

234 Everit Street
New Haven
April 29, 2011
5:30 PM

French Song Surrounding WWI

Performed by students enrolled in MUSI 222: *The Performance of Vocal Music*

Richard Lalli, instructor
Sara Kohane, pianist and coach

Kindly hold applause until each singer has finished.

Beau soir (1883)

music by Claude Debussy (1862-1918)
text by Paul Bourget (1852-1935)

*Earth's youthful beauty urges us to be happy, for we pass like the
wave: it goes to the sea; we, to the grave.*

Michael Protacio, tenor

Honneur à l'Amérique (1917)

Camille Saint-Saëns (1835-1921)
Paul Fournier (1853-1935)

*Salute to the noble American, to the people with us to fight!
Still united by the Brotherhood, we will fight for our deliverance,
for justice and liberty.*

Noël des enfants qui n'ont plus de maisons (1915)

music and text by Claude Debussy (1862-1918)

*We do not have our houses anymore! What is one to do?
The enemy has taken everything. Give the victory to the children of France!*

Catherine Leech, mezzo-soprano

Nicolette (1915)

music and text by Maurice Ravel (1875-1937)

*Young Nicolette goes flower-picking in the meadow, where she wisely avoids
a hungry wolf and rejects the advances of a pretty young page
in favor of an ugly, but wealthy, old lord who offers her money.*

Nuits de grand vent (1915)

Reynaldo Hahn (1874-1947)
text by Maurice Léna, adapted from an
English poem by Robert Louis Stevenson (1850-1894)

*Late at night in the dark and rain, a dark man rides on a dark horse, always going by at a loud gallop.
He disappears, but then he returns again; it is always he.*

Dylan Morris, baritone

"C" (1943)

Francis Poulenc (1899-1963)
Louis Aragon (1897-1982)

*I crossed by the bridges of Cé, where everything began.
Oh my France, oh my abandoned country,
you have witnessed such disappointment and despair.*

Les Berceaux (1879)

Gabriel Fauré (1845-1924)
René-François Sully-Prudhomme (1839-1907)

*Along the quay, women will one day bid farewell
to their lovers who seek exotic horizons. They rock their cradles
like the boats on the water, soon to be but a distant memory.*

Chloe Zale, soprano

Priez pour paix (1936)

Francis Poulenc (1899-1963)
Charles, Duc d'Orleans (1394-1465)

*Pray for peace, sweet Virgin Mary.
Beseech your son to rid us of all-disrupting war.*

* L'heure exquise (1892)

Reynaldo Hahn (1874-1947)
Paul Verlaine (1844-1896)

*Oh my beloved! Let us dream under the white moon, for the heavens give us
profound and tender satisfaction during this exquisite hour.*

Mark Trapani, baritone

"C" (1943)

Francis Poulenc (1899-1963)
Louis Aragon (1897-1982)

*I crossed the bridges of Cé and I drank like ice-cold milk,
the long song of destruction and false glories.
O my France, my forsaken France.*

* Priez pour paix (1936)

Francis Poulenc (1899-1963)
Charles, Duc d'Orleans (1394-1465)

Shivani Bhatt, mezzo-soprano

Sanglots (1940)

Francis Poulenc (1899-1963)
Guillaume Apollinaire (1880-1918)

*We dreamers tear out our broken, bleeding hearts, carry them in our hands, and hide our sobs.
We enslave our own lives with our pride, our self-pity, and our pain.*

Clair de Lune (1887)

Gabriel Fauré (1845-1924)
Paul Verlaine (1844-1896)

*Imagine an enchanting landscape, where masqueraders sing and dance beneath the moonlight,
where birds dream in the trees, and where fountains sob in ecstasy.*

Nicole Levy, soprano

Vaisseaux, nous vous aurons aimés (1921)

Gabriel Fauré (1845-1924)
Jean de la Ville de Mirmont (1886-1914)

*Ships, we loved you to no avail; the last of you has departed upon the sea.
My dreams and desires reside on land, though I long in vain to leave you as well.*

Dans la nuit (1921)

Reynaldo Hahn (1875-1947)
Jean Moréas (1856-1910)

*In the night, when I come to sit at the edge of the solitary rock by the sea,
I can no longer bear the sound of my own heart. You must take me, Ocean, to sleep in your bitter depths.*

Christopher Perry-Coon, baritone

Noël des enfants qui n'ont plus de maison (1915)

Claude Debussy (1862-1918)

*The enemies took everything, our homes and our little beds.
Revenge us – revenge the children of France!*

Bonnie Antosh, soprano

* Diane, Séléne (1921)

Jean de la Ville de Mirmont (1886-1914)

*The singer gazes at the moon and wishes that his weary
soul could emulate the peace of that celestial body.*

from *Le Bestiaire* (1911)

Le dromadaire
Le dauphin
La sauterelle

Francis Poulenc (1899-1963)
Guillaume Apollinaire (1880-1918)

*Had I four camels I would roam the world.
Like the grasshopper my verses are the food of the finest.
Dolphins play in the bitter sea; so life is cruel.*

Nimal Eames-Scott, baritone

from *Chansons de Ronsard* (1941)

Darius Milhaud (1892-1974)
Pierre de Ronsard (1524-1585)

À Cupidon

*The days and seasons change, but the fever of love never ceases to torment me.
Cupid, you should have picked another target –
not me, nor those who love the Muse!*

Dieu vous gard

*God keep you, messengers of spring: swallows, flowers, butterflies and bees.
How I love this season and the sweet cackling of the riverbanks,
at the price of the winter storms that have kept me shut in my house.*

Emily Misch, soprano

Fumée (1921)

Reynaldo Hahn (1874-1947)
Jean Moréas (1856-1910)

*The singer watches a plume of smoke and is reminded of similarities
between smoke and humanity - both are transient and frail.*

* Le Chapelier (1916)

Erik Satie (1866-1925)
Rene Chalupt (1885-1957)

*In a scene from the Tea Party of Alice in Wonderland fame,
the Mad Hatter attempts to speed up his pocketwatch, but to no avail.*

Nathan Calixto, tenor

* Steven Feis, pianist

