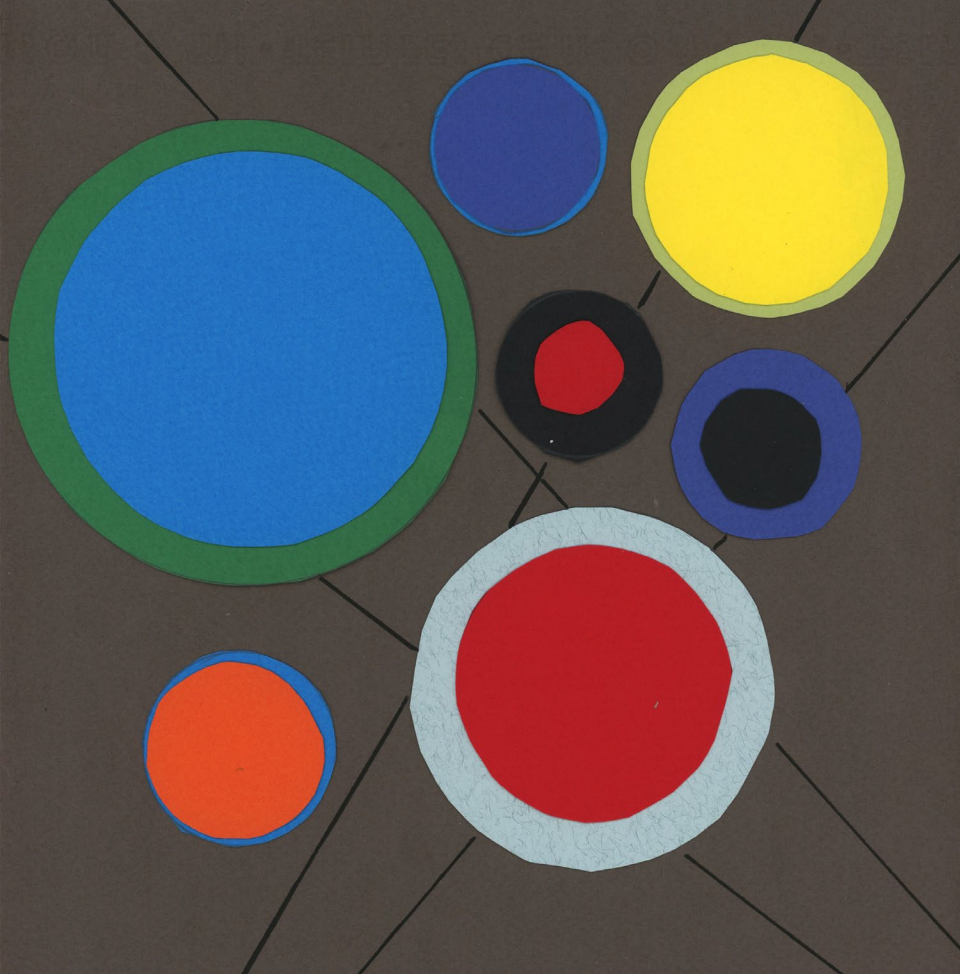


SEASON
2023 - 2024

BROOKLYN
ART SONG SOCIETY
MICHAEL BROFMAN ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

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Circles

Circles brings together composers throughout history who were each other's friends, enemies, lovers, colleagues, mentors, and inspiration.

First Unitarian Church of Brooklyn
119 Pierrepont St. Brooklyn, NY 11201





I. Clara, Robert, & Johannes

Circles opens with a portrait of one of Music's most famous love triangles– three composers whose lives were entwined in marriage, friendship, and loss.

Johannes Brahms: Selected Songs

Clara Schumann: Selected Songs

Robert Schumann: Dichterliebe Op. 48

Elisabeth Marshall, soprano; Katherine Lerner, mezzo soprano

Gregory Feldmann, Brian Mextorf, baritone

Michael Brofman, Joel Harder, piano

Friday, October 6, 2023 | 7:30 PM

Pre-Concert Lecture: Dean Whiteside (Goethe-Institute) | 7:00 PM

Digital Release: Monday, October 23, 2023



II. The Wagnerians

Richard Wagner was the center of the 19th-century musical universe. This program pairs his only song cycle with works by the composers he deeply influenced.

Ernest Chausson: *Les Temps de Lilas, La Caravane* Op. 14

Henri Duparc: *Selected Songs*

Richard Wagner: *Wesendonck-Lieder*

Hugo Wolf: *Selected Mörike-Lieder*

Tami Petty, soprano; Blythe Gaissert, mezzo soprano

Mario Diaz-Moresco, Brian James Myer, baritone

Dimitri Dover, Spencer Myer, piano

Friday, November 3, 2023 | 7:30PM

Pre-concert: Pre-Concert Lecture: Larry Wolff (NYU) | 7:00 PM

Digital Release: Monday, November 20, 2023



III. The Second Viennese School

Arnold Schoenberg and his closest students changed the course of music history. They also had a complex relationship filled with admiration, jealousy, and betrayal.

Alban Berg: Piano Sonata Op. 1, 7 Frühe Lieder

Arnold Schoenberg: 3 Klavierstücke Op. 11, Das Buch der Hängenden Gärten Op. 15

Anton Webern: 3 Lieder Op. 25, Piano Variations Op. 27

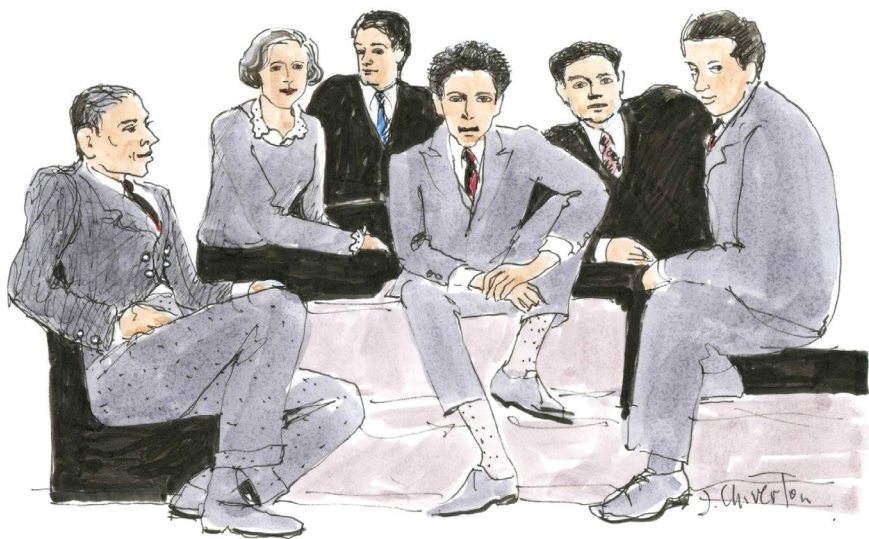
Maggie Finnegan, Jennifer Zetlan, soprano; Kate Maroney, mezzo soprano

Michael Brofman, Eric Huebner, Nana Shi, piano

Friday, December 1, 2023 | 7:30 PM

Pre-Concert Lecture: Marilyn McCoy (Columbia University) | 7:00 PM

Digital Release: Monday, December 18, 2023



IV. Les Six

Paris, 1920: Jean Cocteau brings six young composers together to take on the establishment and bring French music into the Modern Era.

Georges Auric: Alphabet

Louis Durey: Trois Poèmes de Pétrone

Arthur Honegger: 3 Chansons de 'La Petite Sirène'

Darius Milhaud: Chansons de Ronsard

Francis Poulenc: Fiançailles pour rire; Tel Jour, Telle Nuit

Germaine Tailleferre: 6 Chansons Française

Mireille Asselin, Amy Owens, soprano; Anna Laurenzo; mezzo soprano

Michael Kelly, baritone; Michael Brofman, Miori Sugiyama; piano

Friday, January 5, 2024 | 7:30PM

Pre-Concert Lecture: Michael Brofman | 7:00 PM

Digital Release: Monday, January 22, 2024



V. The Minnesota Connection

Minnesota became an unofficial capital for American Song thanks to the pioneering work of Dominick Argento.

This program pairs one of his most ambitious works with three composers who share a connection to both Minnesota and BASS.

Dominick Argento: The Andrée Expedition

Michael Djupstrom: 3 Teasdale Songs

Libby Larsen: The Other Side of Silence (BASS Commission)

Reinaldo Moya: Nocturno (BASS Commission)

Tori Tedeschi Adams, soprano; Jesse Blumberg, Randall Scarlata, baritone Laura Ward, Michael Brofman, piano

Friday, February 2, 2024 | 7:30PM

Pre-Concert Lecture: Libby Larsen | 7:00 PM

Digital Release: Monday, February 19, 2024



February House

VI. The February House

During World War II a brownstone in Brooklyn Heights was converted into an artist commune that housed Benjamin Britten, Peter Pears, and W.H Auden. The mastermind behind the project was George Davis, close friend of Kurt Weill and second husband to Lotte Lenya.

Benjamin Britten: On This Island, Op. 11; Cabaret Songs

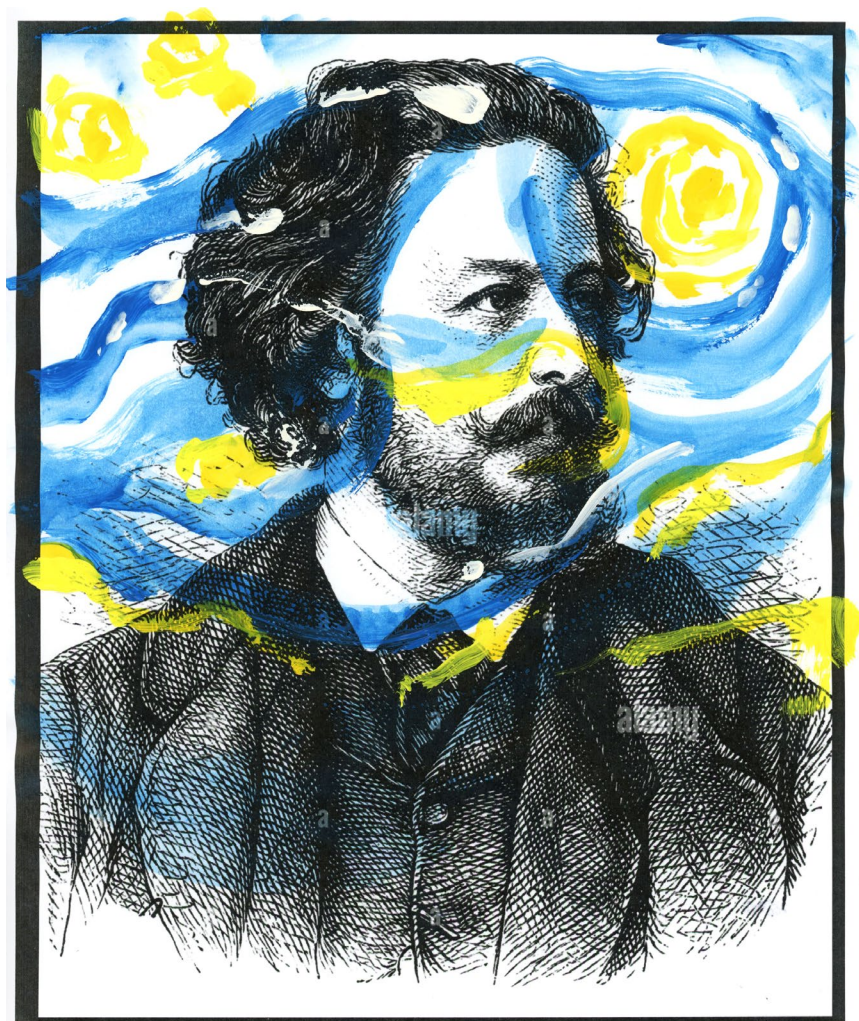
Kurt Weill: 4 Walt Whitman Songs, 6 Songs

*Ashley Emerson, soprano; Abi Levis, Kristin Gornststein, mezzo soprano;
Dominic Armstrong, tenor; Michael Brofman, Jeremy Chan, Mila Henry, piano*

Friday, March 1, 2024 | 7:30PM

Pre-Concert Lecture: Sherill Tippins (Author, The February House) | 7:00 PM

Digital Release: Monday, March 18, 2024



The Dichter Project: Paul Heyse

Paul Heyse was an early Nobel Prize winner for Literature. His colorful and ingenious translations of folk poetry inspired some of Hugo Wolf's most brilliant Lieder.

Hugo Wolf: Selected Songs from the *Italienische* and *Spanisches Liederbuches*

*Kristina Bachrach, soprano; Devony Smith, mezzo soprano
Dylan Morrongiello, tenor; Sidney Outlaw, baritone
Michael Brofman, Danny Zelibor piano*

Sunday, March 17, 2024 | 7:00PM
Brooklyn Conservatory of Music
58 7th Ave, Brooklyn NY 11215

General Admission: \$50 (not included in Digital
Subscription Package)





NEW VOICES FESTIVAL

Departures

The 2024 New Voices Festival explores the multi-faceted meaning of the word Departures- leaving home, leaving love, and leaving our time on this Earth.

First Unitarian Church of Brooklyn
119 Pierrepont St. Brooklyn, NY 11201





I

Departures opens with a program featuring three of today's best interpreters of song. Presenting new works—many written specifically for them, including BASS commissions by Iain Bell and Huang Ruo.

Iain Bell: Somerton Moor (World Premiere, BASS Commission)

Kai-Young Chan: Hard it is to Meet and Part

Fang Man: Partridge Song

Shawn E. Okpebholo: 2 Black Churches

Russell Platt: After Apple Picking (World Premiere)

Huang Ruo: Song of Everlasting Regret (BASS commission)

Raymond Yiu: Bright Fear

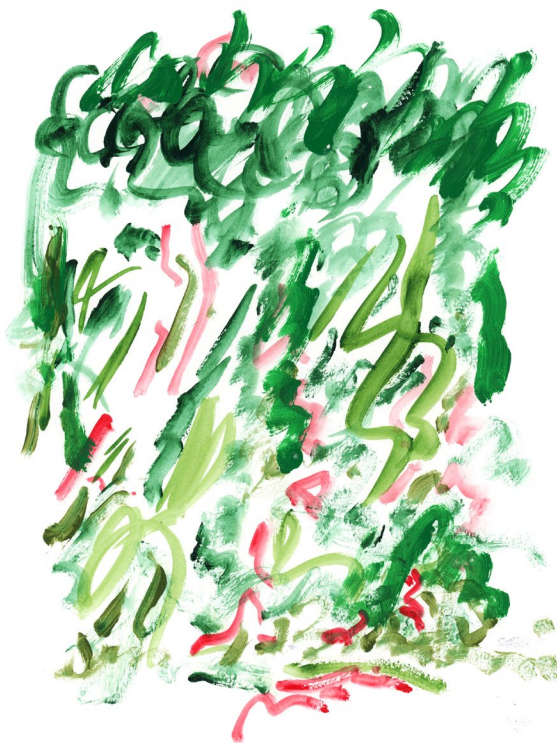
Paul Appleby, tenor; Fleur Barron, mezzo soprano

Joshua Conyers, baritone; Mike Brofman, Myra Huang, piano

Thursday, March 28, 2024 | 7:30PM

Pre-Concert Lecture: Iain Bell | 7:00 PM

Digital Release: Monday, April 22, 2024



II

Each work on this program explores the meaning of loss. Katherine Balch's poignant reimaging of Schumann's *Dichterliebe*, Iranian-born Aida Shirazi's new reflection on identity, and new works by Matthew Ricketts and Charlotte Bray.

Katherine Balch: *Estrangement* (BASS Commission)

Charlotte Bray: *The Earth Cried out to the Sky* (American Premiere)

Matthew Ricketts: *The Threefold Terror of Love* (World Premiere, BASS Commission)

Aida Shirazi: *New Work* (World Premiere, BASS Commission)

*Lucy Fitz-Gibbon, Charlotte Mundy, soprano; Emily Triebold, alto
Dominik Belavy, baritone; Nathaniel LaNasa, Brent Funderburk,
Ryan McCullough, piano*

Thursday, May 2, 2024 | 7:30PM

Pre-Concert Lecture: Aida Shirazi | 7:00 PM

Digital Release: Monday, May 20, 2024



Lembit Beecher's masterful *Looking at Spring* is a poignant reflection on aging. New works by Daniel Felsenfeld and Jessica Meyer that explore themes of loneliness and Pandemic-era songs by Caroline Shaw and Alex Weiser round out the program.

Lembit Beecher: *Looking at Spring*

Daniel Felsenfeld: *Visiting San Francisco* (BASS Commission, World Premiere)

Jessica Meyer: *with a gift for burning* (BASS Commission, World Premiere)

Caroline Shaw: *How Do I Find You*

Alex Weiser: *Let It Be Forgotten*

Mary Bonhag, soprano; Sarah Nelson Craft, mezzo soprano; Andrew Fuchs, tenor; Stanichka Dimitrova, violin; Jessica Meyer, viola; Karen Ouzounian, cello; Evan Premo, bass; Lembit Beecher, Michael Brofman, piano

Thursday, June 6, 2024 | 7:30PM

Pre-Concert Lecture: Daniel Felsenfeld | 7:00 PM

Digital Release: Monday, June 24, 2024

TICKETING INFORMATION:

In Person Concerts:

Digital Subscribers: Free Admission

Individual Tickets: \$35

Individual tickets are "Pay What You Choose" with a minimum of \$10 and a suggested price of \$35.* Please note: All tickets purchased at the suggested price or higher include a month-long pass to the digital concert hall.

The Dichter Project: Individual Tickets: \$50 (not included in Digital Subscription Package)

Digital Concert Hall: Annual Subscriptions: \$111.99/year or \$10.99/month

Includes:

- Free Admission to In Person Concerts*.
- Unlimited on demand viewing of BASS's entire season.
- Complete programs, notes, texts and translations, and a bonus listening guide made available before each concert.
- Exclusive access to full episodes of Song and Wine, BASS's hit web series.

**Excluding The Dichter Project*



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or visit: www.brooklynartsongsociety.org/

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and by

the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Kathy Hochul and the New York State Legislature.



**Council on
the Arts**

The New Voices Festival made possible in part by support from the National Endowment for the Arts



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