WIGMORE HALL

James Baillieu piano Jamie Barton mezzo-soprano

Henri Duparc (1848-1933) L'invitation au voyage (1870)

Extase (1874)

Chanson triste (1868)

La vie antérieure (1884)

Phidylé (1882)

Jake Heggie (b.1961) What I Miss the Most... (2021)

I. Order • II. Time • III. Action • IV. Music • V. You

Interval

Melissa Dunphy (b.1980) 4 Poems of Nikita Gill (2020)

Sorcery • From The Ashes She Became • You Have Become a Forest • Me Too

Clara Schumann (1819-1896) 6 Lieder Op. 13 (1840-3)

Ich stand in dunkeln Träumen • Sie liebten sich beide • Liebeszauber • Der Mond kommt still gegangen • Ich hab' in deinem Auge • Die stille Lotosblume

Leigh Harline (1907-1969) When you wish upon a star (1940) arranged by Gus Tredwell

Al Hoffman (1902-1960) So This Is Love (1948) arranged by Gus Tredwell & Mack David (1912-1993)

Frank Churchill (1901-1942) Baby Mine (1941) arranged by Gus Tredwell

Al Hoffman & Mack David A Dream Is a Wish Your Heart Makes (1950) arranged by

Gus Tredwell

George Bruns (1914-1983) Once Upon a Dream (1959) based on Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

arranged by Gus Tredwell



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France

The long-lived Henri Duparc composed only 17 songs before a mysterious mental illness put an end to composition for his remaining 48 years. As if in compensation for such a hideous fate, his songs are among the greatest in the French language, their subtlety and gravitas remarkable. Duparc would be immortal if he had written nothing other than L'invitation au voyage. Here, Baudelaire's poetic alter ego seduces the beloved with a realm of perfect beauty, bathed in a Watteau-esque amber glow of sensuality. The pair will journey there by boat, so Duparc floats the song on a harmonic waterway infused with 'luxe, calme, et volupté'. From the half-Creole, half-French poet Leconte de Lisle's Etudes latines, Duparc plucked Phydilé for one of his loveliest songs. At the start, refined sensuality is evoked by limited motion to nearby harmonies; from there, ravishment proceeds apace. By the time the singer thrice bids his beloved 'Repose', we are, to quote Graham Johnson, 'putty in Duparc's hands'.

Extase exemplifies Wagnerism, its eroticism given a spiritual dimension à la Tristan und Isolde. At the beginning, we are drawn slowly, sensuously, up a chromatic line over depths in the bass, the exquisite passage repeated midsong at a higher register. Not until the words 'mort exquise, mort parfumée' (the 'little death' of sexual ecstasy) at bar 18 do we hear arrival at the tonic, with the singer poised in the ethereal heights. In Baudelaire's sonnet La vie antérieure, the poet attempts to escape the horrors of modern life by going in imagination to an exotic paradise. In this, his last song before darkness descended, Duparc tracks every twist-and-turn of a profound poem, from the massive columns at the beginning, the Wagnerian surging sea, the harmonic shifts for the exotic splendours and nude slaves, the somber chanting for the sorrowful languor, and the 'dying away' postlude. The consummately beautiful Chanson triste might induce a lump in the throats of all who think of Duparc's fate when they hear this limpid hymn to love's powers of healing... 'peut-être', 'perhaps'. The touch of doubt puts the 'tristesse' in 'Chanson triste'.

America

Jake Heggie's song cycle What I Miss the Most was commissioned for Jamie Barton, with whom Heggie has collaborated before (the Grammy-nominated album Unexpected Shadows in 2020). The pair selected five poems by women about what they missed most in Covid times.

The great singer Joyce DiDonato responded with 'Order'; she traces the progression from lock-down, then grief and finally, new dawn. Stern chimes for the order to sequester at the start, delicate chimes when hope and health return, keep company with octaves that rise, and rise again, in the bass. Patti LuPone finds 'Time' with loved ones safe at home a boon and concludes that she misses nothing. Sister Helen Prejean at first relishes time to garden, read, meditate, but is prodded by conscience into missing 'Action'. From serene initial strains to increasingly roiling music, we trace her determination to 'Do something!' The late Ruth Bader Ginsburg - an avid concertgoer - told Heggie she missed live music 'made by many', a longing she repeats over and over. Finally, the conductor-pianist Kathleen Kelly misses 'You' even as she sees her beloved on Zoom. At the end, we hear contrary motion between rising pianissimo intervals and descent in the bass.

Again, America

Born in Australia, Melissa Dunphy immigrated to the United States in 2003; her music includes The Gonzales Cantata, The Bodice-Ripper Project, and the N-400 Erasure Songs. The 4 Poems of Nikita Gill features a four-part feminist manifesto by the British-Indian poet Nikita Gill. 'Sorcery' affirms self-healing from trauma. A winding chromatic line in the piano sounds against a pedal point on G, then B flat; those same pedal points return in reverse order at the end, with a passacaglia descending fourth in the bass as the corridor to closure. 'From the Ashes She Became' tells the phoenix-like tale of a woman turning pain into with strength. Massive simultaneities alternate unharmonised sighing figures at the start and end. 'You Have Become Forest' invokes a woman whose growth has carried her far from her beginnings, and the composer and musicians dance in celebration. 'Me Too' is an unaccompanied trio for women's voices, with proclamatory chords at the start ('This is our riot act') and a canon to follow.

Germany

Clara Schumann met the great poet Heinrich Heine in 1839 and described him as melancholy — 'when amiable, he is said to be irresistible', she added. She set three of his poems to music, including Ich stand in dunklen Träumen, an 1840 Christmas gift for Robert. Another Heine poem, Sie liebten sich beide, can be interpreted as the Romantic Muse and the post-Romantic poet who love one another but refuse to admit it and hence are condemned to death of the soul and separation. If that is the more 'meta' reading, the poet, no admirer of society's prim sexual mores, also tells a surface tale of thwarted passion. Schumann's setting is broken into grief-stricken fragments. Three of Schumann's most beautiful songs are to verse by Emanuel Geibel (1815-1884), whose poetry elicited over 3,000 musical settings. 'Liebeszauber' is filled with glorious melody and the thrumming of ecstatic love - on the last page, the singer reveals that everything they have sung since then is only an echo of that magical love in the past. In 'Der Mond kommt still gegangen', the weary earth sleeps in the moonlight (stanza 1, the cosmic dimension), thoughts of love sway above those who sleep (stanzas 2 and 3, the human dimension), and two bereft lovers stare into the darkness (stanza 4, individuals). From Friedrich Rückert's love poetry, beloved of both Schumanns, comes 'Ich hab' in deinem Auge', an assurance of everlasting love even when the bloom is off the rose. In 'Die stille Lotosblume', Geibel brings together two poetic metaphors: the lotus flower, its roots in the mud and its blossoms reaching for the light, and the singing swan, whose final song before death is its most beautiful.

America at the movies

At the end, we happily return to childhood at the movies, with characters as beloved as Jiminy Cricket, who bids us all wish upon a star; Cinderella and Prince Charming, as they waltz to So This Is Love; Mrs. Jumbo, who cradles baby Dumbo as the lullaby Baby Mine sounds; Cinderella singing A Dream Is a Wish Your Heart Makes; and Princess Aurora and Prince Phillips Once Upon a Dream in Sleeping Beauty, all in new arrangements by Gus Tredwell. The world could use such sweetness and hope now.

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Henri Duparc (1848-1933)

L'invitation au voyage (1870)

Charles Baudelaire

Mon enfant, ma sœur, Songe à la douceur D'aller là-bas vivre ensemble! Aimer à loisir, Aimer et mourir Au pays qui te ressemble! Les soleils mouillés De ces ciels brouillés Pour mon esprit ont les charmes Si mystérieux

De tes traîtres yeux, Brillant à travers leurs larmes.

Là, tout n'est qu'ordre et beauté. Luxe, calme et volupté.

Vois sur ces canaux

Dormir ces vaisseaux Dont l'humeur est vagabonde; C'est pour assouvir Ton moindre désir Ou'ils viennent du bout du monde. - Les soleils couchants Revêtent les champs, Les canaux, la ville entière, D'hyacinthe et d'or;

Là, tout n'est qu'ordre et beauté. Luxe, calme et volupté.

Dans une chaude lumière.

Le monde s'endort

Invitation to journey

My child, my sister, think how sweet to journey there and live together! To love as we please, to love and die in the land that is like you! The watery suns of those hazy skies hold for my spirit the same mysterious charms as your treacherous eyes shining through their tears.

There – nothing but order and beauty dwell, abundance, calm and sensuous delight.

See on those canals those vessels sleeping. vessels with a restless soul: to satisfy your slightest desire they come from the ends of the earth. The setting suns clothe the fields, canals and all the town with hyacinth and gold; the world falls asleep in a warm light.

There – nothing but order and beauty dwell, abundance, calm and sensuous delight.

Extase (1874)

Jean Lahor

Sur un lys pâle mon cœur D'un sommeil doux comme la mort: Mort exquise, mort parfumée Du souffle de la bien-aimée:

Sur ton sein pâle mon cœur dort ...

Rapture

On a pale lily my heart is sleeping a sleep as sweet as death: exquisite death, death

perfumed by the breath of the beloved:

on your pale breast my heart is sleeping ...

Chanson triste (1868)

Jean Lahor

Song of sadness

Dans ton cœur dort un clair de lune. Un doux clair de lune d'été, Et pour fuir la vie importune, Je me noierai dans ta clarté.

J'oublierai les douleurs passées, Mon amour, quand tu berceras Mon triste cœur et mes pensées Dans le calme aimant de tes

Tu prendras ma tête malade, Oh! quelquefois, sur tes genoux, Et lui diras une ballade Oui semblera parler de nous: Et dans tes yeux pleins de tristesses, Dans tes yeux alors je

boirai Tant de baisers et de tendresses Que peut-être je

guérirai.

bras.

Moonlight slumbers in your heart, a gentle summer moonlight, and to escape the cares of life I shall drown myself in

your light. I shall forget past sorrows,

my sweet, when you cradle my sad heart and my thoughts

in the loving calm of your arms.

You will rest my poor head. ah! sometimes on your and recite to it a ballad that will seem to speak of us: And from your eyes full of sorrow,

from your eyes I shall then drink so many kisses and so much love

that perhaps I shall be healed.

Please do not turn the page until the song and its accompaniment have ended.

La vie antérieure (1884)

Charles Baudelaire

J'ai longtemps habité sous de vastes portiques Que les soleils marins teignaient de mille feux, Et que leurs grands piliers, droits et majestueux, Rendaient pareils, le soir, aux grottes basaltiques.

Les houles, en roulant les images des cieux,
Mêlaient d'une façon solennelle et mystique
Les tout-puissants accords de leur riche musique
Aux couleurs du couchant reflété par mes yeux.

C'est là que j'ai vécu dans les voluptés calmes, Au milieu de l'azur, des vagues, des splendeurs Et des esclaves nus, tout imprégnés d'odeurs,

Qui me rafraîchissaient le front avec des palmes, Et dont l'unique soin était d'approfondir Le secret douloureux qui me faisait languir.

Phidylé (1882) Charles-Marie-René Leconte de Lisle

L'herbe est molle au sommeil sous les frais peupliers,
Aux pentes des sources moussues
Qui, dans les prés en fleur germant par mille issues,
Se perdent sous les noirs

halliers.

Repose, ô Phidylé! Midi sur les feuillages Rayonne, et t'invite au sommeil. Par le trèfle et le thym, seules, en plein soleil, Chantent les abeilles volages.

A previous life

For long I lived beneath vast colonnades tinged with a thousand fires by ocean suns, whose giant pillars, straight and majestic, made them look, at evening, like basalt caves.

The sea-swells, mingling the mirrored skies, solemnly and mystically interwove the mighty chords of their mellow music with the colours of sunset reflected in my eyes.

It is there that I have lived in sensuous repose, with blue sky about me and brightness and waves and naked slaves all drenched in perfume,

Who fanned my brow with fronds of palm, and whose only care was to fathom

the secret grief which made me languish.

Phidylé

The grass is soft for sleep beneath the cool poplars on the banks of the mossy springs that flow in flowering meadows from a thousand sources, and vanish beneath dark thickets.

Rest, O Phidylé! Noon on the leaves is gleaming, inviting you to sleep. By the clover and thyme, alone, in the bright sunlight, the fickle bees are humming. Un chaud parfum circule au détour des sentiers;
La rouge fleur des blés s'incline;
Et les oiseaux, rasant de l'aile la colline,
Cherchent l'ombre des églantiers.

Mais quand l'Astre, incliné sur sa courbe éclatante, Verra ses ardeurs s'apaiser, Que ton plus beau sourire et ton meilleur baiser Me récompensent de l'attente! A warm fragrance floats about the winding paths, the red flowers of the cornfield droop; and the birds, skimming the hillside with their wings, seek the shade of the eglantine.

But when the sun, low on its dazzling curve, sees its brilliance wane, let your loveliest smile and finest kiss reward me for my waiting!

Jake Heggie (b.1961)

What I Miss the Most... (2021)

I. Order

Joyce DiDonato

The order comes swiftly, whispered yet firm: Be Quiet.

Be Silent.

And come Return.

The accompanying light shines stark, harsh and true: Unequal.

Hollow.

All Torn-Through.

The aching moment awakens, resonant and pure: Grieve.

Rest.

And now . . . Breathe sure.

The new dawn arrives, hopeful yet stern:

Renew.

Refresh.

And All Return.

II. Time

Patti LuPone

What I miss the most in this unprecedented time is... huh. What do I miss?

I have Time in the fullness of the word. Time to reflect on my life and how I live it. Improvements are definitely in order. But I don't think I miss anything.

I've been given Time.

Time with my family, home safe and all together.

Time to look out at Mother Nature,

To marvel at the glory she presents us every day.

I miss a paycheck and that's scary. But, if I weigh the need to work and Time with loved ones I don't miss anything.

III. Action

Helen Prejean

At first, when it hit mid-March, I thought: Glee!
I get to be home to plant flowers Home to read books
To have hours for meditation
Reflection
For me...

But conscience, that moral membrane
Makes me porous
Susceptible
To the cries of prisoners
Crowded
Locked down
And anxious families
Cut off
Cut out

What can one person do?

Guilt is not a bad thing.
It can be a sort of WD40
Greasing my moral gears to act:
Do something.
Do something!
DO SOMETHING!

IV. Music

Ruth Bader Ginsburg

One of the things I miss: Music made by many in unison. Virtual collaboration, good as it is, pales in comparison.

V. You

Kathleen Kelly

There you are. Your voice, your hair.

The frayed neck of my old shirt draping the rise of your collarbone.

No one else.

It's you, it's all of your things.

You look up to the right when you search for a word,

You look down with a smile,

Then straight at the camera. Your wide eyes.

I see you see me.

You purse your lips to tell me what you will not say.

I thought I would say, it's a sad substitution, But my fatigued eyes would gaze at you all day. At night, you move across the screen of my eyelids,

In the morning, you call.

Your hand is in your hair. You look away, through that other window.

I bow toward the screen,
I take a long drink of your invisible breath.

Interval

Melissa Dunphy (b.1980)

4 Poems of Nikita Gill (2020)

Nikita Gill

Sorcery

Every day, I magic myself alive again From the near death experience of trauma. I swallow my heart back from The lump it has become in my throat. I taste my own memories Without the flavour of blood but as poetry. I learn how to whisper my name Without it sounding like a curse. I murmur spells to the parts of me Others have found too dangerous to love. And after this morning ritual I finally smile at the woman in my mirror. Tell me again, How healing is not a magical thing. Tell me again, How I am not made of sorcery.

From The Ashes She Became

Before she became fire, she was water.
Quenching the thirst of every dying creature.
She gave and she gave
Until she turned from sea to desert.
But instead of dying of the heat,
The sadness, the heartache,
She took all of her pain
And from her own ashes became fire.

Please do not turn the page until the song and its accompaniment have ended.

You Have Become a Forest

One day when you wake up, you will find that you have become a forest. You have grown roots and found strength in them that no one thought you had. You have become stronger and more beautiful, full of life giving qualities. You have learned to take all the negativity around you and turn it into oxygen for easy breathing. A host of wild creatures live inside you and you call them stories. A variety of beautiful birds rest inside your mind and you call them memories. You have become an incredible self sustaining thing of epic proportions. And you should be so proud of yourself, of how far you have come from the seeds of who you used to be.

Me Too

This is our riot act. Our manifesto, Our revolution: Because the ones Who did this know We are talking about Their monstrous actions. It's time for them To have the nightmares, For them to suffer For what happened, For them to fear being Named by the same Voices they silenced. I hope they are Forever haunted By these two words: 'Me too'.

Clara Schumann (1819-1896)

6 Lieder Op. 13 (1840-3)

lch stand in dunkeln Träumen

Heinrich Heine

Ich stand in dunkeln Träumen, Und starrte ihr Bildnis an, Und das geliebte Antlitz Heimlich zu leben begann.

Um ihre Lippen zog sich Ein Lächeln wunderbar, Und wie von Wehmutstränen Erglänzte ihr Augenpaar.

Auch meine Tränen flossen Mir von den Wangen herab –

I stood in dark dreams

I stood in dark dreams, and gazed at her likeness, and that beloved face sprang mysteriously to life.

A wonderful smile played about her lips, and her eyes glistened, as though with sad tears.

My tears too streamed down my cheeks – Und ach, ich kann es nicht glauben, Dass ich dich verloren hab'! and ah, I cannot believe I have lost you!

Sie liebten sich beide

Heinrich Heine

Sie liebten sich beide, doch keiner Wollt' es dem andern gestehn; Sie sahen sich an so feindlich,

Und wollten vor Liebe vergehn.

Sie trennten sich endlich und sah'n sich Nur noch zuweilen im Traum; Sie waren längst gestorben Und wussten es selber kaum.

They loved one another

They loved one another, but neither wished to tell the other; they gave each other such hostile looks, yet nearly died of love.

In the end they parted and saw each other but rarely in dreams. They died so long ago and hardly knew it themselves.

Liebeszauber

Emanuel von Geibel

Die Liebe sass als Nachtigall Im Rosenbusch und sang; Es flog der wundersüsse Schall Den grünen Wald entlang.

Und wie er klang, da stieg im Kreis Aus tausend Kelchen Duft, Und alle Wipfel rauschten leis', Und leiser ging die

Luft;

noch kaum Geplätschert von den Höh'n, Die Rehlein standen wie im Traum Und lauschten dem Getön.

Die Bäche schwiegen, die

Und hell und immer heller floss Der Sonne Glanz herein, Um Blumen, Wald und Schlucht ergoss Sich goldig roter Schein.

Love's magic

Love in the guise of a nightingale sat in a rosebush and sang; 'twas a wonderful sweet sound that soared all about the green forest.

And with its echoes rose all around perfume from a thousand blossoms, and every treetop rustled quietly and the air moved more gently;

The brooks were silent, they that had only just been splashing from the heights, as in a dream stood the deer heeding every sound.

And bright and ever brighter flowed the splendour of the sun, flowers, woods and ravines were bathed in a glow of golden red.

Ich aber zog den Weg entlang Und hörte auch den Schall. Ach! was seit jener Stund' ich sang, War nur sein Widerhall.

I wended my way, hearing the sounds as well. Alas! The songs which I have since sung have been but their echo.

Der Mond kommt still gegangen

Emanuel von Geibel

The moon rises silently

Der Mond kommt still gegangen Mit seinem gold'nen Schein. Da schläft in holdem Prangen Die müde Erde ein. The moon rises silently with its golden glow. The weary earth then falls asleep in beauty and splendour.

Und auf den Lüften schwanken Aus manchem treuen Sinn Viel tausend Liebesgedanken Über die Schläfer hin. Many thousand loving thoughts from many faithful minds sway on the breezes over those who slumber.

Und drunten im Tale, da funkeln Die Fenster von Liebchens Haus; And down in the valley sparkle the windows of my beloved's house; but I in the darkness gaze silently out into the world.

Haus; Ich aber blicke im Dunklen Still in die Welt hinaus.

Ich hab' in deinem Auge

Friedrich Rückert

Himmels stehn.

Ich hab' in deinem Auge Den Strahl der ewigen Liebe gesehen, Ich sah auf deinen Wangen Einmal die Rosen des

I saw in your eyes the ray of eternal love, I saw on your cheeks the roses of heaven.

I saw in your eyes

Und wie der Strahl im Aug' erlischt Und wie die Rosen zerstieben, Ihr Abglanz ewig neu erfrischt,

Ist mir im Herzen geblieben,

And as the ray dies in your eyes, and as the roses scatter, their reflection, forever new, has remained in my heart,

Und niemals werd' ich die Wangen seh'n Und nie in's Auge dir blicken, So werden sie mir in Rosen steh'n Und es den Strahl mir schicken. And never will I look at your cheeks, and never will I gaze into your eyes, and not see the glow of roses, and the ray of love.

Die stille Lotosblume

Fmanuel von Geibel

Die stille Lotosblume Steigt aus dem blauen See, Die Blätter flimmern und blitzen, Der Kelch ist weiss wie

Der Kelch ist weiss wie Schnee.

Da giesst der Mond vom Himmel All seinen gold'nen Schein, Giesst alle seine Strahlen In ihren Schoss hinein.

Im Wasser um die Blume Kreiset ein weisser Schwan, Er singt so süss, so leise Und schaut die Blume an.

Er singt so süss, so leise Und will im Singen vergehn. O Blume, weisse Blume, Kannst du das Lied verstehn?

The silent lotus flower

The silent lotus flower rises out of the blue lake, its leaves glitter and glow, its cup is as white as

The moon then pours from heaven all its golden light, pours all its rays into the lotus flower's hosom

In the water, round the flower, a white swan circles, it sings so sweetly, so quietly, and gazes on the flower.

It sings so sweetly, so quietly, and wishes to die as it sings. O flower, white flower, can you fathom the song?

Due to copyright reasons, we are unable to reproduce the texts of the following songs.

Leigh Harline (1907-1969)

When you wish upon a star (1940) arranged by Gus Tredwell Leigh Harline and Ned Washington

Al Hoffman (1902-1960) & Mack David (1912-1993)

So This Is Love (1948) arranged by Gus Tredwell Al Hoffman, Mack David and Jerry Livingston

Frank Churchill (1901-1942)

Baby Mine (1941) arranged by Gus Tredwell Frank Churchill and Ned Washington

Al Hoffman & Mack David

A Dream Is a Wish Your Heart Makes (1950) arranged by Gus Tredwell
Al Hoffman, Mack David, and Jerry Livingston

George Bruns (1914-1983)

Once Upon a Dream (1959) based on Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky arranged by Gus Tredwell Sammy Fain and Jack Lawrence