

JESSIE KNEISEL LIEDER COMPETITION WINNERS CONCERT

CAROLINA SULLIVAN, soprano

Jessie Kneisel Lieder Prize

ANNA PARK, piano

Ann Clark Fehn Memorial Award

Saturday, May 18, 2024

Kilbourn Hall

7:30 PM



EASTMAN
SCHOOL OF MUSIC
UNIVERSITY of ROCHESTER

PROGRAM

Suleika I

Franz Schubert
(1797-1828)

Poem by Marianna von Willemer

Carolina Sullivan, soprano
Ariel Wong, piano

Morgengruss from *Sechs Gesänge, Op.47*

Felix Mendelssohn
(1809-1847)
Poem by Heinrich Heine

Ach Lieb, ich muss nun scheiden from *Schlichte Weisen*

Richard Strauss
(1864-1949)
Poem by Felix Dahn

David Griffith, baritone
Anna Park, piano

Four German Songs

Charles Ives
(1874-1954)

I. Weil' auf mir

II. Die alte Mutter Poems by Nikolaus Lenau & Edmund Lobedan

Carolina Sullivan, soprano
Ariel Wong, piano

Drei Romanzen Op. 21, No. 1

Clara Schumann
(1819-1896)

Anna Park, piano

Four German Songs

Charles Ives
(1874-1954)

IV. Ich grolle nicht

III. Feldeinsamkeit Poems by Heinrich Heine & Hermann Allmers

Carolina Sullivan, soprano
Ariel Wong, piano

Allerseelen

Hugo Wolf
(1860-1903)

Poem by Hermann von Gilm

Der Sänger from *Goethe Lieder*

Poem by Johann von Goethe

David Griffith, baritone
Anna Park, piano

PROGRAM

Mädchenblumen, Op. 22

I. Kornblumen

II. Mohnblumen

III. Epheu

IV. Wasserrose

Richard Strauss

(1864-1949)

Poem by Felix Dahn

Carolina Sullivan, soprano

Ariel Wong, piano

Am Bach im Frühling, D.361

Franz Schubert

(1797-1828)

Poem by Franz von Schober

Frühlingstraum from *Winterreise*

Poem by Wilhelm Müller

David Griffith, baritone

Anna Park, piano

Suleika II

Franz Schubert

(1797-1828)

Poem by Marianna von Willemer

Carolina Sullivan, soprano

Ariel Wong, piano

JESSIE KNEISEL LIEDER COMPETITION

Dr. Jessie Kneisel (1904-1992)

Dr. Jessie Kneisel, a Rochester native, enjoyed a forty-year career as professor of German language, literature, and diction at the Eastman School of Music from 1936 until 1976. Her passion for German culture began early in life. During her high school years, the works of Eduard Mörike and the song settings of his poems by Hugo Wolf kindled her interest in German lieder. She received her bachelor's and master's degrees in history and German from the University of Rochester in 1928 and 1930. An elected member of Phi Beta Kappa, Dr. Kneisel studied at the University of Bonn, Germany, and received her doctorate from Columbia University in 1947. Her doctoral thesis on Wolf's Mörike settings established her as a leading authority in a hitherto neglected field of research. In the early 1960s, Dr. Kneisel spent a sabbatical year studying opera in Germany and Austria; upon her return to Eastman, she established a course on German opera libretti. She was an inspired teacher whose personality and scholarship made a deep impression on her students. After her retirement in 1976 she remained deeply invested in the affairs of the Eastman School; she and her husband Karl often spent summers in Europe, visiting former students who had gone abroad to make a career as opera singers in Austria and Germany.



The Jessie Kneisel Lieder Competition

With the establishment of the Jessie Kneisel Prize in 1981, Eastman began a tradition of celebrating Dr. Kneisel's rich contributions to the school and her life-long love of German and Austrian culture. An annual competition determines the winners of the Kneisel Prize for an outstanding performance of German lieder by a singer and collaborative pianist, and was made possible through a gift from former Dr. Kneisel student George T. McWhorter.

JESSIE KNEISEL LIEDER COMPETITION

Ann Clark Fehn (1945-1989)

Ann Clark Fehn was associate professor of German and Associate Dean of Undergraduate Studies at the College of Arts and Sciences of the University of Rochester until her untimely death at age 44 in 1989. She was a scholar as well as a musician, having earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in piano from the Oberlin College-Conservatory, where she studied with John Perry. She actively performed throughout her career, and was particularly interested in German lieder. In the 1980s she team-taught doctoral seminars at Eastman with Jürgen Thym, professor of musicology, and co-authored articles with him and Rufus Hallmark of the City University of New York on text music relations in the German lied. Fehn was a distinguished teacher and scholar of 20th-century German literature, German lyric poetry, and the relationship between music and literature.



The Ann Clark Fehn Memorial Award

Established in 1997, the Ann Clark Fehn Memorial Award recognizes excellence in the accompaniment of German lieder. The recipient is chosen during the annual Jessie Kneisel Lieder Competition, and the award is supported in part by a gift from Fehn's mother, Mrs. Margaret V. Clark.

MEET THE ARTISTS

Soprano **Carolina Sullivan** is a first-year master's student at Eastman; previously, she received her Bachelor of Music in Performance from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. In April 2024 she made her debut with the Eastman Opera Theatre as Soeur Constance in *Dialogues des Carmélites*. Her other notable roles include Clara Johnson in *The Light in the Piazza* and Mademoiselle Silberklang in *Der Schauspieldirektor*. Earlier this year Carolina was a finalist in the Friends of Eastman Opera competition. She is a top prize recipient of the Great Lakes Regional NATS competition, as well as several other local competitions in Cincinnati, Ohio, her hometown. Apart from opera, Carolina sings each week with Eastman's Schola Cantorum under Stephen Kennedy and occasionally the community ensemble First Inversion under Dr. Lee Wright.

Born in Seoul, South Korea, **Anna Sunmin Park** began her first piano lesson at the age of six. After graduating from Sunhwa Arts High School, she attended in Seoul National University under the supervision of Professor HieYon Choi in South Korea. She continued her studies in the United States under the tutelage of Professor Alexander Kobrin for piano performance. Along with Professor Kobrin, Anna also attributes her second year of her Master's program to Dr. Andrew Harley, Professor of Piano Accompanying and Chamber Music. Beginning this fall, she will be officially starting her collaborative piano studies at New England Conservatory with Professor Cameron Stowe. Throughout her time at Eastman, Anna is currently working as studio pianist and opera pianist at Eastman School of Music. In winter 2023, Anna assisted the prologue of *Ariadne auf Naxos* by Strauss on the piano. Beyond Eastman, Anna has also appeared in several summer programs, including Collaborative Piano Institute, and will be joining as one of piano fellow in Schubert Institute, Vienna, in this summer. This May, she will be performing a recital with singer Hannah Moreno, featuring various song settings of the Mignon and Die Lorelei poems, as part of George Eastman Museum's Performance Plus series.

MEET THE ARTISTS

David Griffith is a baritone from Syracuse, New York and is currently a senior here at the Eastman School of Music. He studies under Professor Swensen and completed his senior recital this March. Also this spring, David performed as First Commissioner, as well as covering the roles of Le Chevalier and Le Marquis in *Dialogues des Carmélites*. In the fall semester, David performed the role of Perseus in *We've got our Eye on You* by Nkeiru Okoye in Kilbourn Hall. In his junior year, he was a chorus member in the spring opera, *Florencia en el Amazonas*. Along with a vocal performance degree, David intends to graduate with a German language minor. Following Eastman, he plans to pursue a Master's Degree and a career in classical voice.

Ariel Wong is pursuing her master's degree in piano performance at the Eastman School of Music, under the tutelage of Marina Lomazov. A native of Hong Kong, she earned her bachelor's degree from Brigham Young University, where she studied piano with Scott Holden. Ariel's musical abilities have been recognized through numerous accolades, including as the National First-Prize Winner of the Senior Division for the 2020-2021 MTNA Piano Competition. She has also taken home prizes in competitions such as the Utah Steinway Piano Competition and the Emory Young Artists Piano Competition in Atlanta, Georgia. In 2022, Ariel performed Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 2 with the Utah Valley Symphony. Throughout her musical studies, she has also had the privilege of performing in masterclasses with distinguished pianists such as Robert McDonald, Natalya Antonova, Douglas Humphreys, Bruce Brubaker, Ching-Yun Hu, and Julien Libeer.



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