



ERIN WAGNER | Mezzo-Soprano

REPRESENTED BY
YOUNG CONCERT
ARTISTS

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LIFE IN COLOR

We associate different memories, people, and emotions with unrelated senses or images in order to understand or connect further to these moments. Shawn Chang explained to me that he wrote the poetry for *Portraits of Unrelated Colors* with specific locations in mind and used the emotions that he associated with colors to evoke the buoyancy and wonder of Aspen in *Yellow* and the tinted hope of the Sleepy Hollow Cemetery in *Green*. With this idea in mind I began acknowledging the colors that appeared in my mind when I thought of people and places. Yellow reminded me of my dear friend, Valeria, who brought joy and laughter everywhere she went, even after her passing in April of 2020 I can still see her in yellow flowers. Green reminded me of my mom, not only because it's her favorite color, but because she is a source of peace and clarity in a world that often feels so clouded. When I re-read Neruda's love sonnets and saw the appearance of these colors the poems took on a completely different and personal meaning for me. *Si no fuera porque tus ojos tienen color de luna* held all of the beauty that was Valeria, the yellow and joyful moments I had with her, however brief, feel permanent. *Ya eres mía reposa con tu sueño en mi sueño* reminded me that my mom will always be there for me in her constant and green way, telling me that everything will be okay even when it feels like that isn't possible. *Amor mío si muero y tú no meures* has been a poem that has affirmed the constancy and survival of love despite the ending of life, this song will always be sung for Valeria and with her voice existing within my own



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SHAWN CHANG

Portraits of Unrelated Colors (world premiere)

- I. Red (Maple Grove Cemetery in Queens, New York)
- II. Green (Sleepy Hollow Cemetery in Sleepy Hollow, New York)
- III. Yellow (RFTA Bus Route from Basalt to Aspen, Colorado)
- IV. Blue (Harlem, New York)
- V. Purple (Troy, New York)
- VI. Orange (Aptos, California: Family Reunion)

INTERMISSION

PETER LIEBERSON

Neruda Songs

- I. Si no fuera porque tus ojos tienen color de luna...
- II. Amor, amor, las nubes a la torre del cielo...
- III. No estés lejos de mí un solo día, porque cómo...
- IV. Ya eres mía. Reposa con tu sueño en mi sueño...
- V. Amor mío, si muero y tú no mueres...