



College of Music
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

ARTIST-FACULTY AND GUEST RECITAL SERIES
Sponsored by WKAR

Tell Me the Truth About Love

Melanie Helton, soprano
Rachelle Jonck, piano

*Generously sponsored by
Gordon E. Miracle*

Thursday, October 31, 2024
Cook Recital Hall, 7:30 p.m.

PROGRAM

Tell Me the Truth About Love	Benjamin Britten (1913-1976)
Isle d'Amour	Leo Edwards (1886-1978)
I Never Has Seen Snow	Harold Arlen (1905-1986)
Vaga luna, che inargenti	Vincenzo Bellini (1801-1835)
M'amasti mai?	Paolo Tosti (1846-1916)
Au-delà	Francis Poulenc (1899-1963)
Pourquoi?	Olivier Messiaen (1908-1992)
Je ne t'aime pas	Kurt Weill (1900-1950)
Let's Call the Whole Thing Off	George Gershwin (1898-1937)
If	David Gates (b. 1940)
Traum durch die Dämmerung	Richard Strauss (1864-1949)
Stardust	Hoagy Carmichael (1899-1981)

PROGRAM NOTES

I first gave the first version of this program in the late 80s in New York, at a lunchtime concert series at St. Paul's Church in Lower Manhattan. I have given some version of it at least 5 times over the years, and always enjoy revising it.

I first met Rachelle Jonck in 1998 on her first day in the United States when we were both working for the Caramoor Bel Canto Festival. I was singing the title role in Donizetti's *Lucretia Borgia* and Rachelle was coaching. We became fast friends immediately and have stayed in touch over the years. The pandemic brought us back together when Rachelle founded what became Bel Canto Boot Camp, an online community devoted to studying historical vocal pedagogy. I am proud to be a founding member and mentor to other members and have incorporated much that I have learned into my teaching.

This is the first time we have ever done a recital together. I am so grateful for her friendship.

ARTIST-FACULTY BIOS

Melanie Helton is professor of voice (soprano) and director of the MSU Opera Theatre. She has been hailed by The New York Times for her "dark soprano that warms the ear." She made her international debut as Marietta/Marie in Korngold's *Die Tote Stadt* at the Brisbane Biennial (Australia). Her successes include the title roles in *Lucrezia Borgia* at the Caramoor International Music Festival and *Aida* with Opera Carolina, as well as Donna Anna in *Don Giovanni* with numerous companies. Other engagements included Alice Ford at the New York City Opera, Maddalena in *Andréa Chénier*, Elsa in *Lohengrin* and Leonora in *Il Trovatore* for Seattle Opera, and the title role in *Norma* for Teatro de Colon, Bogotá. In addition, she has sung leading roles with the Santa Fe Opera, Houston Grand Opera, Dallas Opera, Washington Opera, Central City Opera, and San Francisco Opera Center.

Her recording of "and flowers pick themselves: Songs of Ricky Ian Gordon" was named one of American Record Guide's "Best of 2008". Her recording with MSU faculty colleague Derek Polischuk entitled "Anxiety Attack: Robert Schumann – *Dichterliebe*; Gabriel Kahane *Craigslustlieder*", also on Blue Griffin Recording, gained an honorable mention for the American Prize in Art Song.

The soprano earned a Bachelor of Music degree with honors from Indiana University, and a Master of Music with honors from the University of Houston.

Rachelle Jonck is a vocal coach based in New York City specializing in the historic tradition of the bel canto style of singing. She received her musical training at the conservatory of the University of Stellenbosch majoring in both piano and musicology.

For her contributions to opera in South Africa, she was awarded an FNB/Vita award and the Nederburg Opera Prize – South Africa's premier opera award. She moved to the United States in 1998 as Head Coach of Bel Canto at Caramoor. She served on faculty at Manhattan School of Music and Westminster Choir College and has been a visiting coach at universities across the United States. In addition to her two decades at Caramoor she taught at Palm Beach Opera's Benenson Young Artist Program and The Steans Institute at Ravinia. Rachelle's online course, "The Bel Canto Skill Set", is available on the Tonebase platform.

ARTIST-FACULTY BIOS (cont.)

During the COVID-19 pandemic she established Bel Canto Boot Camp with Derrick Goff – now a non-profit organization striving to make high level teaching accessible to everybody breaking the often-prohibitive barriers of distance, cost, time, and audition-only programs. BCBC has offered two workshops at the renowned Voice Foundation Symposium: one exploring the functions of laryngeal registration and the other exploring the correlation between vibrato and legato. Bel Canto Boot Camps' signature course, "The Vaccai Project", explores the bel canto style through the lens of the classic lessons of Vaccai. It sells worldwide through Amazon.

In the Spring of 2024, Rachelle embarked on an extensive European coaching tour which included a master class and coaching at Guild Hall in London, a workshop in Berlin, and coaching singers at Stuttgart Opera, Staatstheater Nürnberg, Stadttheater Bern, and Dutch National Opera. In 2025, Rachelle returns to Germany for coachings in the spring, joins the Master Teacher roster of the NATS Intern Program in Knoxville, and visits the Glenn Gould School in Toronto.

TEXT AND TRANSLATIONS

Vaga luna - Anonymous

Lovely moon, you who shed silver light
On these shores and on these flowers
And breathe the language
Of love to the elements,
You are now the sole witness
Of my ardent longing,
And can recount my throbs and sighs
To her who fills me with love.

Tell her too that distance
Cannot assuage my grief,
That if I cherish a hope,
It is only for the future.
Tell her that, day and night,
I count the hours of sorrow,
That a flattering hope
Comforts me in my love.

Au de-la - Louise de Vilmorin

At a time of pleasure
Choosing is not betraying
I choose this one.

I choose this one
Who knows how to make me laugh
With a finger here, from there
As we do to write.

As we do to write
It goes over here, over there
I didn't dare tell him
I like this game.

I like this game
What a breath ends
Until the last sigh
I choose this game.

M'amasti mai (You Never Loved Me) - Enrico Panzacchi

To see you was to love you in only a moment.
To love you always was my great desire.
In the sweetness of one word, the time was sweet enough to die.
Now that destiny has separated us forever,
Now that I have lost hope forever, I have only one bitter word for you.
Did you ever love me?

I have a memory of your kisses of the heart,
Each word keeps the heart.
But I don't know if your kisses were of the heart.
If your lips were true or lying.
The voice of your goodbye doesn't comfort me.
I fly away from you never to see you again.
I let a cruel doubt enter the door.
Did you ever love me?

Pourquoi? – Olivier Messiaen

Why the birds of the air?
Why the reflection of the water?
Why the clouds of heaven?
Why?

Why the leaves of autumn?
Why the roses of summer?
Why the songs of spring?
Why?

Why do they no longer have charm for me?
Why?

Je ne t'aime pas – Maurice Magre

Take away your hand -- for I don't love you;
Because you have wished it, you are only a friend.
Your embrace is for other people,
Your dear kiss, your slumbering head.

Don't talk to me when it is evening
In that very low voice, for it is too intimate;
And especially don't give me your handkerchief:
It holds too much of the scent I love.

Tell me of your loves -- for I don't love you,
Tell me of your most intoxicating moment.
And if she loved you well, or if she was ungrateful,
In telling me, don't be charming --

I haven't cried, I haven't suffered,
It was only a dream -- a kind of madness.
It is enough to see your clear eyes,
With neither the regret of evening nor melancholy.

It is enough to see your joy,
It is enough to see your smile.
Tell me how she stole your heart,
And tell me especially what shouldn't be told.

No, rather be silent... I am on my knees.
The fire has gone out, the door is closed.
Don't ask me anything, I'm crying... that's all.
I don't love you, oh my beloved!

Traum durch die Dämmerung - Bierbaum

Far meadows in twilight gray.
The summer faded away, the stars move.
Now I go to the dearest one.
Far over meadows in the twilight gray.
Low in the bushes of jasmine.
Through the twilight in the beloved country,
I go not fast, I don't hurry.
I am drawn by a soft velvet band
Through the twilight in the beloved country.
In a blue, mild light.
I go not fast, I don't hurry.
Through the twilight in the beloved country.
In a blue, mild light.

PRIVATE GIFTS play a vital role in our ability to maintain and enhance the quality of the programs we offer. Donations support student scholarships, fellowships, student travel and performance opportunities, instrument acquisitions, guest artists, outreach activities, operations, and other crucial areas that make the College of Music an exemplary place of learning.

THANK YOU TO OUR 2024-2025 SPONSORS

- **Anonymous Donor Family** (Holiday Glory)
- **Sam and Mary Austin** (Musique 21 concerts)
- **Sam and Mary Austin Fund for New Music** (Tambuco Mexican Percussion Ensemble, Nov. 21)
- **Ken and Sandy Beall** (Cello Plus Chamber Music Festival Series; Jazz Spectacular)
- **James and Susan Bonfiglio** (Symphony Orchestra, Apr. 26; Fall Opera)
- **Jenny Chung and Family for Human Rights Fund** (Jazz Nonets concerts)
- **Joanne and Bill Church** (West Circle Series)
- **April Clobes and Glen Brough** (Celebrating the Spectrum; Whirlwinds)
- **Trustee Emerita Dee Cook in memory of her husband Byron Cook** (Baroque Fest)
- **Susan Davis** (Fall Opera)
- **Dean Transportation** (Celebrating the Spectrum)
- **Alena Fabian, M.D.** (Votapek, Sept. 25; Piano Monster)
- **John and Gretchen Forsyth** (Sinder, Feb. 16; Oboe, Trumpet and Organ, Feb. 11)
- **Stanley and Selma Hollander Endowment for Chamber Music** (Happy Birthday Mozart!)
- **Thea Glicksman** (From Vienna with Love, Jan. 17)
- **Howard and Pam Gourwitz** (Lulloff, Nov. 25)
- **Anne Hiller** (Celebrating the Spectrum)
- **Lauren Harris** (Celebrating the Spectrum)
- **Taylor Johnston Early Music Series Endowment established by Taylor Johnston** (Taylor Johnston Early Music Series)
- **Hari Kern and the late Ralph R. Edminster, M.D.** (Votapek, Mar. 27)
- **Michael and Paula Koppisch** (Zuber, Feb. 17)
- **Robert Last and Jill Canny** (MSU Federal Credit Union Jazz Artist in Residence, J. Clayton, Dec. 8; Jazz: Spirituals, Prayer and Protest Concert)
- **Eleanor H. and Harold E. Leichenko Opera Endowment established by Lauren Julius Harris** (Fall and Spring Opera)
- **Ann, John and Abby Lindley** (Holiday Glory; Wind Symphony, Nov. 24)
- **Merritt Lutz** (Celebrating the Spectrum; Wind Symphony, Apr. 24)
- **Clare Mackey** (Pass a Good Time, Oct. 6; Oboe, Trumpet and Organ, Feb. 11)
- **Joseph and Jeanne Maguire** (A Jazzy Little Christmas)

- **Patrick and Victoria McPharlin Guest Artist Endowment for Jazz Studies in the College of Music** (Jazz: Spirituals, Prayer and Protest Concert)
- **Pat & Mary McPharlin** (Tambuco Mexican Percussion Ensemble, Nov. 21)
- **Dr. Roy and Christine Meland** (Vive La France)
- **Gordon E. Miracle** (Votapek, Sept. 25; Helton, Oct. 31)
- **MSU Federal Credit Union** (Showcase Series; Spartan Spectacular; Celebrating the Spectrum)
- **MSU Federal Credit Union Entrepreneurial Musical Artist-in-Residence Endowed Fund** (Tambuco Mexican Percussion Ensemble, Nov. 21)
- **George Orban and Rae Ramsdell** (Red Cedar Organ, Sept. 15)
- **Milton Powell, in memory of Sue Powell, accomplished pianist and organist** (Red Cedar Organ, Sept. 15)
- **Liz and Tony Raduazo in honor of Andrew Raduazo** (Sensory Friendly Spartan Concert, Nov. 9 and April 8)
- **Nancy and Charlie Seebeck** (MSU-Stanford Piano Quartet)
- **Michael and Elaine Serling** (A Celebration of the Beautiful Voice)
- **Leonard and Sharon Tabaka** (Jazz Spectacular Finale Concert)
- **TechSmith** (Celebrating the Spectrum)
- **Dr. Robert W. Uphaus and Dr. Lois M. Rosen** (Symphony Orchestra, Sept. 27; Woodward String Quartet, Mar. 13; Bagratuni, Mar. 31)
- **Linn Van Dyne and Mike Knox** (Symphony Orchestra, Feb. 7)
- **Barbara E. Wagner** (Wagner Chamber Music Competition)
- **Dr. Charles and Philippa Webb** (Beacon Hill Music Series)
- **Richard Witter** (A Celebration of the Beautiful Voice)
- **WKAR** (Artist-Faculty and Guest Recital Series)
- **Teresa K. Woodruff, Ph.D. and Thomas V. O'Halloran, Ph.D.** (Holiday Glory)
- **Worthington Family Foundation** (Opera Season)
- **Andrea L. Wulf** (Piano Monster)

SPONSORSHIPS AND RECOGNITION

Sponsorships are available at \$1,000, \$2,500, and \$5,000. Sponsors will receive recognition in the form of event publicity, promotions, programs, and through online recognition. For information about event sponsorships and giving to the college, please call (517) 353-9872 or e-mail music.giving@msu.edu.

MAKE A GIFT



UPCOMING EVENTS

11/1 Friday

African Diaspora Percussion Ensemble

Fairchild Theatre, 8:00 p.m. \$

11/3 Sunday

Spartan Spectacular -

Cobb Great Hall, 3:00 p.m. \$

**Tickets only available through Wharton Center Box Office*

11/4 Monday

Artist-Faculty and Guest Recital Series sponsored by WKAR

Zhuhua Tang, Chamber Recital

Cook Recital Hall, 7:30 p.m. \$

11/8 Friday

Jazz Nonets

Murray Hall, 8:00 p.m. \$

11/9 Saturday

Sensory Friendly Spartan Concert

CMS - East Lansing, 3:00 p.m. free

11/13 Wednesday, 11/15 Friday, 11/16 Saturday

Worthington Family Foundation Opera Theatre Season

Opera - The Magic Flute

Fairchild Theatre, 7:00 p.m. \$\$\$

11/17 Sunday

Worthington Family Foundation Opera Theatre Season

Opera - The Magic Flute

Fairchild Theatre, 3:00 p.m. \$\$\$

11/20 Wednesday

Tuba - Euphonium Ensemble

Fairchild Theatre, 7:30 p.m. \$

TICKET PRICES

\$ \$12 Adults, \$10 Seniors (age 60 and older), Students with ID and anyone under age 18 are free but require a ticket for admission.

\$\$ \$17 Adults, \$15 Seniors, \$7 Students with ID and anyone under age 18.

\$\$\$ \$22 Adults, \$20 Seniors, \$12 Students and those under age 18.

Please note: *All events scheduled in Murray Hall are general admission seating.*