and in the midst of World War I, somberly depicts civil unrest, and the end of a previously known world. “To an Isle in the Water” describes an ancient ritual, offering a glimpse of a magical island. Yeats, who was fascinated by mythology, may have been referencing Avalon.

These are the Clouds

These are the clouds
about the fallen sun
The majesty that shuts
his burning eye:
The weak lay hand on
what the strong has done,
Till that be tumbled
that was lifted high
And discord follow upon unison,
And all the things at one
common level lie
And therefore, friend,
if your great race were run
And these things came,
so much the more thereby
Have you made greatness
your companion,
Although it be for children
that you sigh:
These are the clouds
about the fallen sun,
The majesty that shuts
his burning eye.

To an Isle in the Water

Shy one, shy one
Shy one of my heart
She moves in the firelight
Pensively apart
She carries in the dishes,
And lays them in a row
To an isle in the water
With her would I go
She carries in the candles
And lights the curtain room
Shy in the doorway
And shy in the gloom;
And shy as a rabbit
Helpful and shy
To an isle in the water
With her I would fly.

Ray Fields, Heavy Wood

Heavy Wood was inspired by the May 2016 opening of the exhibit on the film documentary “Heavy Metal Parking Lot” in the Michele Smith Performing Arts Library. Its instrumentation is for woodwind quintet and beat box. It was composed specifically for the Daraja Ensemble, with their estimable skills and the knowledge that their bassoonist, Samuel Fraser, is also a beat box performer.

The UMD School of Music nurtures artists, scholars, and educators who understand tradition and celebrate innovation.