

The Art Song Preservation Society of New York Presents



French Mélodie — An Homage to Pierre Bernac

Saturday, April 5th, 2014, 1:00 pm

Opera America

330 7th Avenue New York, NY 10001

French Mélodie – An Homage to Pierre Bernac

with Master Clinician Thomas Grubb

Elizabeth Moyer, Soprano

Après un rêve (Anon., translated by Bussaine)

Gabriel Fauré (1845 - 1924)

Elena Bird, Soprano

Claire de lune from *Quatre chansons de jeunesse* (Verlaine)

Claude Debussy (1862-1918)

Bronwyn White, Soprano

Air vif from *Airs chantés* (Papadiamantopoulos)

Francis Poulenc (1899-1963)

Delaney Rosen, Mezzo-Soprano

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

Claude Debussy (1862-1918)

Olivia Betzen, Soprano

La Dame d'André from *Fiançailles pour rire* (Vilmorin)

Francis Poulenc (1899-1963)



Pierre Bernac (1899–1979) was a French baritone who is known as one of the most renowned interpreters of French mélodie, and had a prolific career as a performer and teacher.

Bernac was born Pierre Bertin in Paris on January 12, 1899, but changed his surname to Bernac to avoid confusion with actor Pierre Bertin. Although he shone in German lieder and English songs, Pierre Bernac became – and remains – the most renowned interpreter of French mélodie. After Bernac premiered composer and pianist Francis Poulenc's *Chansons gaillardes* in 1926, he began appearing in recital with Poulenc as his accompanist in 1934. Bernac developed a lifelong friendship with Poulenc, and they performed several international tours together until Bernac withdrew from performing in public in 1960. Poulenc wrote a majority of his songs for Bernac, including “Tel jour, telle nuit” and “Calligrammes”. Bernac recorded several of Poulenc's songs in 1947, accompanied by the composer on the piano.

Bernac was also famous as a teacher, teaching master classes at the American Conservatory at Fontainebleau and the École Normale de Musique de Paris. Musical Times called him “an outstanding teacher of song interpretation – visionary, precise, tireless and loving.” His students include Gérard Souzay, Mattiwilda Dobbs, Elly Ameling, and Jessye Norman.

Master Clinician Thomas Grubb

Thomas Grubb is the famed author *Singing in French: A Manual of French Diction and French Vocal Repertoire*, with a Foreward by Pierre Bernac (New York: Schirmer Books, 1979).

Mr. Grubb, presently on the faculty of the Juilliard School, taught previously at the Manhattan School of Music, the Curtis Institute, the Academy of Vocal Arts and New York University. He also coached many productions for both New York City Opera and Houston Grand Opera, and served as adjudicator for the Metropolitan Opera Guild Auditions, the International Paris Voice Competition and the Fulbright Commission. Grubb has given master classes throughout the USA, in Taiwan, Korea, Lithuania, Germany and France. As pianist, he assisted Pierre Bernac in his master classes, collaborated with Renée Fleming, Benita Valente, Eleanor Steber, Elly Ameling, Dawn Upshaw and Maurice André, and recorded for both the Orion and Lyrachord labels.



Grubb earned his Master of Music degree in Applied Piano in 1966. In 1962, Mr. Grubb received a Master of Arts degree in French Literature from Yale University Graduate School and in 1960 his Bachelor of Arts in French and Piano from the University of Rochester and the Eastman School of Music. In May of 2002 the Ministry of Culture of the French decorated Mr. Grubb as Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres for his advancement of French culture throughout the world.

Arthur Williford, Pianist

Art Williford is a collaborative pianist and composer originally hailing from Houston, Texas. He received his BM in composition from Eastman. He spent much of his time at Eastman accompanying singers, which led him to the Collaborative Piano program at Juilliard, where he currently studies with Jonathan Feldman, Margo Garrett, and Diane Richardson.



About Us

Our Mission

The Art Song Preservation Society of New York (ASPS) is a nonprofit arts organization dedicated to preserving, revitalizing, and promoting the art song repertoire and the art song recital. We do this by providing a variety of enriching and engaging programs, services, and events that promote the education and performance of classical vocal concert repertoire.

What Is Art Song?

An art song is a music composition for voice and instrumental accompaniment. The text of these songs is derived from poetry resulting in the unification of two art forms: the poetic text and music. This makes the art song a dual art and one of the greatest (albeit oftentimes most neglected) gifts in the realm of classical music. When the ideal proportions are met – the heartfelt piano accompaniment, the exquisite voice, and the endearing poetry – one cannot help but be affected by it. It touches the mind. It touches the soul. It touches humanity.

What We Do

The Art Song Preservation Society serves the New York City area by creating opportunities for education and performance in the genre of classical art song vocal literature to classical singers, piano collaborators, and art song aficionados. Our organization also generates exposure for emerging and established composers of art song to their key public – singers, teachers, accompanists, and enthusiasts!

With the financial support of grants and generous patrons of the arts, we offer opportunities for artistic development such as private and group voice lessons, workshops, a master class series, and educational lectures through the year. In addition to creating performance opportunities for emerging artists, we also sponsor both the Mary Trueman Vocal Arts Competition and a mentoring program for singers and pianists.

Finally, we share our passion for art song with everyone within our reach: recital and concert performances open to the public; community outreach and music therapy partnerships; and an exciting and informative internet-radio podcast show entitled "A Toast To Song" that has allowed us to expand beyond the New York City area.

"If Music Be The Food of Love, Sing On, Sing On, Sing On!"

ASPS is a beacon of light and an invaluable resource for emerging concert recitalists, piano collaborators, teachers, students, and anyone who cares to witness the pinnacle of artistic beauty. So if you have a genuine interest in the fusion of word and tone, rhythm of language, and the quality and beauty of the human voice, come experience the exuberance and joy of art song singing with The Art Song Preservation Society of New York: **where music speaks and words sing!**

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The Florence Gould Foundation

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Spring Into Song 2014 and every musically enriching ASPS program is made possible by the generosity of **supporters like you**. Our deepest gratitude is extended to all of our patrons!

Spring Into Song 2014 Season Program

The Mary Trueman Art Song Vocal Competition Finals Recital

Judged by Benita Valente, Thomas Grubb, & Thomas Muraco

Date: Saturday, March 29th, 1-5:00pm

French Mélodie Master Class – An Homage to Pierre Bernac

with **Thomas Grubb**

The Juilliard School, Accompanying & Vocal Coaching Faculty

Date: Saturday, April 5th, 1-4:30pm

German Lied Master Class

with **Baritone Elem Eley**

Westminster Choir College, Voice Teaching Faculty

Date: Saturday, April 26th, 1-4:30pm

Cross-Over Repertoire Master Class

with **Soprano Marni Nixon**

Broadway Performer & Recording Artist

Date: Saturday, May 3rd, 1-4:30pm

Mélodies of Claude Debussy Master Class

with **Dalton Baldwin**

Westminster Choir College, Accompanying & Vocal Coaching Faculty

Date: Saturday, May 17th, 1-4:30pm

Romantic & Post-Romantic European Song Master Class

with **Thomas Muraco**

The Manhattan School of Music, Accompanying & Vocal Coaching Faculty

Date: Saturday, May 31st, 1-4:30pm

Unless otherwise indicated, all events take place at **Opera America** at 330 7th Avenue New York, NY 10001.

For more information and to purchase tickets, please contact Blair Boone at aspsny@gmail.com or visit www.artsongpreservationsociety.org.

Give the Gift of Music

If you ever wanted to become a patron of the arts, now is the time! With the rapid decline and tragic loss of many of our country's finest institutions of the arts, we need your assistance now more than ever to continue being a beacon of light to both musicians and music lovers in New York. The Art Song Preservation Society satisfies an aching need for resources, and creates unique opportunities to cultivate the beauty of art song education and performance in our community. Please consider giving the gift of music to honor or remember someone you love, or to simply celebrate your joy and appreciation for beautiful music!

Where Does My Donation Go?

All donations made to the Art Song Preservation Society of New York will help us fulfill our missions of preserving, revitalizing, and promoting the art song repertoire and the art song recital. Individual donors help pay for the operational costs, educational and development programs, and community outreach services that grant funding does not cover. Your support will enable us to continue providing a variety of enriching and engaging programs, services, and events that promote the education and performance of classical vocal concert repertoire.

Your Contribution to the Arts is Tax-Deductible!

The Art Song Preservation Society of New York (ASPS) has been incorporated and awarded nonprofit 501(c)(3) status. Financial support is provided by the generosity of individuals who seek to cultivate the talent of musicians interested in the arts. It is only by your donations that we can continue to fulfill our mission of preserving and revitalizing art song. Your gift in the amount that is right for your budget is greatly appreciated!

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Donations By Check are happily accepted, and donation receipts are mailed to the address listed on the check after deposit. **Please make all checks payable to ASPS.**

Cash Donations are graciously accepted, and cash receipts will be written at the time of donation.

Donations can be made online at:

<http://www.artsongpreservationsocietyny.org>

Donations can also be mailed to:

The Art Song Preservation Society of New York (ASPS)

P.O. Box 177

New York, New York 10113

Looking for more ways to give? Call **(646) 263-7829** or e-mail aspsny@gmail.com for more information about estate and/or planned giving, resource donation, and volunteer opportunities!