



ERIN WAGNER | Mezzo-Soprano

REPRESENTED BY
YOUNG CONCERT
ARTISTS

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BUT HOW THINGS CHANGE

"But how things change", musically and textually explores the individual and collective experiences felt throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Opening the program is Edie Hill's *The Giver of Stars: Six Poems of Amy Lowell*. Lowell was one of the few queer American women writing in the early part of the 20th century and used her poetry to express her love for actress, Ada Dwyer Russell, with whom she had a long-term concealed relationship. Hill perfectly captures a desire for intimate connection with the people we love, an emotion I'm sure we all felt in our time of isolation in 2020 and beyond. Next is a group of euphoric Fauré songs that embody the joy felt as we became safely reunited with loved ones. *Rêve d'Amour*, *Green*, and *Nell* are offerings of oneself to a lover, a list of beautiful earthly things given then transformed into an admittance of passionate love. *L'Hiver a cessé*, the final song in *La Bonne Chanson*, declares the end of Winter, which to the poet, Paul Verlaine, was the end of his despair. Ravel's *Deux Mélodies Hébraïques* entail so much of the trajectory of the pandemic and the climate of the time. *Kaddisch* mourns those we've lost; our performance honors the lives lost to COVID-19, police brutality, war in Ukraine and Palestine, gun violence, and acts of racism, homophobia, and transphobia. Following *Kaddisch* is *L'énigme éternelle* (The Eternal Enigma), which questions the purpose of life and our suffering and why we revert to inaction. Despite numerous and grave collective tragedies, our society continues to react with apathy, selfishness, and the resignation to continue on without fighting for necessary reformation. After intermission Errollyn Wallen's *Daedalus* tells the tale of Icarus from the perspective of his father, Daedalus, after he learns of his death. Daedalus searches aimlessly for his son, but never loses hope. Hope is what bears us (both as a society and as individuals) through the darkest of times. Hope, and of course a little mischief, is what carried my father through growing up with Osteogenesis Imperfecta, a very rare bone disorder. At the age of six, while undergoing painful experimental treatments, my father asked his mother to help him write a letter to his grandmother. He spoke and she wrote. After my grandmother passed away many years later we found the letter in her bedside table. We will never know her reason for not sending it, but knowing my grandmother, it was because she wanted to hold on to this memory as long as she could. I'm more than grateful to Shawn Chang, one of my greatest friends, for giving music to these words which mean so much to me. Closing the program is Mahler's *Rückert Lieder* which paints some of the most important and universal emotions: blissful nostalgia, pure love, bleak emptiness and desperation, and finally acceptance of what is.



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Edie Hill

The Giver of Stars: Six Poems of Amy Lowell

- I. Pyrotechnics
- II. Flame Apples
- III. Vernal Equinox
- IV. The Giver of Stars
- V. Autumnal Equinox
- VI. A Sprig of Rosemary

GABRIEL FAURÉ

Rêve D'amour

Green from Cinq melodies de Venise

Nell

L'hiver a cessé from La Bonne Chanson

MAURICE RAVEL

Deux Mélodies Hébraïques

- I. Kaddisch
- II. L'énigme éternelle

INTERMISSION

ERROLLYN WALLEN

Daedalus

(Wallen and Chang connected by musical interlude composed by Shawn Chang)

SHAWN CHANG

Marty's Letter (world premiere)

GUSTAV MAHLER

Rückert Lieder

- I. Ich atmet einen linden Duft
- II. Liebste du um Schönheit
- III. Blicke mir nicht in die Lieder
- IV. Um Mitternacht
- V. Ich bin der Welt abhanden gekommen

ENCORE

ERROLLYN WALLEN

Beehive