

## Sisu Ensemble

MAY 16 MAI 2023 12:00

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**Clair's Aria (Clair de Lune)**  
Libby Larsen (b. 1950)

**Vous m'avez regardé avec toute votre âme**  
Lili Boulanger (1893-1918)

**J'ai frappé**  
Nadia Boulanger (1887-1979)

**Les chansons du coeur: No. 1 "J'ai fermé mon coeur"**  
Jean Coulthard (1908-2000)

**Ferme les yeux\*\***  
Marie-Claire Saindon

**Arabesque No. 1, L. 66**  
Claude Debussy (1862-1918)

**Pai, pai, paitaressu, Op. 2, no. 1**  
Oskar Merikanto (1868-1924)

**Var det en dröm**  
Jean Sibelius (1865-1957)

**Peer Gynt, Op. 23, no. 1: "Solveig's song"**  
Edvard Grieg (1843-1907)

**"Green finch and linnnet bird" from Sweeney Todd**  
Stephen Sondheim (1930-2021)

**"Sound of music" from The Sound of Music**  
Rodgers & Hammerstein II

**"I could have danced all night" from My Fair Lady**  
Lerner & Loewe

Our City Series returns downtown for the Spring with a series of free noon-hour concerts at Ottawa City Hall. Join us for a celebration of locally-made music.

Notre Série dans la cité est de retour au centre-ville pour le printemps avec une série de concerts gratuits à l'heure du midi à l'hôtel de ville d'Ottawa. Rejoignez-nous pour une célébration de la musique locale.

Emili Losier  
voice/voix

Jenna Richards  
piano

\*\* World premiere of work commissioned by Ottawa Chamberfest  
\*\* Première mondiale d'une œuvre commandée par le Ottawa Chamberfest

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## **Clair's Aria (Clair de Lune)** Libby Larsen (b. 1950)

How eagerly I used to sign my name  
Sign in, sign out, sign in, sign out  
I would have signed my life away in those days  
Anything to fly  
Anything to fly in the night breeze  
Lights of Monte Carlo below me  
So many stars above me  
Stars below, stars above, stars around me  
Suspended like a star in the darkness  
Moonlight was my message then, moonlight  
I signed my name in silver  
Streaking through a band of light  
Tilting my wings to the stars  
A fond salute from the bird I flew  
The air took me, the wind, the light of the moon  
Never alone, never lonely, floating in the light of the moon  
Gentle light, moonlit night, stars above, stars below  
Stars above, below the lights of Monte Carlo  
Stars above, stars below  
Suspended in darkness  
Suspended like a star  
Floating in the darkness  
Floating in the light of the moon  
Ah...  
The air took me, took me to its heart  
It was like love  
Ah, it was better than love  
Never alone, never lonely  
It was better than love  
Anything to fly, anything to fly on the night breeze  
Never alone, never lonely, never alone, never alone, never  
lonely, lonely, floating, floating in the light of the moon.

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**Vous m'avez regardé avec toute votre âme**  
Lili Boulanger (1893-1918)

Vous m'avez regardé avec toute votre âme.  
Vous m'avez regardé longtemps comme un ciel bleu.  
J'ai mis votre regard à l'ombre de mes yeux ...  
Que ce regard était passionné et calme ...

**You gazed at me with all your soul**  
Translation by Richard Stokes, Oxford Lieder

You gazed at me with you soul.  
You gazed at me long like a blue sky.  
I set your gaze in the shade of my eyes...  
How this was passionate and calm...

**J'ai frappé**  
Nadia Boulanger (1887-1979)

Ma main a frappé les portes closes  
Et d'autres mains au loin ont répondu.  
Mon front a frappé les portes closes  
Et d'autres fronts au loin ont répondu.  
Mon cœur a frappé les portes closes  
Mais l'écho de mon cœur seul a répondu.

**My hand has struck**  
(Translation anonymous, Oxford Lieder)

My hand has struck closed doors  
And other hands have replied from afar.  
My brow has struck closed doors  
And other brows have replied from afar.  
My heart has struck closed doors  
But only my heart's echo replied.

**Les chansons du Coeur : No. 1**  
"J'ai fermé mon coeur"  
Jean Coulthard (1908-2000)

J'ai fermé mon coeur pour ne plus t'aimer.  
J'ai fermé mon coeur pour mourir  
De ne plus t'aimer.  
Je n'ai pu mourir  
De ne plus t'aimer  
En fermant mon coeur  
Comme un poing de fleur.

J'ai cru t'emmener au tombeau vide  
Mais ton coeur était d'amour  
Et de vie  
Et ton nom criait notre verbe aimer  
Conjugué au temps d'amour  
Et de vie.

J'ai fermé mon coeur.

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### **Ferme les yeux**

Marie-Claire Saindon

Poème de Rina Lasnier: Sérénade des anges

Ce n'est pas ma voix, ce n'est pas ma voix  
Qui se déchire,  
C'est, rasant la plaine, le vent qui ploie  
l'aile qui chavire.  
Ferme les yeux, ferme les yeux,  
Le vent passe, moi je demeure.

Ce n'est pas la nuit, ce n'est pas la nuit  
Qui te tient,  
C'est, sur ta vie, l'ombre de mon chagrin,  
ou ma main.  
Ferme les yeux, ferme les yeux,  
L'ombre s'efface, moi je demeure.

Ce ne sont pas mes larmes, ce ne sont pas mes larmes  
qui brillent,  
Ce sont, t'en souvient-il, toutes les étoiles  
sous l'eau tranquille.  
Ferme les yeux, ferme les yeux.  
L'étoile se noie, moi je demeure.

Ce ne sont pas les anges, ce ne sont pas les anges  
en cortège,  
C'est la première aube ou la première neige  
sur les branches.  
Ouvre les yeux, ouvre les yeux,  
Tu pars avec les anges, je demeure!

### **Close Your Eyes**

Marie Claire Saindon

Poem by Rina Lasnier: Serenade of the Angels

Courtesy translation

It is not my voice, it is not my voice  
that tears,  
It is, skimming the plain, the wind that bends  
the capsizing wing.  
Close your eyes, close your eyes,  
The wind passes, I remain.

It is not the night, it is not the night  
that holds you  
It is, on your life, the shadow of my sorrow,  
Or my hand.  
Close your eyes, close your eyes,  
The shadow disappears, I remain.

They are not my tears, they are not my tears  
that shine,  
They are - do you remember - all the stars  
under still water.  
Close your eyes, close your eyes.  
The star drowns, I remain.

It is not the angels, it is not the angels  
in procession,  
It's the first dawn or the first snow  
on the branches.  
Open your eyes, open your eyes,  
You leave with the angels, I remain!

*A world premiere commissioned by Ottawa Chamberfest  
Une première mondiale commandée par Ottawa Chamberfest*

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## **Pai, pai, paitaressu, Op. 2, no. 1** Oskar Merikanto (1868-1924)

Pai, pai, paitaressu  
Pai, pai, paitaressu,  
kääry pieni kätkyessä,  
tukku tuutussa tupukka!

Sua souan suositellen,  
sylitellen sylkyttelen;  
vaan en susien suloksi,  
enkä ilvesten iloksi,  
kontion kotihyväksi,  
souan Suomeni suloksi  
itseni ikiiloksi,  
koko maani maireheksi.

Pai, pai, paitaressu,  
tukku tuutussa tupukka!

## **Var det en dröm** Jean Sibelius (1865-1957)

Var det en dröm, att ljuvt en gång  
jag var ditt hjärtas vän?  
Jag minns det som en tystnad sång,  
då strängen darrar än.  
Jag minns en törnros av dig skänkt,  
en blick så blyg och öm;  
jag minns en avskedstår, som blänkt.  
Var allt, var allt en dröm?  
En dröm lik sippans liv så kort  
uti en vågrön ängd,  
vars fågring hastigt vissnar bort  
för nya blommors mängd.  
Men mången natt jag hör en röst  
vid bittra tårars ström:  
göm djupt dess minne i ditt bröst,  
det var din bästa dröm!

## **Hush, Hush, Little One** Translation by: Emili Losier, 2023

Hush hush hush little one  
Rolled up little one in a little roll  
Rolled up in a roll like a roll!

Rocking you my favourite little one  
In my lap, in my lap  
So the wolves won't get you,  
And the lynx won't get you,  
And the bears won't get you,  
Rocking you for the betterment of Finland  
And for my joy  
For the joy of the whole nation.

Hush hush hush little one  
Rolled up in a roll like a roll!

## **Was it a dream?** Translation by: David McCleery, copyright 2018

Was it a dream, that once upon a blissful time  
I was your heart's friend?  
I remember it like a silent song  
Whose melody still lingers on.

I remember you gave me a rose  
With a look so shy and tender,  
I remember the glistening of a parting tear.  
Was it all just a dream?

A dream like a wildflower's life,  
So brief in the verdant meadow,  
Whose beauty quickly withers away  
Within an ocean of new flowers

But on many a night I hear a voice  
Through a stream of bitter tears.  
Hide this memory deep in your heart  
For this was your best dream.

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**Peer Gynt, Op. 23, no. 1: "Solveig's song"**  
Edvard Grieg (1843-1907)

Kanske vil der gå både Vinter og Vår,  
og neste Sommer med, og det hele År,  
men engang vil du komme, det ved jeg vist,  
og jeg skal nok vente, for det lovte jeg sidst.  
Gud styrke dig, hvor du i Verden går,  
Gud glæde dig, hvis du for hans Fodskam mel står.  
Her skal jeg vente til du kommer igjen;  
og venter du hist oppe, vi træffes der, min Ven!

**"Green finch and linnet bird" from Sweeney Todd**  
Stephen Sondheim (1930-2021)

Green finch and linnet bird  
Nightingale, blackbird  
How is it you sing?  
How can you jubilate sitting in cages  
Never taking wing?  
Outside the sky waits  
Beckoning, beckoning  
Just beyond the bars  
How can you remain staring at the rain  
Maddened by the stars?  
How is it you sing anything?  
How is it you sing?  
Green finch and linnet bird  
Nightingale, blackbird  
How is it you sing?  
Whence comes this melody constantly flowing?  
Is it rejoicing or merely hallooing?  
Are you discussing or fussing  
Or simply dreaming?  
Are you crowing?  
Are you screaming?  
Ringdove and Robinet  
Is it for wages  
Singing to be sold?  
Have you decided it's safer in cages  
Singing when you're told?  
My cage has many rooms  
Damask and dark  
Nothing there sings  
Not even my lark

**Solveig's Song**  
Translation by: E. M. Smyth

The winter may pass and the spring disappear,  
the summer too will vanish and then the year.  
But this I know for certain: thou'lt come back again;  
And e'en as I promised, thou'lt find me waiting then.  
God help thee, when wand'ring thy way all alone,  
God grant thee his strength as thou kneel'st at his throne.  
If thou now art waiting in heav'n for me,  
O there we'll meet again love and never parted be!

Larks never will, you know  
When they're captive  
Teach me to be  
More adaptive  
Ahhh...  
Green finch and linnet bird  
Nightingale, blackbird  
Teach me how to sing  
If I cannot fly  
Let me sing!

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**“The Hills are Alive”  
from The Sound of Music  
Rodgers & Hammerstein II**

The hills are alive with the sound of music  
With songs, they have sung for a thousand years  
The hills fill my heart with the sound of music  
My heart wants to sing every song it hears  
My heart wants to beat like the wings of the birds that rise  
from the lake to the trees

My heart wants to sigh like the chime that flies from a  
church on a breeze  
To laugh like a brook as it trips and falls over stones on its  
way  
To sing through the night like a lark who is learning to pray  
I go to the hills when my heart is lonely  
I know I will hear what I've heard before  
My heart will be blessed with the sound of music  
And I'll sing once more

To laugh like a brook as it trips and falls over stones on its  
way  
To sing through the night like a lark who is learning to prey  
I go to the hills when my heart is lonely  
I know I will hear what I've heard before  
My heart will be blessed with the sound of music  
And I'll sing once more.

**“I could have danced all night”  
from My Fair Lady  
Lerner & Loewe**

Bed, bed I couldn't go to bed  
My head's too light to try to set it down  
Sleep, sleep I couldn't sleep tonight  
Not for all the jewels in the crown

I could have danced all night  
I could have danced all night  
And still have begged for more  
I could have spread my wings and done a thousand things  
I've never done before  
I'll never know what made it so exciting  
Why all at once my heart took flight  
I only know when he began to dance with me  
I could have danced, danced, danced all night  
It's after three now  
Don't you agree now?  
She ought to be in bed!

I could have danced all night, I could have danced all night  
And still have begged for more  
I could have spread my wings and done a thousand things  
I've never done before  
I'll never know what made it so exciting  
Why all at once my heart took flight  
I only know when he began to dance with me  
I could have danced, danced, danced all night  
I understand, dear  
It's all been grand, dear  
But now it's time to sleep

I could have danced all night, I could have danced all night  
And still have begged for more  
I could have spread my wings and done a thousand things  
I've never done before  
I'll never know what made it so exciting  
Why all at once my heart took flight  
I only know when he began to dance with me  
I could have danced, danced, danced all night!