



ERIN WAGNER | Mezzo-Soprano

REPRESENTED BY
YOUNG CONCERT
ARTISTS

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TOUCHING THE LIVING GARDEN

What is joy? Is it the sensation we get when buying a new pair of shoes or looking at a Magritte painting? Is it acceptance of the world around and within us? Is it living life with love even when it seems impossible? Yes. Yes. Yes. But, to know true joy one must have also known strife, one cannot exist without the other.

When I first heard Errollyn Wallen's music I felt a deep sense of comfort, hope, and a true understanding of the human spirit. She is able to put not only her own heart, but the hearts of others, into her music and words. When she asked Shawn and I what topics she should think of when composing for us I immediately thought of *JOY* because I knew she could give us what'd we long been in search of: a musical representation of all facets of joy and what it means to us in the present day.

Des Knaben Wunderhorn (excerpts)

Gustav Mahler understood the internal contentment that stems from pain and transcending that pain. *Des Knaben Wunderhorn* encapsulates what it means to be human: grief, fear, loss, pain, love, healing, light, joy. Each song paints a specific yet universal condition that helps us understand and appreciate the inner peace that often comes after a storm.

Silver Song 1 & My Heart

Stefania Turkewich, Ukrainian composer and student of Schoenberg, was the first woman to have her music published in Ukraine. She infused Ukrainian folk melodies with her own musical ideas of expressionism and set the poetry of some of the most prolific Ukrainian poets. *Silver Song 1* and *My Heart* search for peace and joy in a world that is darkened by sorrow while never losing hope that one can find a world free of evil: a world that is gentle, joyful, and good.

Adam Cast Forth

Shawn Chang chose to set a poem by Jorge Luis Borges entitled *Adam Cast Forth* which recalls images of a garden, once perfect, now stained with human stubbornness and hardship. Yet we continue to value and seek love because it is what we know can save us and give meaning to life.



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Harawi

Olivier Messiaen's *Harawi* contemplates and juxtaposes life/love and death, past and future, lightness and darkness, earth and heaven. Based on Quechan mythology and the story of *Tristan and Isolde*, *Harawi* dissects and abstracts how one experiences love and grief. Despite the surrealism found in both Messiaen's prose and music there is a clear message that life cannot exist without death, happiness cannot exist without grief, and that our purest joy comes from allowing ourselves to love fully and fearlessly.

To touch the living garden is to have felt the soil that gives life to the roots, the thorny stems that inflict pain and serve as a bridge to the blossom, and finally the flower itself unafraid to seek, to cry for, to dream of, or to find its own joy.



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ERROLLYN WALLEN

JOY (world premiere, Naumburg Foundation Commission)

I. Magritte Man

II. Yellow Blues

III. Viv

IV. Still

V. Joy

GUSTAV MAHLER

Des Knaben Wunderhorn (excerpts)

Das irdische Leben

Rheinlegendchen

Wo die schönen Trompeten blasen

Urlicht

INTERMISSION

STEFANIA TURKEWICH

Србна псња.1 (Silver Song I)

Серце (My Heart)

SHAWN CHANG

Adam Cast Forth (world premiere)

OLIVIER MESSIAEN

Harawi: Chant d'amour et de mort (excerpts)

La ville qui dormait, toi

Bonjour toi, colombe verte

Katchikatchi les étoiles

Amour oiseau d'étoile

L'escalier redit, gestes du soleil

ENCORE

ERROLLYN WALLEN

Hudson, Mississippi, Thames