

TEMPLE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

## Beyond the Notes

### Women Composers of Song from Around the World presented by A Modern Reveal

March 15, 2023, 12pm  
Charles Library Event Space

**Gabriel Rebolla, Pianist**

#### NATURE & THE JOURNEY

**Canada** Ashley Renee Seward (~2000-) Faith Crossan, soprano  
Let the Little Birds Sing

**Italy** Elsa Olivieri Sangiacomo Respighi (1894-1996) Serafina Belletini, mezzo soprano  
From the *Quattro liriche dai Rubaiyat*:  
2. Una sol cosa è certa (Only one thing's true)  
4. Vieni, riempi il bicchier (Come, fill up your glass)

**USA** Grey Grant (1993-) Olivia Quinn, soprano  
From the opera *Michigan Trees: A Guide to the Trees of Michigan and the Great Lakes Region*  
Aria by Orna as she sees herself: Prelude

#### THE BIRDS & BEES

**China** Grace Xu Schott (1981-) Yilin Xu, baritone  
From *The Forgotten Tales: A Random Thought*

**USA-African American** Jeraldine Saunders Herbison (1951-) Faith Crossan, soprano  
I'll not Forget

**South Korea** SoonAe Kim (1920-2007) Wonyoung Seo, soprano  
그대 있음에 (In your presence)

**Belgium, England** Poldowski (1879-1932) Nicholas Orth, tenor  
En sourdine (Muted)

**Mexico** María Grever (1885-1951) Valentina Sierra, soprano  
Despedida (Farewell)

**Australia** Diana Blom (1969-) Kyle Chastulik, bass  
From *Dance Set*: Tango

## WATER

**Romania** Rodica Lucia Soutzo (1913-1979) Lauren Reamy, soprano  
From *Five Love songs to Verses by Armenian Troubadour Poets*:  
Apa (Water)

**Norway** Agathe Backer-Grøndahl (1847-1907) Adam Rodgers, baritone  
Geächtet Op. 60 #6 (Ostracized)

## MOON, HEAVEN & EARTH

**Brazil** Francisca Gonzaga (1847-1935) Paulina Cevallos, soprano  
Lua Branca (White Moon)

**Spain** Anna Cazurra (1965-) Jesica Santino, soprano  
From *Tensho*: El cel (Heaven)

**France** Isabelle Aboulker (1938-) Luna Dantagnan, mezzo soprano  
From *Savoir vivre et usages mondains*:  
No. 3, Et à propos de gants (...and about gloves)

**USA- Indian American** Kamala Sankaram (1978-) Chloe Lucente, soprano  
Zachary Alvarado, baritone  
From *Eight Phases of Luna*:  
5. He eats....  
6. Loony tunes is 10 years old today

**Canada, USA** Helen Medwedeff Greenberg (1939-2011) McKenna Brunson, mezzo soprano  
Who'll That Be

## Bios and Translations

**Ashley Renee Seward** is a composer and cat lover living in Vancouver, Canada who enjoys writing for any or all instruments. Her compositions have been presented in four Canadian provinces including the unceded territories of the Musqueam, the Squamish, and the Tsleil-Waututh nations. Seward received a BM in Composition at the University of Calgary and a MM in Composition at the University of British Columbia. This song was written in 2020.

### Let the little birds sing

Let the little birds sing,  
let the little lambs play!  
Spring is here, and so 'tis spring,  
but not in the old way!  
I recall a place where a plum tree grew,  
there you lifted up your face

and blossoms covered you.  
If the little birds sing,  
if the little lambs play,  
spring is here, and so 'tis spring,  
but not in the old way!  
-Edna St. Vincent Millay

**Elsa Olivieri Sangiacomo Respighi** was a mezzo-soprano and composer who wrote songs in Italian and French. She wrote ballets using her husband's (Ottorino Respighi) Ancient Airs and Dances suites and completed his final opera *Lucrezia* in 1937. Respighi created the Fondo Respighi in Venice to promote music education in Italy and was a great champion of her husband's work. Following the 1979 Respighi centennial celebrations, many of her own works were finally given their opportunity to be heard widely, especially those she wrote for voice and piano. She lived to be a week shy of 102-years-old.

### From *Quattro liriche dai Rubaiyat di Omar Kayyám*

2. Only one thing's true:  
That life goes-by.  
Only one thing's true:  
the rest is lies.  
The flower, once born -  
Dies forever.

4. Come fill up your glass  
And in the warmth of spring  
Throw off your winter clothes  
of penitence.  
The angel has just a short time  
to fly and see, see  
How it already soars in the sky.

Composer, performer, and librettist, **Grey Grant** is the co-founder of the Fifth Wall Performing Arts with Karl Ronneburg. From North Carolina, she/they are now living in Michigan where their work is largely about identity, the environment, and place.

The opera *Michigan Trees* is written about a trans woman, Orna, who on her journey splits into two parts: how she sees herself (sung by a soprano), and how she feels she is seen (sung by a baritone). The *Mother of Trees* (a trio) urges the two parts to reconcile, and they eventually do. [www.greygrant.com](http://www.greygrant.com)

### From *Michigan Trees: A Guide to the Trees of Michigan and the Great Lakes Region*

*Orna's Aria, as she sees herself: Prelude*

I left behind golden rose  
and left upon unending road  
with a left and right I rightly go  
Further along and long from home.

I left my house to find a home,  
and right along the journey slow  
I heard a thunderin' from hallow'd north,  
and woke my eyes to inner worth.

My mind was violent with her words  
And tragic still the sparrow bird:  
She flies away from wretched ground  
with gold-flake buried in a mound.

The ground, the ground, it held her down,  
She saw it as a place to drown.  
Her flight was freedom with a cost,  
her wings grew tired and she grew lost.

Her cry was carried by the wind,  
and in her air she saw no end.  
Though miles ahead the cry was heard  
but death had, nearer, reached the bird.  
Farewell, farewell you sparrow bird,  
I shall heed your story's word. -Grey Grant

**Grace Xu Schott** was born in Beijing, China, but lived in Tianjin until she was 10-years-old while her parents were professors at Tianjin Conservatory of Music. Her father, Keli Xu, taught piano performance and her mother, Guoqing Wang, taught vocal pedagogy. Schott started studying piano with her father while her mother supervised her practice. She later moved to America to continue her piano studies and enjoyed participating in local, state, national, and international piano competitions.

She majored in piano performance at Indiana University and received her master's degree at the University of Southern California. Schott started composing during her doctoral studies at Ball State University. She said, *"My music has been influenced by my life recently. I am a homeschooling mom of 4 children. The more I engage in an active learning lifestyle, the more I am inspired by God's great creation around me. This beauty all around me translates into the music I create."*

#### **From the Forgotten Tales: A Random Thought**

You have just arrived from my hometown,  
and should know what was happening there.  
When you passed my carved window on that day  
had my winter plum blossomed yet? -Wang Wei

**Dr. Jeraldine Saunders Herbison**, music teacher, violinist, and composer, earned a Bachelor's degree from Virginia State University studying theory and composition with Undine Smith Moore. She taught orchestral music in secondary schools in Virginia and Maryland. Her compositions include many instrumental chamber works, orchestral, and vocal works.

#### **I'll not Forget**

In a single file, my brain has set a list of things I'll not forget;  
A sudden rain on roof or barn,  
The grayness on a bark of Beech.  
Some cowbells  
Heard through morning fog;

The barking of a country dog that knows no fright,  
And yet must talk back  
To the night.  
I'll not forget the woodsmoke smell of pine,  
Or the cowbird when the hay was new. – Max Ellison

**김순애 (Dr. SoonAe Kim)** was born in present day North Korea but spent a majority of her life in South Korea. During her lifetime, Dr. Kim experienced Japanese colonial rule and later, the conflicts between the north and south. Composing became her refuge and a voice for the Korean spirit. She was famous as a Korean art song (kagok) composer, using the elements of simplicity in text, melody, and rhythm to honor her country.

Kim taught at Ewha Womans University before moving to the US to study with Alan Hovanes. She later studied in Paris before returning to the US in 1967 where she received her Doctorate in Composition from Florida State University. Her compositional influence has strong ties in both Eastern and Western musical traditions.

#### **그대 있음에 (In your presence)**

그대의 근심 있는 곳에.	Where your worry lies	그리운 이여	You, beloved!
나를 불러 손잡게 하라	Let my hands caress.	그대 있음에 내가 있네	You brought my existence,
큰 기쁨과 조용한 갈망이	Endless delight and desires	나를 불러 손잡게 해	Let me embrace you! .
그대 있음에	Grow in my bosom.	김남조 (Kim, Nam Cho)	
나의 마음에 자라거늘	By your presence,		

Belgian-born British composer and pianist, **Régine Wieniawski**, known as **Poldowski**, was the daughter of the Polish violinist and composer Henryk Wieniawski. She studied at the Brussels Conservatory and in Paris with Andre Gedalge and Vincent D'Indy. The tenor, Gervase Elwes, introduced her to poet, Paul Verlaine, whose texts she often set to music. Songwriting became her speciality, and she was greatly influenced by Debussy. Poldowski lived in London, Paris, and the US. Unfortunately, many of her larger works have been lost.

**En sourdine** (Muted)

Calm in the half-light  
That the high branches make,  
Let us penetrate our love  
With this profound silence.

Let us melt our souls together,  
our hearts and our ecstatic  
senses,  
Among the vague languors

Of the pine and strawberry trees.

Close your eyes half-way;  
Fold your arms across your  
breast,  
And from your sleepy heart  
Drive away all cares forever.

Let us be persuaded

By the gentle, rocking wind,  
That comes to your feet to ripple  
The waves of russet grass.

And when solemnly the evening  
Shall fall from the dark oaks,  
Voice of our despair,  
The nightingale will sing. – Paul  
Verlaine

**María Grever**, the daughter of a Spanish father and Mexican mother, was a child prodigy. She composed and sang from an early age. In her lifetime she wrote operas and the librettos as well as songs and their poems. She said, *“I had to leave my country, and now in New York, I am interested in Jazz and Modern Rhythms, but above all, in Mexican Music, which I long to present to the American people. ....It is music worth spreading; there is such a cultural richness in Mexican Music (its Hispanic and indigenous origins and how they mix) where melody and rhythm merge.”*

**Despedida** (Farewell)

A sad smile your lip drew,  
an indiscreet tear fell from my eyes;  
your hand in mine the two of them interlaced,  
they hoped to stop our separation  
and without saying anything to each other  
we said to one another,  
goodbye.

Today in my fatal and cruel solitude  
comes your image to me, sensual,  
I am delirious to see you  
I feel terrified to lose you  
come back to me  
do not depart from me  
Tell me you have not forgotten  
the love I gave you.

Composer, harpsichordist, and pianist, **Diana Blom**, was born in New Zealand but moved to Sydney, Australia, in 1969. She has degrees from the University of Canterbury (NZ), the University of Sydney, and the University of Michigan in Musicology. She also completed composition work with Peter Sculthorpe and Ian Farr at Western Sydney University. Blom is currently an Associate Professor and focuses on music education. She is extremely interested in Australian writers and has set many of her songs to their texts. In 1974, Blom was commissioned to write a children’s opera at the Australian Opera titled *The Pied Piper*.

**From Dance Set: Tango**

Two as one,  
Walking, turning, gliding,  
And the pause-  
Time to breathe  
Before Gardel’s beat  
Moves us forward,  
And the tempo quickens.

Weaving, flicking gancho footwork  
Necessitates a turn:  
Another pause -  
Then the milonga’s momentum ,  
Urging deep and deeper  
Into the music. -Diana Blom

Romanian composer, **Rodica Lucia Soutzo** was a descendant of an aristocratic family and a cousin and close friend of the composer, Mansi Barberis. She studied in Hungary and spent four years at the École Normale in Paris, studying with Alfred Cortot and Nadia Boulanger.

Soutzo worked as a pianist and master of sound for Romanian Radio and TV from 1937-1955. She performed in Romania but after World War II and communist control, she was stripped of her royal title. She married, became a piano professor, and lectured at the Bucharest Pedagogic Institute until 1968. She has written three theater works for children as well as music for voice.

**From Five Love songs to Verses by Armenian Troubadour Poets; Apa** (Water)

Ah, water, from the spring whose  
flow arrives murmuring?  
You are lost through this valley  
We hear your voice but do not see  
you. Ah.

I know of the flame of your love  
I recognize the flame of your love  
I know that you lose your way  
traveling from country to  
country.  
Water!

From the spring whose flow  
arrives murmuring?  
And you go without being able to  
sleep at night, water,  
You go so that you can meet the  
dream of your love Ah!  
-Nahaled Kuciac (16th century)

**Agathe Backer-Grøndahl** was a composer and pianist throughout Europe and a close friend of Edvard Grieg who was well connected with many European composers. She studied in Berlin and Weimar, Germany as well as in Norway. She wrote piano pieces and about 250 songs in an early Romantic style filled with charm and harmonic balance in 4 languages: Norwegian, German, Swedish, and Danish. Backer-Grøndahl married choir conductor and voice teacher, Olaus Grøndahl, and they had four children. They both declined the teaching positions offered to them by The Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore Maryland.

**Geächtet** (Ostracized- sung in German)

There is a whispering in the  
brook  
The night listens,  
By the willow there,  
What might the maiden be  
doing?

A greeting rings out  
From over the water:  
“Only come, and you shall  
No longer feel your pain!”

“In me there is forgetting,  
Down here is rest,  
I shall not tell anyone,  
I shall cover you!”

There is a whispering in the  
brook,  
The night weeps, --  
What have the two of you  
Done with the maiden? -  
Elisabeth Pauline Ottilie Luise zu  
Wied (1843 - 1916)

Clutching the bark  
Is her pale hand,  
Her tears stream  
Unceasingly.

Brazilian composer, pianist, and conductor, **Francisca (Chiquinha) Gonzaga** was assured a good education by her father who was in the military. She studied with a priest since it was expected that young women would be homeschooled and protected at all times. Gonzaga married twice and after her second divorce she found work as a piano teacher and began to compose successfully. She wrote 77 stage works, operettas, and hundreds of songs. In 1885 she became the first woman in Brazil to conduct an orchestra.

**Lua Branca** (White Moon)

Oh, white moon of enchantments  
If it's true that you give shelter to love  
Oh, come take away the tears from my eyes  
Oh, come kill this passion that walks with me.

Oh, by whom are you descend from heaven, oh, white  
moon  
This bitterness in my chest, oh, come, pluck it out  
Give me the moonlight of your compassion  
Oh, come, by God, light up my heart.

**Anne Cazurra** is a Catalan composer and musicologist. She studied piano and violin at the Municipal Conservatory of Barcelona, and composition with Josep Soler. Her Profesora Superior (or Master of Music) degree was in both composition and instrumentation as well as in music pedagogy. She also studied musicology at the Autonomous University of Barcelona where she earned her Licenciatura (Bachelor's Degree) in Art History in 1988. She later received the Formación de Personal Investigador, a prestigious four-year scholarship from the Spanish government, to help fund her doctoral research. She has written works for solo instrument, orchestra, voice and piano, and the theater. She currently teaches at the University of Tarragona, the Superior Conservatory of Music in Valencia, and the Catholic University of Valencia in Spain.

**El Cel** (Heaven)

The sky, tireless spiral of the blues,  
the eyes open to infinity,  
the face that smiles at the mystery  
to breathe the world, to rebirth. -Carles Duarte i Montserrat

French composer, **Isabelle Aboulker**, is best known for her compositions for voice and has worked with singers for most of her career. She was born in 1938 near Paris. Her grandfather, Henry Février, was a composer, and her father, Marcel Aboulker, was a film director and writer. She studied music theory and accompaniment at the National Conservatory of Music in Paris and composed for cinema, the theater, and television.

In 1998, Aboulker was commissioned by the Orchestre de Picardie to write the oratorio, *L'Homme qui titubait dans la guerre*, to commemorate the 80th anniversary of World War I. In 1999, she was commissioned to write a comic opera for the Grand Théâtre of Tours, entitled *Monsieur de Balzac fait son théâtre*. Her works for children include *Les Fables enchantées*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Cinderella*, and *Tom Thumb*. As an accompanist and voice teacher in Paris, she has written solo vocal music, choral works, oratorios, and operas.

From *Savoir vivre et usages mondains*: (Guide to fine etiquette and worldly manners)

**No. 3, Et à propos de gants** (And about gloves)

And on the subject of gloves

one often asks themselves :  
when gloves should be worn  
and when taken off?

When should one wear gloves?

One wears gloves to go in the street;  
one wears gloves to go on a walk,  
to the church, to the park,  
on a visit, on a journey;

One wears gloves to go in the street

one wears gloves to go on a walk,  
one wears gloves to go to a party , at a ball,  
at the theater.

When one goes to dinner on the town,  
one takes off upon arrival,  
their hat, their coat,  
But one keeps on their gloves  
until they are seated at the table.  
Then, only, they remove them,  
and they slip them in their pocket .  
-la Comtesse de Gencé (1872-1965)

The daughter of an Indian father and an American mother, **Kamala Sankaram** was born in California. Her operas are well known for their fusion of Indian classical music and opera. *Jungle Book* is Sankaram's most recent work. Sankaram writes works that test the boundaries of conventional operatic performances. Examples include her 10-hour opera, *The Last Stand*, created for the trees of Prospect Park, in Brooklyn, and *The Parkville Murders*, the world's first virtual reality opera.

**Eight Phases of Luna**

#5 He eats,  
I fret, I doubt,  
he races.  
The rest, my job,  
he barks  
My weight, my hair  
he naps  
How could he say that?  
What did she mean?  
He plays.  
Bills, taxes  
he chases.  
The news, my hair  
he sniffs  
I missed my train  
I missed my chances,  
He sleeps  
The future.  
Why? Why?

He gets, he gives, he lives.

#6  
Looney tunes is ten years old today  
Ten years.  
He lives in his chair  
Blithely unaware.  
To him each day is good  
No different from the others  
Each day is true,  
each day has its adventure  
each day is new.  
You only need to Yield, Adjust,  
Lead when you need to  
Let others lead when you don't and trust....  
-We're watching Animal Planet on TV ,  
I think he thinks it's a comedy. - Mark Campbell

**Helen Medwedeff Greenberg's** mother was an amateur pianist and her father was a lawyer. She grew up in Baltimore and became a composer, singer, conductor, and pianist. At Oberlin College and Goucher College she studied English and Secondary Education.

Greenberg wrote secular and sacred music, always enjoying composing Lieder in 3 languages: Yiddish, Hebrew, and English. Her composition teacher, Srul Irving Gluck, commissioned *Magic Breath*, songs for and about children, and the Jewish Federation of Greater Toronto commissioned "Who'll that be" as one song in her Kenneth Patchen song cycle. Throughout her career, Greenberg's music was performed in the US, Europe, Israel and Canada, where she and her husband lived for years.

**Who'll That be**

Who'll that be, your little pouty  
kitten?  
Coat as fluffy as a cloud's front  
room.  
O milk jug on th' mountain,  
Hoofprints on th' sea,  
My little honey,  
You wonder me.

Who'll that be, your little dancin'  
horse?  
Bridle as sparkly as a river's  
tiepin.  
O moonlight on the fountain,  
Startalk along th' sea,  
My little honey,  
You wonder me.

Who'll that be, your little sleepy  
wren?  
Feathers as pretty as a snowfall's  
shirt  
O airflow at their courtin'  
Angel walking' on th' sea,  
O my little honey, my little honey  
You wonder, wonder me.  
-Kenneth Patchen

*Biographies and translations are courtesy of A Modern Reveal  
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*A Modern Reveal* would like to extend its most sincere thanks to everyone who helped make today's concert possible including our fantastic singers, pianist, Gabriel Rebolla, Becca Fülöp and the Beyond the Notes series, and the entire Temple University Vocal Arts department.