

FRCC Recital Program Notes and Translations

The theme of our concert is a journey through beautiful natural scenery and musical moments. This theme is particularly fitting as we transition from winter to spring 2025. We hope to bring you a sense of joy and tranquility through the music of these masters, creating a moment of peace in this increasingly chaotic world.

Selections from *Winterreise* V. Der Lindenbaum

**Franz Schubert
(1797-1828)**

Text by Wilhelm Müller
Translation by Jennifer Wagner

By the fountain beyond the gate, there stands a linden tree;
I dream in his shadow so many sweet dreams.
I cut in his bark so many dear words;
He moved in joy and suffering, to him I always go.

I must also wander past in deep night,
There I had been still, eyes closed in darkness.
And his branches rustled, as if they cried to me,
“Come here to me fellow, here find you your rest!”

The cold winds blew in my face,
The hat flew from my head but I didn’t turn around.
Now I am some hours away from that place,
And always I hear the rustles: You will find peace there.

XI. Frühlingstraum

Text by Wilhelm Müller
Translation by Jennifer Wagner

I dreamed of colorful flowers as they would bloom in May;
I dreamed of green meadows, of cheerful birdsong,
And as the roosters crowed, then my eyes awoke.

The weather is cold and dark and the raven cries from the roof.
But on the windowpane, who painted the leaves there?
You would laugh at the dreamer who sees flowers in the winter?

I dreamed of love and lovers, of a beautiful maid,
Of hearts and of kisses, of bliss and happiness,
And as the rooster crowed, then my heart awoke.

Now sits I here alone to ponder about my dreams.
My eyes again I close, still beats the heart so warm.
When green will the leaves be out the window? When will I hold my love in my arms?

"Der Lindenbaum" (The Linden Tree) illustrates the pain of a beloved place transforming into a site overwhelmed by memories that can no longer be borne. This linden tree was once where he carved words of love; now, he walks by with his eyes closed. Listen for the interplay of major and minor keys pervades the music as the bitter present clashes with the joyful past in the man's mind. In "Frühlingstraum" ("Dream of Spring") the man dreams of flower-filled meadows and birdsong as well as his love, but awakens in the cold darkness to the crow's call, which you will hear in the piano. The song ends with the painful questions: when will the leaves be green again, and when will I hold my love once more? Both pieces are German lieder from Franz Schubert's song cycle Winterreise (Winter Journey), written in 1827. The story begins with a young man as he leaves the house of the woman he loves, who has rejected him. As he walks into the winter wilds, he embarks on a physical journey that reflects his inner turmoil.

Jeux d'eau

Maurice Ravel
(1875-1937)

French composer Maurice Ravel wrote Jeux d'eau in 1901. Its fast, shimmering, and cascading passages depict the sound of flowing water, such as fountains, waterfalls, and streams. The overall light and playful atmosphere echoes a line of poetry that Ravel included in his printed score: The river god laughing at the water that tickles him. The delicate texture and colorful harmonies demonstrate the impressionism style in piano music. It is considered one of Ravel's most important works for piano.

Fanfare

John Kenny
(b. 1957)

Trombonist and composer John Kenny is internationally acclaimed for his interpretation of contemporary music, having performed and broadcast in over 50 nations to date. He also works extensively with improvisation and early music and is particularly active in collaboration with dance and theatre. Kenny is a professor at both the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in

London and The Royal Conservatoire of Scotland and has lectured and performed at many of the world's leading institutions. The Fanfare was composed in 1991 to be performed in the extremely resonant rotunda of the McEwan Hall in Edinburgh. Inspired by the tumbling and jumbled resonance of the Bells in St. Mary's Cathedral in Edinburgh, performing the piece over the undampened strings of the piano is one of many ways to achieve a colorful resonance.

Canción de la Havana
from Portraits in Jazz

Valerie Capers
(b. 1935)

“Cancion De La Havana” is one of the 12 pieces from the jazz style collection Portraits in Jazz, composed by African American female composer Valerie Capers, first published in 1976. This collection draws on a variety of jazz styles associated with famous artists including Duke Ellington, Billie Holiday, and Ella Fitzgerald. It also draws strong influence from Afro-Cuban music and is based primarily on a Nigerian rhythm with a strong flavor of Spanish flamenco. Valerie Capers was born in 1935 in New York. She is the first blind graduate of the Juilliard School. After graduating with bachelor's and master's degrees in classical composition and performance, Valerie started learning to play jazz. Valerie is a preeminent pianist, vocalist, educator, composer, and arranger.

A Summer's Journey
I. The Stars

Eric Ewazen
(b. 1954)

Text by C.B. von Leitner

How fair is the night with its great starry deep!
How oft have the stars called me gently from sleep!
I cannot complain of their waking me so.
They pour through the stillness a healing for woe.

They float high above us in angel array.
They light for the pilgrim his dark, stumbling way.
They temple with lovevows in loneliness sighed
And bear many a kiss o'er the ocean so wide.

They shine with their love in the sufferer's face,
Embroid'ring his teardrops with clear silver rays.
They guide us who lie in the grave and the mould

Up into the blue with their fingers of gold.

So be ye then blessed, ye vast hosts of light!
And lighten me peacefully on through the night!
And if love should take me, may love's bond be blest,
And may your clear glittering peace on us rest!

II. In The Grove

Text by FR. Bruchman

Through the pine trees light is sifting, richest fragrance upward drifting,
And our souls from earth uplifting, let sweet peace our hearts pervade!

All the burdens that we carry, all our suff'rings let us bury,
And, rejoicing, let us tarry in this lovely mountain glade!

Could but sunlights warming splendor here in woodland stillness tender
Make us ev'ry care surrender, letting all our sorrows fade in this splendor!

III. The Linden Tree

Text by Wilhelm Müller

Beside the dooryard fountain there stands a linden tree.
How oft beneath its shadow sweet dreams have come to me.
Upon its bark so fragrant endearing words I've wrought,
In gladness or in sorrow its friendly shade I've sought.

Today I wandered sadly while fell the deepening night,
I passed the tree in darkness. I screened it from my sight.
The rustling of the branches seemed words but half expressed:
"Come here, beloved comrade, and find your former rest."

The bitter winds were blowing so coldly in my face.
My hat was borne behind me. I turned and fled the place.
Now many leagues divide me from that dear linden tree,
Yet still I hear it murmur "thou couldst find rest with me!"

IV. Ocean Calm

Text by Goethe

Dream be calm'd, the deeps are sleeping, moveless, soundless rests the sea;
Sad, the sailor's glance is sweeping, waters slumb'ring glassily.

And, in hush'd and brooding trances, in an awesome life in death,
All of ocean's vast expanses lie untroubled by a breath.

V. Spring Dream

Text by Wilhelm Müller

I dreamt of the trees and flowers, that blossom and bloom in the Spring;
I dreamt of the bright green meadow, and thrushes and robins that sing.
And as the cocks are crowing, I rise and look without;
The day is cold and dreary, the ravens are screaming about,
And who has painted flowers upon the window pane?
If one saw flowers in the winter, would he be entirely sane?

I dreamt about love and lovers, I dreamt of a lovely maid,
Of hands and hearts and kisses the rapture for which I prayed.
And with the rooster's crow and with the raven's scream,
My heart awoke to ponder about my dream;
I sat alone and silent, and sought to explain my dream,
I close my eyes and daydream, my heart is beating fast,
When will you flowers be blooming? Will I have my dearest at last?

In 2007, Ewazen composed the song cycle *A Summer's Journey* in homage to Schubert's extensive catalog of art songs, particularly the song cycle *A Winter's Journey*—*Die Winterreise*. This work features five poems also used by Schubert, each with varied moods and impressions that convey personal feelings of love, sorrow, longing, and contentment. In this cycle, the voice and trombone alternate melodic lines and pair in a soaring duet. Ewazen's compositions have been performed by many orchestras and chamber groups. He was born in 1954 in Cleveland, Ohio, and attended the Eastman School of Music (BM), and Juilliard (MM, DMA), where he currently serves on the faculty.

Musician Biographies:

Craig Hull - Trombone

Originally from Del Norte County in California's North Coast, Craig Hull is a trombonist and educator based in Fort Collins, Colorado. He is an Instructor of Music at Front Range Community College where he teaches music theory, aural skills, and trombone in addition to maintaining his private studio. As a freelance trombonist, Craig has performed with the Greeley

Philharmonic, Boulder Philharmonic, Greeley Chorale, Larimer Chorale, Colorado Swing, and the Denver Municipal Concert and Jazz Bands among other local ensembles. He also performs frequently with his chamber ensemble, the Corridor Trombone Quartet, along Colorado's Front Range.

Craig's scholarly endeavors include implementing Baroque performance practice, analyzing tonal structures within dodecaphonic systems, and studies in Analysis and Performance. Craig received his Bachelor's Degree in Trombone Performance from Cal Poly Humboldt and his Master's Degree in Trombone Performance from the University of Northern Colorado. He is scheduled to finish his Doctoral Degree from the University of Northern Colorado in 2025.

Yuan Li - Piano

Dr. Yuan Li joined the music faculty at Front Range Community College in Fort Collins, Colorado, in 2023. She serves as a piano instructor and collaborative pianist, working with choirs and music majors.

An avid music educator for all ages, Dr. Li also teaches the collaborative piano studio at the University of Northern Colorado, instructs group keyboard skill classes at University High School, and maintains a robust private studio of K-12 to adult students in Greeley. In addition to teaching, Yuan is a sought-after chamber music pianist who collaborates with the Denver Municipal Band, and has appeared as staff pianist at University of Northern Colorado, University Schools, Frontier Academy, and Platte Valley Schools, where she has played for opera productions, musical theater and choir programs, and chamber groups. Passionate about the life-changing power of music-making, she volunteers to perform for several benefit concerts, raising funds for humanitarian organizations such as Weld County A Women's Place and World Relief to combat domestic violence and help people recover from crises and disasters.

Yuan holds a Doctor of Arts in Piano Performance degree from the University of Northern Colorado and a Master of Music degree from the University of California, Santa Barbara. Beyond music, she enjoys reading, cooking, hiking, taking care of her plants, and exploring beautiful outdoors and national parks with her fellow musician husband Kwami.

Tyson Rogers - Piano

Pitchfork called Tyson Rogers a "wayfaring keyboard wrangler" for his multi-faceted abilities as a recording and touring musician. Tyson toured extensively with bluesman Tony Joe White and country legend Don Williams, playing on his Grammy nominated duet with Alison Krauss, "I Just Come Here for the Music." Tyson's original music has been featured by *National Geographic*, Tokyo Olympics, CBS television, The North Face, and Tom's Shoes, and his recordings have received critical acclaim from music critics, earning "Best CDs of the Year" by *Downbeat* and others.

Jennifer Wagner - Soprano

Jennifer Wagner is an avid performer and educator based in Greeley, CO. She graduated with her master of music in vocal performance in 2024 from the University of Northern Colorado. Originally from Pennsylvania, she graduated in 2022 from Manchester University in Indiana with a BA in vocal performance and biology-chemistry.

A trained classical performer, Wagner enjoys performing in operas and as a recitalist. Recent operatic roles include Lady Valerie from Amy Beach's "Cabildo", Damon from Handel's "Acis and Galatea", Lauretta from Puccini's "Gianni Schicchi" and the cover for Faustine in the collegiate premiere of Stewart Copeland's "The Invention of Morel". Wagner also enjoys performing in plays, musicals, and as a princess party performer. Her favorite roles include The Drowsy Chaperone from "The Drowsy Chaperone", Queen Aggravain from "Once Upon a Mattress" and Elsa from "Frozen".

In addition to performing, Wagner currently serves as an Instructor of Music at Front Range Community College in Fort Collins, CO and teaches out of her private studio in Greeley, CO. As a teacher, Wagner strives to find a comfortable vocal identity for all students and encourage students to develop a life-long love of music. In her free time, Wagner freelances for the Left Hand Valley Courier.