



**KRANNERT CENTER DEBUT ARTIST:
YUNJI SHIM, SOPRANO**

HANA LIM, PIANO

Sunday, April 23 at 3pm

Foellinger Great Hall

PROGRAM

KRANNERT CENTER DEBUT ARTIST:

YUNJI SHIM, SOPRANO

Hana Lim, piano

Reynaldo Hahn
(1874-1947)

A Chloris
Fêtes galantes
L'Énamourée
Le Printemps

Richard Strauss
(1864-1949)

Four Songs, Op. 27
Ruhe, meine Seele!
Heimliche Aufforderung
Morgen!
Cäcilie

Stefano Donaudy
(1879-1925)

Amorosi miei giorni
O del mio amato ben

Luigi Arditi
(1822-1903)

Il bacio

20-minute intermission

Sergei Rachmaninoff
(1873-1943)

Сонъ (A dream) Op.8, No.5
Не пой, красавица! (Oh, never sing to me again) Op.4 No. 4
Здесь хорошо (How fair this spot!) Op. 21 No.7
Весенние воды (spring waters) Op.14 No.11

Ernest Charles
(1895-1984)

When I have sung my songs
And so, goodbye
Let my song fill your heart

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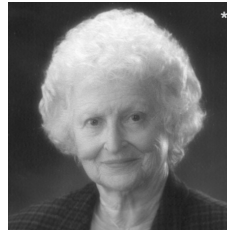
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PROGRAM NOTES

REYNALDO HAHN

Born August 9, 1875, in Caracas, Venezuela

Died January 28, 1947, in Paris, France

À *Chloris*

Fêtes galantes

L'Énamourée

Le Printemps

Although composer, conductor, music critic, theatre director, and salon singer Reynaldo Hahn was born in Venezuela, he moved to Paris with his family at the age of three and remained there where he composed his first songs at the age of eight. At 10 he entered the Paris Conservatoire to study with Jules Massenet, Charles Gounod, Camille Saint-Saëns, and Émile Decombes. By fourteen he became famous with the publication of his setting of Victor Hugo's poem *Si mes vers avaient des ailes*. He was also inspired by the poetry of Paul Verlaine who in turn greatly admired him. In 1894 he met Marcel Proust and the two became lovers until 1896 and, after that, lifelong friends. Hahn served in the French army during World War I but was forced to leave Paris in 1940 during the Nazi occupation. He returned in 1945 and died two years later of a brain tumor. He remains best-known today for his large collection of songs.

The poignant *À Chloris* composed in 1913, is set to a poem by Baroque poet and dramatist Théophile de Viau (1590-1626). The merry *Fêtes galantes* of 1892 is the setting of a poem by Paul Verlaine (1844-1896), and the moving *L'Énamourée* of 1891 uses one by Théodore Banville (1823-1891). The lovely *Le Printemps* of 1899 also employs the poetry of Théodore Banville.

This collection offered by Yunji Shim and Hana Lim thus covers over twenty years of Hahn's compositional life plus his long-held interest in French poetry from both the Baroque Period and the 19th century.

RICHARD STRAUSS

Born June 11, 1864, in Munich, Germany

Died September 8, 1949, in

Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany

Four Songs, Op. 27

Not to be confused with his famous *Four Last Songs*, Strauss' *Four Songs, Op. 27* of 1894 were dedicated to "my beloved wife," a reference to Pauline de Ahna who often performed them. Strauss presented them to her on their wedding day, September 10, 1894. They are all set to texts by German poets with whom Strauss was acquainted at the time.

The first song, "Ruhe, meine Seele!" (Calm, my heart), is a powerful and thoughtful treatment of a text by Karl Henckell from his *Buch de Kampfes* (Book of Struggles) in which a person considers his past life with a troubled spirit and struggles to remain calm concerning it. The second song, "Heimliche Aufforderung" (Secret Invitation), is a rapturous love song set to a poem by John Henry Mackay who is also the poet for the equally rapturous "Morgen!" (Morning!). The finale "Cécile" (Cecily), with text by Henry Hart, is a brief but effective conclusion to the set with its impressive roles for both soprano and piano. We are reminded here that we cannot look upon the piano parts in these songs as mere "accompaniment."

STEFANO DONAUDY

Born February 21, 1879, in Palermo, Italy

Died May 30, 1925, in Naples, Italy

Amorosi miei giorni

O del mio amato ben

Son of a French father and an Italian mother, Italian-born Stefano Donaudy was part of the late 19th- and early 20th-century Art Nouveau movement which in Italy is known as Stile Liberty. As part of that movement, Donaudy composed his collection *36 Arie di Stile Antico* which is still in print today. Clearly indicated by the two songs performed on this program, his style includes a deeply sensuous and highly emotional musical treatment. Although Stefano Donaudy's fame as a composer may have faded, certain of his many vocal works such as *Amorosi miei giorni* (*My Amorous Days*) and *O del mio amato ben* (*Oh, Lost Enchantment of My Dearly Beloved*) remain celebrated today by well-known singers. The texts for almost all of his songs were provided by his poet brother Alberto Donaudy (1880-1941).

LUIGI ARDITI

Born July 16, 1822, in Crescentino, Italy

Died May 1, 1903, in Hove, United Kingdom

Il bacio

Italian-born composer, violinist, and conductor Luigi Arditi conducted operas throughout Italy, in many European cities, and in New York and Philadelphia. After 1885 he settled in London to conduct at Covent Garden and other prestigious London venues where Italian opera has long been celebrated. In addition to several operas, he composed many songs, with *Il bacio* (*The Kiss*) being one of the most popular. In a thrilling waltz form, the song depicts the drama of a kiss in a flowing melody and high pitches.

SERGEI RACHMANINOFF

Born April 1, 1873, in Starorussky Uyezd,

Novgorod Oblast, Russia

Died March 28, 1943, in Beverly Hills, California

Op. 8, No. 5, "A Dream"

Op. 4, No. 4, "Oh, Never Sing to Me Again"

Op. 21, No. 7, "How Fair This Spot!"

Op. 14, No. 11, "Spring Waters"

While we consistently associate Rachmaninoff with solo piano and symphonic music, we sometimes overlook his some 85 songs. He wrote songs to texts by Tolstoy, Pushkin, Goethe, Shelley, Hugo, and Chekov but also turned to more modern poets of the Symbolist school.

"A Dream" from Rachmaninoff's *Op. 8* set of six songs composed in 1893 is often considered the finest in the collection. It is the setting of a poem by German poet Heinrich Heine (1797-1856) translated to Russian by Alexei Pleshcheyev who died as Rachmaninoff was composing the set. Both the poem and Rachmaninoff's music express a sense of longing for his homeland—something Rachmaninoff would acutely experience when he fled war-torn Russia in 1917. The melancholy we hear in "A Dream" would pervade his music throughout his lifetime.

Although written earlier between 1890 and 1893, "Oh, Never Sing to Me Again" carries the same melancholic quality. The text is by the great Russian poet Alexander Pushkin and has been treated by other Russian composers such as Balakirev, Glinka, and Rimsky-Korsakov.

"How Fair This Spot!" from Rachmaninoff's *Op. 7* set of 12 songs lightens somewhat in its loveliness but does not lose a certain air of sadness. Interestingly, Vladimir Ashkenazy has a recording for the piano part alone as well as one with soprano.

We experience the brighter side of Rachmaninoff in the ecstatic *Spring Waters* sometimes entitled *Spring Torrents*. Torrential it is with its wonderful cascade of notes depicting the arrival of spring. Composed in 1902, the song is set to a poem by Russian poet Feodor Tyutchev.

ERNEST CHARLES

Born November 21, 1895, in

Minneapolis, Minnesota

Died April 16, 1984, in Beverly Hills, California

When I Have Sung My Songs

And So, Goodbye

Let My Song Fill Your Heart

The American composer of art songs Ernest Charles was born in Minneapolis and died in Beverly Hills after an extended career as both a composer and a singer in vaudeville and on Broadway. He was also producer of the radio program *Great Moments in Music*. Between 1930 and 1950 he composed some 45 songs for voice and piano.

Yunshi Shim and Hana Lim treat two of Charles' best-known songs. *When I Have Sung My Songs*, composed in 1934, was sung by actress Meryl Streep in the 2016 film *Florence Foster Jenkins* and celebrated earlier by such singers as Kirsten Flagstad, Rosa Ponselle, and Thomas Hampson. *And So, Goodbye* written in 1938, is a delicious lead-in to the final *Let My Song Fill Your Heart* of 1936 which was made famous by none other than Eileen Farrell.

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PROFILES

YUNJI SHIM (soprano) is a third-year doctoral student in voice performance and literature at University of Illinois. She was granted a master's degree of music at Eastman School of Music in 2013 and her bachelor's degree in music at Seoul National University in South Korea in 2011. Winner of the Krannert Center Debut Artist Award, Shim performed the role of Ottavia in *L'incoronazione di Poppea* and performed a solo of Verdi's *Requiem* in *Viva Verdi!* at U of I. Also, in 2013 she performed in *Don Giovanni* as Donna Anna in Charlotte, North Carolina at CPCC. In 2011 as a soloist, she performed scenes from *Faust* by Schumann in Kodak Hall at Eastman School of Music. She is the winner of the young artist competition of the Artist Presentation Society in St. Louis and won the second prize at Southern Illinois Young Artist Organization vocal competition. She has studied with Cynthia Haymon-Coleman, Dr. Robert McIver, Dr. Hyunju Yun, and Soonhee Lee.

HANA LIM (piano) is originally from South Korea and immigrated to Canada in 2003. While she was in South Korea, she attended Sunhwa Art School and studied with Sook Ryun Park. During the years in Canada, she attended Royal Conservatory of Music, and studied with Tanya Tkachenko. She achieved her bachelor's of music degree at Eastman School of Music under Rebecca Penneys, and continued her master's of music degree at University of Michigan under Logan Skelton. Now, she is a student of Ian Hobson pursuing a DMA at the University of Illinois, and a recipient of Langford Fellowship (2014-2015) and Ross Fellowship (2015-2016). She is a prizewinner of Kiwanis Music Festival, Scarborough Piano Competition, Burlington Piano Competition, Canada National Provincial Round, and Canadian Music Competition. She is also an active chamber performer, formed Meliora Trio and won second place in the Misbin Chamber Competition and was a finalist in The American Prize.

KRANNERT CENTER DEBUT ARTIST

The School of Music at the University of Illinois and Krannert Center choose a student through audition as the winner of the Krannert Center Debut Artist competition each season. This student earns a recital as well as a full professional contract. All Krannert Center Debut Artists, since the very first in 1984, have remained active performers and educators, and for many the award has carried national impact.

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| 1984 Eugene Novotney, percussion, assisted by Kevin Kingston, Junko Kobayashi, and Larry Roberts | 2000 Owen Rockwell, percussion, with Britton Plourde, alto flute |
| 1985 Yelena Kurdina, accompanist, with Janet Jaudes, soprano | 2001 Kyung-A Yang, piano |
| 1986 David Carter, cello, with Mark Sudeith, piano | 2002 Alda Dizdari, violin, with Magi Dizdari, piano |
| 1987 Ollie Watts Davis, soprano, with Kathryn Southworth, piano | 2003 Lori Williams, soprano, with Jeffrey Peterson, piano |
| 1988 Ann Morrow, soprano, with Kristin Okerlund, piano | 2004 Wae-Jane Chen, piano |
| 1989 Michael Mizma, percussion | 2005 Ann Kai-An Wu, piano |
| 1990 Zheng Zhou, baritone, with Michael Gribbin, piano | 2006 Bomi Lim, piano, and Rochelle Sennet, piano; honorable mention: Jane Boxall, marimba |
| 1991 Gregory Mason, accompanist, with Mark Hamman, tenor; Janet Robb, soprano; Mary Ann Kyle, soprano; and Julianne Cross, soprano | 2007 Thomas Kronholz, piano |
| 1992 Margaret Donaghue, clarinet, with Victoria Demaree, piano | 2008 Yu-Chi Tai, piano |
| 1993 Layna Chianakas, mezzo-soprano, with Gregory Mason, piano | 2009 Melissa Davis, mezzo-soprano, with Sun-Hee Kim, piano; honorable mention: Phil Doyle, tenor saxophone, and Henning Schröder, alto saxophone |
| 1994 Horia Mihail, piano | 2010 Chen-Yu Huang, harp |
| 1995 Irina Muresanu, violin, with Joseph Bognar, piano | 2011 Patrycja Likos, cello, and Chu-Chun Yen, piano, with Yu-Chi Tai, piano accompanist |
| 1996 Diana Popescu, piano | 2012 Wuna Meng, piano |
| 1997 Catalin Rotaru, double bass, with Diana Popescu, piano | 2013 Moye Chen, piano |
| 1998 Harold Gray Meers, tenor, with Dewitt Tipton, piano | 2014 Alexandra Nowakowski, soprano, and Samuel Gingher, piano, with Jianan Yu, piano accompanist |
| 1999 Samir Golescu, piano | 2015 Shin-Young Park, piano |
| | 2016 Jae Eun Jenny Shin, flute, with leng-leng Lam, piano accompanist |
| | 2017 Yunji Shim, soprano, with Hana Lim, piano accompanist |