

CONTINUING EVOLUTION 2

Yiddish Folksong in Classical Music



YIVO INSTITUTE FOR JEWISH RESEARCH

April 21, 2021 | 1:00pm ET

SIDNEY KRUM YOUNG ARTISTS CONCERT SERIES

Co-presented with the
GRADUATE VOCAL ARTS PROGRAM AT BARD CONSERVATORY

Co-sponsored by the
AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR JEWISH MUSIC

*The Sidney Krum Young Artists Concert Series is made possible
by a generous gift from the Estate of Sidney Krum.*

*This program is supported, in part, by public funds from the New York City
Department of Cultural Affairs, in partnership with the City Council.*



The Graduate Vocal Arts Program at Bard Conservatory is a unique Master of Music program in vocal arts. Created to prepare the young singer for the special challenges of pursuing a professional life in music in the 21st century, this two-year MM degree program balances a respect for established repertory and expressive techniques with the flexibility and curiosity needed to keep abreast of evolving musical ideas. Students work on operatic, art song, chamber music, and new music repertoire throughout the coursework of the program. Operatic repertoire is studied and performed throughout the curriculum and in fully staged productions at the Richard B. Fisher Center for the Performing Arts. The program also includes a strong practical component, with seminars and classes on career skills led by some of the leading figures in arts management and administration.

PROGRAM

FIVE SONGS FROM ANNA BERKOWITZ

Dan Shore

Jardena Gertler-Jaffe, *soprano* | Diana Borshcheva, *piano*

1.

BEAUTIFUL LITTLE BIRDS / פייגעלעך שיינינקע

2.

I'M A VAGRANT AROUND THE HOUSES / כ'בין אַ גייער אַרום הויז

3.

OH MOTHER, MOTHER / אַ מאַמינקע, מאַמינקע

4.

I AM A BEAUTIFUL LITTLE GIRL / בין איך מיר אַ מיידעלע אַ שיינס

5.

COME OUT TO ME, MY BELOVED / קום אַרויס צו מיר, מיין ליבסטע

JONAH THE PROPHET / יונה-הנביא

Anthony Russell & Uri Schreter

Louis Tiemann, *baritone* | Sung-Soo Cho, *piano*

THE OLD QUESTION / די אַלטע קשיא

David Ludwig

Max Jansen, *tenor* | Collin Lewis, *clarinet* | Ryan MacEvoy McCullough, *piano*

FUTILITY (IS FUTILITY) / הבל איז הבלים

Daniel Schlosberg

Lucy Fitz Gibbon, *soprano* | Diana Borshcheva, *piano*

FOUR YIDDISH FOLKSONGS / פֿיר ייִדישע פֿאָלקסלידער

Derek David

Megan Jones, *soprano* | Collin Lewis, *clarinet* | Blanche Darr, *violin* | Sung-Soo Cho, *piano*

1.

LITTLE SARAH, MY SOUL / שרהלע דושינקע

2.

BY A BROOK / ביי אַ טייַכעלע

3.

I HAVE A COACH / האָב איך מיר אַ שפּאַן

4.

ON THE FIELDS / אויף די פֿעלדער

FIVE SONGS FROM ANNA BERKOWITZ

Dan Shore

Jardena Gertler-Jaffe, *soprano* | Diana Borshcheva, *piano*

1.

BEAUTIFUL LITTLE BIRDS / פֵּיגֶעלעך שײַנינקע

Beautiful little birds, dear little birds, sing not, my heart is troubled.
Just like that my dear little one used to sing to me, she whom I loved.

Dear little stars, bright little stars, shine not, my heart is despondent.
Just like that had my dearest one two bright little eyes.

Little waves, cheerful little waves, murmur not, my heart is disconsolate.
Just like that my dear maiden used to whisper to me, she who once was mine.

2.

I'M A VAGRANT AROUND THE HOUSES / כִּבִּין אֶ גִּיעֵר אַרוֹם הוּיז

I am a vagrant around the houses, I have a walking stick. Tra, la, la, la, la, la, la, I step in all corners.

I go to a tavern, I knock on the gate. "Who are you and what are you?" I answer, "A vagrant."

Idle loafer around the houses. "Impudent, insolent fellow!" I don't answer a single word, and I go on further.

A farmer drives past. "[in Polish] What have you got in the world?"
I don't understand a single word. "Metshe, petshe, letshe!"

3.

OH MOTHER, MOTHER / אָ מאַמינקע, מאַמינקע

"Oh mother, mother, my head hurts." "Go my child to a doctor, and maybe to two." "A doctor can heal the patient of his sickness, but not her for whom I long."

Paper is white, and ink is black. I have fallen in love with a maiden, and it hurts my heart.
I have been harrowing to pass the time. But my sweet darling is so far from me.

4.

I AM A BEAUTIFUL LITTLE GIRL / בין איך מיר אַ מיידעלע אַ שײַנס

I am a beautiful little girl, I am a tiny little girl, with tempting little black hair, with delicate little white cheeks.

I am a tiny little flower, I am a beautiful little flower, with a little green foot, with a fragrant little bowl.

The beautiful little girl arrives, the tiny little flower tears herself out. Little girl, tell me why you are tearing yourself out of the grass.

5.

COME OUT TO ME MY BELOVED / קוֹם אֲרוּסִים צוֹ מִי, מִיָּן לִיבְסֻטֶע

Come out to me my beloved, come out, come out! I bring you some good news, at my house, at my house, they sprout and bloom, beautiful flowers, oh, how beautiful! Oh, how beautiful! Come, let us both go!

From the morning by the door begin, begin, fresh, cool, soft little winds, begin, begin, quietly kissing the mezuzah of my house, of my house. Come, beloved, come out!

God's grace comes flying on a sunbeam, on a sunbeam! And they sing with the valleys every spring [of water], every spring, that spring [the season] has come, they say, they say! The cherry blossoms are white as snow!

JONAH THE PROPHET / יוֹנָה-הַנְּבִיא

Anthony Russell & Uri Schreter

Louis Tiemann, *baritone* | Sung-Soo Cho, *piano*

Jonah the prophet ran away from God:
He did not want to go on his mission.
There on the sea it happened to him –
when the ship started to sink.

Help! So they throw lots
to determine whom to throw into the sea.
The lots concluded:
Jonah the Prophet, of course.

In three days God performed a miracle.
A fish threw him back out.
And thus the Jews saw what had occurred –
miracles from God himself.

So you should show me
how to provide for my husband,
to save him from death.

No one can do this,
only you God –
who rescued Jonah from death.

THE OLD QUESTION / די אַלטע קשיא

David Ludwig

Max Jansen, *tenor* | Collin Lewis, *clarinet* | Ryan MacEvoy McCullough, *piano*

The world asks an old question:
Trala-tradi-ri-di-rom?
One answers: tradi-ri-di-rom!
Oy, oy, tradi-ri-di-rom!
And if one wants, one can even say tray-dim!
Still the old question remains:
Trala-tradi-ridi-rom?

FUTILITY (IS FUTILITY) / הַבֵּל אִיז הַבֵּלִים

Daniel Schlosberg

Lucy Fitz Gibbon, *soprano* | Diana Borshcheva, *piano*

Futility is futility
and the world is a dream
and a dream is the world
and the world stands on money

and for money one buys beer
and three is not four
and four is not three
and the old is not new

and what's new is not old
and what's warm is not cold
and what's cold is not warm
the rich are not poor

and the poor are not rich
and what's bent is not straight
and what's straight is not bent
and what speaks is not silent

and silence is bad
and the peasant is right
and just is the peasant
what's sweet is not sour

and what's sour is not sweet
and what's pretty is not ugly
and what's ugly is not pretty
and where you sit you don't stand

and where you stand you don't sit
and your body likes to sweat
and to sweat is good for your body
and a man is not a woman

and a woman is not a man
and a pot is not a pan
and a pan is not a pot
and caraway is not a pickle

and a pickle is not caraway
and earth is not the sky
and heaven is not the earth
and a gun is not a sword

and a sword is not a gun
and a coat is made of foxes
and from foxes is a coat
and schmaltz is not butter

and butter is not schmaltz
and one bakes matzo without salt
and without salt one bakes matzo
and a horse is not a mare

and a mare is not a horse
and a peasant is buried in the earth
and in the earth is buried a peasant
and it's sweet and sour for him.

Futility is futility
and the world is a dream
and a dream is the world.

FOUR YIDDISH FOLKSONGS / פִּיר ייִדישע פֿאָלקסלידער

Derek David

Megan Jones, *soprano* | Collin Lewis, *clarinet* | Blanche Darr, *violin* | Sung-Soo Cho, *piano*

1.

LITTLE SARAH, MY SOUL / שַׂרְהֵלֶע דוּשִׁינְקֶע

Little Sarah, my soul,
You are as pretty as a flower.
And, along with your beauty,
May you also grow up to be pious.

You must be pious
And your thoughts be pious,
Like our ancestral mothers:
Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel, and Leah.

With all my heart, I wish you
A good life in this world.
And may you get a handsome groom,
With lots of money.

And if God grants wishes,
I shall make this vow:
To drink three glasses of matse-water
One after the other!

Little Sarah, my soul,
You are as pretty as a flower.
And, along with your beauty,
May you also grow up to be pious.

You must be pious
And all of you must be pious:
Your life, your love,
your future, and your freedom.

With all my heart, I wish you
A good life in this world.
And may you get a handsome groom,
With lots of money.

And if God grants wishes,
I shall make this vow:
To drink three glasses of matse-water
One after the other!

2.

ב"י אַ טײַכעלע / BY A BROOK

By a little brook, there grows a little tree
On it there grow branches.
You speak and are friendly with everybody,
But you tell me to be silent

By a little brook, there grows a little tree
On it there grow flowers.
I ask you, beloved, when will you come?
I ask: when are you coming?

By a little brook, there grows a little tree
On it there grow leaves.
I ask you, beloved, oh when will you come?
But you always put it off until later.

3.

I HAVE A COACH / האב איך מיר אַ שפּאַן

I have a coach
Covered with black leather,
I have two horses like lions,
And four wheels.

Refrain:

But the wheels don't turn,
And the horses won't go,
And the wife keeps cursing,
And I wish I had a spot of whiskey--
There I see a stone,
I sit me down and moan.

I might have been a merchant,
But I don't have any merchandise,
I might have been a teacher,
But I don't know any Torah

Refrain

I might have been a cobbler,
But I don't have an awl,
I might have been a cantor,
But I don't have a voice.

Refrain

4.

ON THE FIELDS / אויף די פֿעלדער

A wind blows over the fields (3x)
Come, Yaninke, sow rye with me.

Come, Yaninke, bind rye with me (3x)
'Till the sun vanishes

Travel over the paths before then (3x)
Come, Yaninke, sit next to me.

"I won't sit next to you, (3x)
Because people say that you love me."

What do you care what people say?
What do you care what people talk?
You shouldn't listen to what people say!
Run, Yaninke, I'll chase you!

If I catch you, will you be mine? (3x)
Akh, Yaninke, you're a fine one.

This program was made available through the generosity of our donors and supporters. YIVO depends on donations to underwrite our public programs and to fulfill our mission.

You can support YIVO by visiting yivo.org/Support or by filling out one of our pledge cards.

Thank you!

YIVO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair: Ruth Levine · **Vice Chair:** Irene Pletka

Edward Blank	Leo Melamed	Jon Richmond
Martin Flumenbaum	Jacob Morowitz	Bruce Slovin*
Emil Kleinhaus	Elisa New	Harry Wagner
Chava Lapin	Ilya Prizel	* <i>Chairman Emeritus</i>

Jonathan Brent, *Executive Director and CEO*
Melissa S. Cohen, *Chief Development Officer*
Alex Weiser, *Director of Public Programs*



The YIVO Institute for Jewish Research is dedicated to the preservation and study of the history and culture of East European Jewry worldwide. For nearly a century, YIVO has pioneered new forms of Jewish scholarship, research, education, and cultural expression. Our public programs and exhibitions, as well as online and on-site courses, extend our global outreach and enable us to share our vast resources. The YIVO Archives contains more than 23 million original items and YIVO's Library has over 400,000 volumes—the single largest resource for such study in the world.

yivo.org • 212.246.6080