

PITTSBURGH CONCERT SOCIETY

MAJOR WINNERS RECITAL



2012–2013 • SEVENTIETH SEASON



Misook Yun, soprano
Alice Wang, clarinet
Sophia van der Westhuizen, piano

John DiCesare, tuba
Suzanne Polak, piano

Sunday October 21 2012 • 2 pm
Kresge Theatre, Carnegie Mellon University

Pittsburgh Concert Society

Major Winners Recital

Educational comments by composer Robert Schultz

PROGRAM

Ariel—Five Poems of Sylvia Plath

Ned Rorem (b. 1923)

1. Words
2. Poppies in July
2. The Hanging Man
4. Poppies in October
5. Lady Lazarus

Misook Yun, soprano
Alice Wang, clarinet
Sophia van der Westhuizen, piano

Tuba Concerto in F Minor

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872–1958)

- I. Allegro moderato

Limpid Stream, Op. 39

Dmitri Shostakovich (1906–1975)

Adagio

arr. Roger Bobo

John DiCesare, tuba
Suzanne Polak, piano

INTERMISSION

The Laughter of Women and other songs (2002)
(Text based on the poetry of Lisel Mueller)

Gwyneth Walker (b. 1947)

The Laughter of Women
There are Mornings

Der Hirt auf dem Felsen, D. 965

Franz Schubert (1797–1828)

Misook Yun, soprano
Alice Wang, clarinet
Sophia van der Westhuizen, piano

Horn Concerto No. 1 in E-flat Major

Richard Strauss (1864–1949)

John DiCesare, tuba
Suzanne Polak, piano

You are cordially invited to meet the artists at the reception following the concert.

Der Hirt auf dem Felsen. *The Shepherd on the Rock*

text by Wilhelm Müller and

Karl August Varnhagen von Ense

When on the highest rock I stand, gaze down into the
deep valley, and sing.

From afar in the deep dark valley floats up the echo of
the ravines.

The further my voice reaches, the clearer its echo
from below.

So far away my loved one lives, wherefore I yearn so
ardently to be where she is.

With deep grief I am consumed, my joy has gone,
abandoned am I by earthly hope, and so lonely here.

So longingly sounded my song in the wood, so
longingly through the night, drawing hearts to heaven
with wondrous power.

Spring is coming, spring, my joy, and now I make
ready, make ready to journey.

The further my voice reaches, the clearer its echo
from below.

This recital is underwritten in part by the Dorothy M. Froelich Charitable Trust

MISOOK YUN
soprano



Praised as a singer of “exquisite clarity” and “virtuosity,” soprano **MISOOK YUN** has performed in Italy, Austria, South Korea and across the U.S. An accomplished operatic performer, Ms. Yun has appeared in the roles of Mimi, Cio-Cio San, Tosca, Santuzza, Nedda, Micaela, Adina, Violetta, Suzel, Genevieve, High Priestess and Musetta.

In addition, she performs regularly as a major concert soloist. In 2010, Ms. Yun won the audience choice award at the Classical Singer Convention in New York City. She was a finalist in the Metropolitan Opera National Council, Northwest Region Auditions. Ms. Yun is a full professor at the Dana School of Music, Youngstown State University.

ALICE WANG
clarinet



With a career including solo and chamber music collaborations in North America, Europe and Asia, **ALICE WANG'S** clarinet performances have been described as “lively, assuring” and “incredible [with] fast and intricate finger work.”

Since her appointment as Assistant Professor of Clarinet at the Dana School of Music at Youngstown State University in 2007, Dr. Wang has been a featured soloist with the Ohio District V Honors Band, the W.D. Packard Concert Band and she has recorded composer David Morgan’s Reflections and Meditations with the Youngstown State University Wind Ensemble.

Ms. Wang is a member of the Youngstown Symphony Orchestra and frequently performs with the Warren Philharmonic Orchestra, the Opera Western Reserve and the Canton Symphony Orchestra.

SOPHIA VAN DER WESTHUIZEN

piano



“Exceptional pianism through evocative coloring ... superlative interpretative abilities” describe the playing of South African pianist Sophia van der Westhuizen. Sophia enjoys performing as a soloist and as a collaborative pianist. She along with her husband, pianist Pierre van der Westhuizen, form the Westhuizen Duo.

Highlights of her career include appearances at international festivals, including CIM (Cleveland), Colorado, Texas, Michigan, South Africa and Romania.

Sophia’s special interest in new music has led to premiere performances of works written for the Duo. The Duo’s performances are regularly broadcast on radio stations worldwide. The Duo released a recording of Francis Poulenc’s *Concerto for Two Pianos* for AMP Recordings. Sophia teaches piano at Youngstown State University, the Music Settlement and Tri-C in Cleveland, and she has served on the faculty of Heidelberg University.

JOHN DICESARE
tuba



JOHN DICESARE recently received his Artist Diploma from Duquesne University, studying under Craig Knox of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra.

Prior to Duquesne, John attended Kent State University where he earned his Bachelor's degree in Music Education and Master's degree in Tuba Performance.

John is an active orchestral musician currently holding the Principal Tuba positions of the Westmoreland Symphony and Johnstown Symphony Orchestra. He has also performed with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, the Pittsburgh Opera, the Pittsburgh Symphony Brass, the South Florida Symphony Orchestra and the Canton Symphony Orchestra. John was recently named the Runner-Up for the Lyric Opera of Chicago tuba position.

A finalist for the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra tuba position in March of 2011, John was named principal tubist for the YouTube Symphony Orchestra held in Sydney, Australia, where he played with musicians from around the world in the famed Sydney Opera House under maestro Michael Tilson Thomas.

SUZANNE POLAK

piano



Suzanne Polak is a versatile artist, working in diverse areas of music. She received both a Masters in Composition and Theory and a Bachelor's in Piano Performance from Duquesne University. She remains on the University Accompanying Staff, and also accompanies for musical theatre at Point Park University. Suzanne is a member of the Adjunct Faculty at CAPA, the Pittsburgh High School for the Creative and Performing Arts. In addition to being the primary piano lab instructor, she has accompanied her students at various competitions, including the Pittsburgh Concert Society's Young Artists Competition. She has also appeared twice as a concerto soloist for the CAPA Symphony Orchestra. Suzanne has acted with both Carlow College and the Summer Company, and she has also appeared in and/or directed numerous musicals at Carlow College and Duquesne University Red Masquers and Spotlight.

As a composer, Suzanne has fulfilled numerous music commissions, including pieces for members of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, D. U. Red Masquers, D. U. Medieval and Renaissance Players, Carlow College, and fellow D.U. alums. Her compositions have been featured in many solo events, solo recitals, theatre productions, and at the International Conference of the Double Reed Society. Recently, she collaborated on *Homeless: the Musical*, which received two local performance runs. Her score is heard during the DVD-recorded performance of *The Tragedy of Jane Shore*. In addition, *The Beggar's Opera* was given mention for "Best Scores of 2001" in both the *Pittsburgh Post Gazette* and the *City Paper*. Suzanne also just released her first all original CD entitled *Unguarded Moments*, which is available through her website, www.suzanneupolak.com

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