The EWU Department of Music Presents

Alexandra Rannow: Graduate Voice Recital

A Woman's Narrative

With Yi-chun Chen, Mikaela Elms, Robyn Bowles, and Margaret Francik

Sunday, November 22nd
2:00 pm
Music Building Recital Hall

Presented in partial fulfillment of the Masters of Music, Vocal Performance

Studio of Susan Windham
A Woman's Narrative

The majority of the pieces in this program present a woman during a specific moment, a distinct emotion, and accompany just that scintilla of time in the character's journey. "Eil wie schmeckt" is Lizzy's rebellion against her father, and its youthful stubbornness is that of a woman who is as young in her principles as she is unyielding in them. "Piangero la sorte mia" is Cleopatra acknowledging her vulnerability. She does so with the grace of her nobility but also with the vehemence of a woman who is losing everything she holds dear. As a servant with several tricks up her sleeve, Despina sings "Una donna quindici anni" as a testament to the life she has lived; it can be interpreted that she is justifying her lies to her mistresses by encouraging them to create webs of their own. Beyond this, she is outing herself as woman who would have been looked down on at the time for insisting that society allow her the same unspoken liberties it allowed men. The weakest moment occurs during the most joyful piece, "The Jewel Song", when Marguerite dismisses her insecurities and covers herself in pretty jewelry. From the world's perspective, this could be about a woman who was susceptible to temptation and not strong enough in her convictions; in truth, this is an example of a woman who didn't know her own worth, and who just wanted to see herself as special for a moment.

There are two pieces in this program chosen for their applicability to a woman at any stage in her life. "I Wish it So" is a woman who has confidence that her life will change and is ready to seize the moment - if only it would come along. She calls her hopeful yearning "an unrest" because it is a consistent voice in her head, waking her and whispering to her soul, saying that things can't continue the way they have been. The other piece, "Recondiment" was written for this program. It is about the presence of burdens in their most vivid and destructive form, and how the choice has been made to allow them to exist while refusing to give their existence precedence over personal progress.

I chose for these pieces to bookend the song cycle "Frauenliebe und leben" because they flow so well with the way that this cycle begins and ends. It is implied that the subject of this cycle believed her life began upon seeing her love for the first time, and that when he died her life was stagnant. With all due respect to Schumann and Chamisso, a woman who loves deeply has been anticipating that emotion for some time, and she would never let her beloved die in vain. I believe that the subject would have had several "I Wish it So" moments before she lay eyes on her beloved, just as she would have experienced "Recondiment" and insisted on surviving, if only to continue to pay homage to her love.
Program

Ei, wie schmeckt der coffee süsse
from The Coffee Cantata BWV 211
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)
Mikaela Elms, cello; Robin Bowles, flute

Plangerò la sorte mia
from Guilio Cesare
George Frederick Handel (1685-1750)

Una donna a quindici anni
from Cosi fan Tutte
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-91)

Ah! Je ris de me voir (The Jewel Song)
from Faust
Charles Gounod (1818-93)

I Wish it So
from Juno
Mark Blitzstein (1905-64)

Frauenliebe und Leben Op. 42*
i. Sieht ich ihn gesehen
ii. Er der herrlichster von allen
iii. Ich kann's nicht fassen
iv. Du Ring an meinem Finger
v. Helft mir, ihr Schwestern
vi. Süsser Freund
vii. An meinem Herzen
viii. Nun hast du mir den ersten Schmerz getan
Yi-chun Chen, piano

Rescindment
Margaret Francik (1992-)
Margaret Francik, piano

*Please hold applause until the end of cycle
Program Notes

"Eil Wie schmeckt der Coffee Süsse" from the Coffee Cantata BWV 211: Liesgen, or Lizzy, is a young woman who is courted by several suitors and lives with her very strict father, Schlandrian. He despises the fads of the youth, and is greatly disturbed by his daughter’s participation in the trend of drinking coffee on a daily basis. He forbids her to drink coffee anymore. Staunchly, Lizzy proclaims unwavering devotion to coffee, and declares that she will marry only under the stipulation that her husband will provide her with her sweet addiction.

"Piangerlo la sorte mia" from Giulio Cesare: After Caesar successfully takes over Egypt, Cleopatra is able to use her wiles to ensure that she will be politically salient. Her brother, Tolomeo, learns of her alliance with Caesar and sends her to prison in a wake of terror. Devastated by her fallen state, Cleopatra mourns her fate and vows to terrorize her brother when she haunts him in death.

"Una donna a quindici anni" from Così fan tutte: Servent Despina and Don Alfonso have challenged the men of the house into proving their lady’s loyalty; the men told their lovers that they were leaving for war, but return dressed as fascinating foreign travelers trying to win over the other man’s lady. While the men insist that their sweethearts will stay true, Despina and Don Alfonso insist that, just like men, women are incapable of being faithful. In this scene, Despina tells the women that not only are they justified in having lovers on the side, it is their duty as women to be cunning and deceitful.

"Ahl Je ris de me voir" ("The Jewel Song") from Faust: Desperate for new meaning in his life, Faust sells his soul to Mephistopheles after seeing the image of Marguerite at her spinning wheel. He meets Marguerite and attempts to romance her, but she turns him away, feeling she is too modest a girl for such a man. In this scene, Mephistopheles (who must ensure Faust’s happiness in life in order to gain his service in death) has laid a trap of several jewels for her to adorn herself with, that she may feel worthy of Faust’s affection.

"I Wish it So" from Juno: In a crowded apartment in Dublin in 1920’s, Juno and her daughter, Mary, work tirelessly to support the men of the family. In this scene, Mary expresses her longing for a new life, and the faith she will change her situation.

Frauenliebe und Leben: Based on poetry by Adelbert von Chamisso. Translating to, “A woman’s love and life”, this cycle begins with the moment the heroin sees “him”; to her, this is when her life begins, as he has awoken an undying love within her. In the second movement she does her best to be optimistic, saying that while she does not deserve this man, whomever he does love will be the most worthy of all; she is shocked in the third movement to learn that it is she whom he loves, and in the fourth movement she humbly adores her engagement ring. The fifth movement features her wedding day, and the excitement she feels preparing for her new life. We see a tender moment of intimacy between the two of them during the sixth movement as she tells him that she is expecting his child, then we witness her joyfully playing with her child. In the final movement she tearfully berates him for dying and leaving her to go through life without him.

Rescindment: One meaning of the word “rescindment,” is to do away with something by formal action. The text for the poem “Rescindment,” takes inspiration from this definition, describing through words of labor and trespass the burdens we carry, and the battle that ensues as we begin to lay them aside.
Ei! wie schmeckt der Coffee süsse

Ei! wie schmeckt der Coffee süsse
Oh the taste of sweet coffee
lieblicher als tausend Küsser,
more delicious than a thousand kisses
Milder als Muskatenwein
Milder than muscatel wine
Coffee muss ich haben
Coffee, I must have!
und wenn jemand mich will laben
And if someone wants to pamper me
Ach, so schenkt mir Coffee ein
Ah, give me coffee!

Piangerò la sorte mia

(Recit)

E pur così in un giorno perdo fasti e grandezze;
ahl fato río
And even in the day I lose the glory and
greatness
Cesare, il mio bel nume, è forse estinto,
Caesar, my beautiful god, has perhaps died,
Cornelia e Sesto inermi son
Cornelia and Sesto are helpless
né sanno darmi soccorso,
No one will come to my rescue
O Dio! Non resta alcuna speme al viver mio,
O God, there remains no hope in my life

(Aria)

Piangerò la sorte mia, sì crudele e tanto ria
I weep for my destiny, it is cruel and wicked
finché vita in petto avrò
I'll have as long as I live
Ma poi morta d'ogn intorno, il tiranno e notte
e giorno
But when I am dead, from all around, the tyrant,
night and day
fatta spettro agiterò
As a ghost I will haunt

Una donna a quindici anni

Una donna a quindici anni de'e saper ogni gran
moda
A woman of fifteen years must know every trick
Dove il diavolo ha la coda cosa è bene e mal
cos'è
Where the devil hides his tail, what is good and
what is bad
Dee saper le maliziette che innamorano gli
amanti
She must know little tricks to entrap lovers
Finger riso finger pianti inventar i bei perché
To feign laughter, tears, and invent lies
De'e in un momento dar retta a cento colle
pupilli parlare con mille
She can give attention to 100 men at once
Dar speme a tutti, sien belli o brutti,
give hope to all, be they handsome or ugly
Saper nascondersi senza confondersi,
senz'arrossire saper mentire
Know how to hide feelings when flustered, how
to lie without blushing
E qual regina dall'alto soglio col posso e voglio
farsi ubbidir.
And like a queen from her high throne be
obeyed
(Par ch'abbian gusto di tal dottrina, viva
Despina che sa servir!) It appears they like my philosophy; long live
Despina who knows how to serve!
Ah! Je ris de me voir (The Jewel Song)

(Recit)

Ô Dieu! Que de bijoux!  
O God! What jewels!

Est-ce un rêve chairmont qui m'éblouit  
It is a charming dream dazzling me

Ou si je veille?  
Or am I awake?

Mes yeux n'ont jamais vu de richesse pareille  
My eyes have never seen riches like this!

Si j'osais seulement me parer un moment de ces pendants d'oreille!  
If I dare to adorn myself for a moment with these earrings!

Ah! Voici justement au fond de la cassette – un miroir!  
Ah! Here at the bottom the casket – a mirror!

Comment n'être pas coquette  
How can I not be coquettish?

(Aria)

Ah! Je ris de me voir si belle ensi miroir  
Ah, I laugh to see myself so beautiful in the mirror

Est-ce toi Marguerite? Réponds-moi, vite!  
Is that you, Marguerite! Answer me, quickly!

Non, ce n'est plus toi, non ce n'est plus ton visage.  
No, it's no longer you! It's no longer your face

C'est la fille d'un roi que son lui a passage  
It's the daughter of a king you greet in the passage

Ah, s'il était ici,
Oh, if only he were here

S'il me voyait ansil!  
If he could see me like this

Comme une de moiselle il me trouverait belle  
Like a young lady he would find beautiful

Achevons la métamorphose  
Let's complete the transformation

Il me tarde encore d'essayer le bracelet et collier  
I am late in trying on the bracelet and necklace

Dieu, c'est comme une main  
God, it's like someone else's hand

qui sur mon brasse posser  
who places it on my arm

That is placed on my arm

I Wish it So

I've an unrest inside me, oh it's long I have had  
Such an unrest inside me, and it's getting real bad

I'm sleeping at night and my heart beats so loud  
that I wake

All dizzy and light, with a dreaming and feeling this ache

Such a thumpin' inside me that I think I'll go mad

For I wish it so, what I wish I still don't know  
But it's bound to come though so long to wait

I keep saying tonight or today through the endless days

And my heart clamors and prays it will not come too late

But when come it does in the shape of love or life  
I will give my life and my love, I know

I've such grand aims with so many names that I grow numb

But sure one is bound to come, because I wish, I wish it so
**Frauenliebe und Leben**

I.
Seit ich ihn gesehen, glaub' ich blind zu sein
*Ever since I saw him, I believe myself to be blind*
wo ich hin nur blicke, seh' ich ihn allein;
*Where I but cast my gaze, I see him alone*
wie im wachen Traume, schwebt sein Bild mir vor
*As in waking dreams, his image floats before me*
Taucht aus tiefstem Dunkel heller, heller nur empor
*Dipped from the deepest darkness brighter, brighter in ascent*
Sonst ich licht und farblos alles um mich her,
*All else dark and colorless all around me*
Nach der Schwestern Spiele nicht begeh' ich mehr,
*For the games of my sisters I no longer yearn*
Möchte lieber weinen still im Kämmerlein;
*I would rather weep silently in my little chamber*
Seit ich ihn gesehen, glaub' ich blind zu sein.
*Ever since I saw him, I believe myself to be blind*

II.
Er, der Herrlichste von allen, wie so milde, wie so gut!
*He, the most glorious of all, oh so milde, oh so good*
Holde Lippen, klares Auge, heller Sinn und fester Mut,
*Lovely lips, clear eyes, bright mind and steadfast courage*
So wie dort in blauer Tiefe, hell und herrlich jener Stern,
*Just as yonder as the blue depths, bright and glorious that star*
Al so Er im meinem Himmel, hell und herrlich hehr und fern
*So he is in my heavens, bright and glorious, lofty and distant*
Wandle, wandle deine Bahnen, nur betrachten deinen Schein
*Meander, meander thy paths, but to observe your gleam*

**Nur in Demuth ihn betrachten, selig nur in traurig sein!**
*But in meekness to observe, blissful but sad to be*
Höre nicht mein stilles Beten, deinem Glücke nurgeweit;
*Hear not my silent prayer, consecrated only in your happiness*
Darfst mich nied're Magd nicht kennen, hoher Stern der Herrlichkeit!
*You may not know me, lowly maid, lofty star of glory*
Nur die Würdgste von allen darf beglücken deine Wahl,
*Only the worthiest of all will make happy your choice*
und ich will die Hoher segnen, viele tausend mal
*And I will bless her, lofty one, a thousand times*
Will mich freuen dann und weinen
*I will rejoice and weep*
Selig, selig bin ich dann,
*Blissful, blissful I’ll be then*
solte mir das Herz auch brechen,
*If my heart should also break*
brich, o Herz, das liegt daran?
*Break, o heart, what of it?*

**III.**
Ich kann's nicht fassen, nicht glauben es hat ein Traum mich berück
*I can grasp or believe it, a dream has bewitched me*
Wie hätt' es doch unter allen mich Arme erhoht und beglückt?
*Why should he chose me, to enlighten with joy?*
Mir war's, er habe gesprochen: "Ich bin auf ewig dein.”
*It seemed he said: “I am forever yours”*
Mir war's, ich träume noch immer, es kan ja immer so sein!
*It seemed, a dream on and on, it couldn’t be!*
O lass im Traume mich sterben, geweigt an seiner Brust,
*O let me die in this dream, cradled on his breast*
den seligten Tod mich schlürfen in Thranen
unendlicher Lust
Let this death take me in in unending bliss

IV.
Du Ring an meinem Finger, mein goldenes
Ringelein,
Your ring on my finger, my little golden ring
Ich drücke dich fromm an die Lippin, an das
Herze mein.
I press it piously to my lips, and to my heart
Ich hatt' ich ausgeträumet, der Kindheit
friedlich schönen Traum,
I had dreamed it, that lovely childhood dream
Ich fand allein mich, vorloren im öden,
unendlichen Raum.
I found myself alone and lost, in empty,
unending space
Du Ring an meinem Finger, da hast du mich erst
belehrt,
Your ring on my finger, you have taught me for
the first time
hast meinem Blick erschlossen, des Lebens
unendlichen tieffen Wert.
Have opened my gaze unto the endless, deep
value of life
Ich will ihm dienen, ihm leben, ihm angehören
ganz
I want to serve him, live for him, belong to him
entirely
Hin selber mich geben und finden verklärt mich
in seinem Glanz.
Give myself, and find myself changed in his
radiance

Adorn me with blooming Myrtle.
Als ich befriedigt, freudigen Herzens,
Otherwise gratified of joyful heart
sonst dem Geliebten im Arme lag,
I would have laid in my beloved's arm
immer noch rief er, Sehnsucht im Herzen,
So he called out, yearning in his heart
unge duldig den heutigen Tag.
Impatient for the present day.
Helft mir, ihr Schwestern, helft mir
verscheuchen
Help me, my sisters, help me to banish
eine thörichte Bangigkeit; dass ich mit klarem
A foolish anxiety, so that I with clear
Aug' ihn empfange, ihn, die Quelle der
Freudigkeit.
Eyes may receive him, my source of joy
Bist, mein Geliebter, du mir erschienen,
Does my beloved, appear to me
giebst du mir, Sonne deinen Schein?
Give me, his sun, to shine?
Lass mich in Andacht, laß mich in Demut,
Let me with devotion, let me with meekness
lass verneigen dem Herren mein.
Let me curtsy before my Lord.
Streuet ihm, Schwestern, streuet ihm Blumen,
Strew him, sisters, streuw him with flowers
bringt ihm knospende Rosen dar.
Bring him budding roses.
Aber euch, Schwestern, grüß ich mit Wehmut
But you, sisters, I greet with sadness
freudig scheidend aus eurer Schar.
Joyfully separating from your midst.

V.
Helft mir, ihr Schwestern, freundlich mich
schmücken,
Help me, my sisters, friendly adorn me
dient der Glücklichen heute mir.
Serve me, today's fortunate one
Windet geschäftig, mir um die Stirne
Busily wind about my brow
noch der blühenden Myrte Zier.
Wie so bang mein Busen wie so wonnevoll!
How anxious my heart, yet how blissful!
Wüsst ich nur mit Worten, wie ich's sagen soll.
If only I knew what words, how I should say it.
Komm und birg dein Antlitz hier auf meiner
Brust,
Come and bury your face in my breast
Will in's Ohr dir flüstern, alle meine Lust.
In my ear he whispers, it is all my happiness.
Weisst du nun die Thranen, die ich weinen
cann?
Do you understand the tear that I weep?
Sollst du nicht sie sehen du geliebter Mann?
Shouldn't you see them, beloved man
Bleib' an meinem Herzen, fühle dessen Schlag.
Stay by my heart, feel it beat.
dass ich fest und fester nur dich drücken mag.
it, fast and faster, and press into it.
Hier on meinem Bette hat die Wiege Raum,
Here by my bed is room for the cradle
wo sie still verberge meinen holden Traum.
Where it will silently conceal my lovely dreams.
Kommen wird der Morgen wo der Traum
erwacht,
The morning will come where the dream awakes
und daures dein Bildness mit entgegen lacht.
And from your image smiles at me.

VII.
An meinem Herzen, an meiner Brust,
On my heart, on my breast
du meine Wonne, du meine Lust!
You are my wonder, you are my happiness!
Das Glück ist die Liebe, die Lieb' ist das Glück,
The joy is love, the love is joy
ich hab es gesagt und nehm's nicht zurück.
i have said it, and I will never take it back.
Hab' überschwenglich mich geschätz
I've thought I was happy before
Bin überglücklich aber jetzt.
But I am beyond that now.
Nur die da säught, nur die da liebt,
Only she that cares for, she that loves
das Kind, dem sie die Nahrung gibt.
The child to whom she gives her life.
Nur eine Mutter weiss allein,
Only a mother alone knows
was lieben heist und glücklich sein.
What it is to love and to be happy.
O wie bedaur' ich doch den Mann,
O, how I pity the man
der Mutterglück nicht fühlen kann!
Who can't feel a mother's joy!
Du lieber, lieber Engel, du,
The sweet, sweet, angel, you
du schauest mich an und lächelst dazu!
who looks at me with and smiles!
An meinem Herzen an meiner Brust, du meine
Wonne du meine Lust!

VIII.
Nun hast du mir den ersten Schmerz getan,
Now though has given me for the first time pain
der aber traf.
How it has struck me.
Du schlafst, du harter, unbarmherz'ger Mann,
You sleep, you you hard, merciless man
den Todesschlafl.
the sleep of death.
Es blicket die Verlassne vor sich hin,
The abandoned one stares straight ahead
Die Welt ist leer.
the world is void.
Geliebet hab ich und gelebt, ich bin
I have loved and lived, I am
nicht lebend mehr.
no longer living.
Ich zieh mich in mein Innres still zurück,
I withdraw silently to myself
der Schleier fällt.
the veil falls.
Da hab ich dich und mein verlornes Glück,
There I have lost you and my happiness
Du meine Welt!
You my world!
Rescindment

If I am the only spark
Barking from among these sundry
darknesses,
it will be enough.
arrows, singing bitter
dragging their corroded
vanquished hopes
may pierce my breast
may steal my breath but cannot leach
the pearl from my bones

I will hold my cup
to the lips of the moon and grow
not lonely
bring your tears,
carry on your back, the ragged
feral beast
You cannot have me
You cannot blow me out
Acknowledgements

To my teacher, Susan Windham, thank you from the bottom of my heart for your expertise and dedication to your students.

Thank you to Yi-chun Chen for the hours of rehearsal and for performing this program with me, and for gifting this program with your beautiful playing.

Mikaela Elms and Robyn Bowles, thank you for your time and collaboration. It is an honor to work with such hardworking musicians.

Margaret Francik, thank you for writing sensational music and allowing me to be a part of its presentation.

Thank you to my graduate committee, Dr. Graves, Steven Mortier, and Dr. Pirch.

Thank you to my invaluable teachers, Kristina Ploeger, Kendall Feeney, Dr. Ellsworth, Dr. Wagner, and Dr. Middleton.

Thank you to my family for supporting me and encouraging an artistic and diverse atmosphere to explore my passions.

Upcoming Events

Monday, November 30, 2015
Evnika Trio Concert - 5 pm
Music Building Recital Hall - Admission Free

Tuesday, December 1, 2015
Chamber Brass Concert - 5 pm
Music Building Recital Hall - Admission Free

Wednesday, December 2, 2015
Orchestra Concert and Svetlana Kalpakchi Graduate Conducting Recital - 7:30 pm
Music Building Recital Hall - $5 General Admission, $3 Seniors/Non-EWU Students

Thursday, December 3, 2015
Wind Ensemble Concert – 7:30pm
Music Building Recital Hall - $5 General Admission, $3 Seniors/Non-EWU Students

Friday, December 4 - Choral Concert: A Season of "Cerebration" - 7:30 pm
Central Lutheran Church 512 S. Bernard St., Spokane, WA 99204
EWU $5 General Admission, $3 Seniors/Non-EWU Students

Sunday, December 6 - Holiday Jazz Concert at Central Lutheran – 3:30 pm
Central Lutheran Church 512 S. Bernard St., Spokane, WA 99204
$5 General Admission, $3 Seniors/Non-EWU Students