

Church of the Transfiguration
("The Little Church Around the Corner")
The Rev. John David van Dooren, Rector
presents

Victoria Esposito, soprano

Alex Ruvinstein, piano

A recital featuring the Bösendorfer Piano

Sunday, November 6, 2022



1 East 29th Street, New York, NY 10016-7405

www.littlechurch.org (212) 684-6770

Caro nome che il mio cor
from Rigoletto

Giuseppe Verde (1813-1901)

Heidenröslein, Op.3, No.2
Geheimes, Op.14, No.2
Lied der Mignon, Op.62, No.4
Gretchen am Spinnrade, Op.2

Franz Schubert (1797-1828)

Poetry by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

Lullaby, Op.16, No.1

P. Tchaikovsky (1840-1893)

Transcribed by Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873-1943)

Liebeslied

Fritz Kriesler (1875-1962)

Transcribed by Sergei Rachmaninoff

Je Dis
from Carmen

Georges Bizet (1838-1875)

Tres Poemas, Op.81

Joaquin Turina (1882-1949)

Poetry by Gustavo Adolfo Bécquer

Chi il bel sogno di Doretta
from La Rondine

Giacomo Puccini (1858-1924)

Art is Calling for Me
from The Enchantress

Victor Herbert (1859-1924)



Victoria Esposito, soprano, is a native of Connecticut. Most recently, she was an Emerging Artist with Opera Idaho for their 2021-2022 Season. Victoria appeared in their productions of *The Merry Widow*, *Carmen*, and *Dead Man Walking*, as well as various recitals and concerts throughout the season. Victoria has been seen performing in concerts throughout the New York

Metropolitan area, including a Centennial Celebration of Bernstein, featuring excerpts from *Candide*. Victoria has performed with Opera Steamboat as First Nymph in Dvorak's *Rusalka*. She previously appeared with their Artist Institute as the Statue of Liberty in Milton Granger's *The Proposal*. Other roles include Olympia in Offenbach's *Les Contes d'Hoffmann* with the New York Opera Forum; Cinderella in *The True Story of Cinderella*; the Queen of the Night in Mozart's *The Magic Flute* and Miss Wordsworth in Britten's *Albert Herring* with the Miami Music Festival. Victoria had the distinct pleasure of premiering Faye-Ellen Silverman's contemporary cantata, *A Free Pen*, during the completion of her Masters in Vocal Performance at Mannes College. While at The Boston Conservatory, where she received her Bachelors in Music, Victoria performed as a featured soloist with the Conservatory's Women's Chorus, Buxtehude's *Laudate pueri dominum*, Stravinsky's *Four Russian Peasant Songs*; and the with the Conservatory's Chorale, Haydn's *Harmoniemesse*. Currently, Ms. Esposito is a cantor and soloist for St. Leo Roman Catholic Church, Stamford, CT. She is also a featured performer with St. John's Festival Choir in Plymouth Meeting, PA. Ms. Esposito is a student of Dan Marek. Follow Victoria at VictoriaEsposito.com.



Alex Ruvinstein, piano, is a Russian-American classical pianist. He won the XXVIII International Competition in Salerno, Italy (1995) as part of the four hands duo with O. Gurevich. Alex is a winner of the Ibla International Piano Competition in Ragusa, Italy (1996) in the solo and four hands duo divisions, the National Ukrainian Piano Competition for college graduates in Kiev, Ukraine (1985), and other local and regional piano competitions he participated in as a student. Alex was born in 1966 in Polyarnyi, Russia, above the Arctic Circle, and began his music studies at the age of five. In 1985, Alex received his Bachelor's degree from the Uman State College of Music where he studied with Professor Viktor Patricio. In 1992, he received his Master's at the Gnesin Academy in Moscow under Professor Vera Nosina. After receiving his Doctorate with Professor Naum Starkmann at the Maimonides State Academy in Russia (1995), Alex worked as Professor of Piano and an accompanist for cellists and singers at this Academy. In 1997, Alex immigrated to the United States and made his American debut at the Union County Art Center in New Jersey. Since then, he has performed in various concert halls in Kansas, Delaware, Connecticut, and other states. His solo and chamber music performances include recitals at Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall, The Greater Princeton Steinway Society, New York Library Concert Series, the United Nations Concert Hall, the Bechstein Piano Centre, and the National Opera Center in New York City, among others. Alex was a member of the Memling Ensemble, directed by Metropolitan Opera violist Vincent Lioni. He has appeared on Russian and Ukrainian Television. Alex works at SUNY New Paltz and Kaufman Music Center in New York City. Alex lives in Riverdale, New York with his wife Yelena and their sons, Michael, David, and Anthony.

Caro nome

Gualtier Maldè ... name of the man I love,
You are carved in love in my heart!
Beloved name, that made my heart
Throb for the first time,
You always remind me
Of the delights of love!
In my thoughts, my desire
Will always fly to you,
And my last breath,
Beloved name, will be yours.

Heidenröslein

A boy saw a little rose,
Little rose in the heather,
It was so young and beautiful
as the morning,
he ran quickly to see it closely,
Saw it with great pleasure.
Little rose, little rose, little rose red,
Little rose in the heather.

The boy said: I will pluck you,
Little rose in the heather!
Said the rose: I will prick you,
that you will think of me forever,
And I will not suffer.
Little rose, little rose, little rose red,
Little rose in the heather.

And the wild boy plucked the
Little rose in the heather;
The rose fought back and pricked him,
But her cries of pain were no help,
She just had to suffer.
Little rose, little rose, little rose red,
Little rose in the heather.

Geheimes

At the dear eyes of my darling,
Everyone looks in amazement;
I, who understand,
Know quite well what they mean.

For they say: I love this one,
And not this one or that one.
Just cease, you good people,
Your wonder, your longing!

Yes, with tremendous power
She may look about here,
But she seeks only to proclaim
To him the next sweet hour.

Lied der Mignon

Only those who know longing know what I suffer!
Alone and separated from all joy,
I look into the firmament in that direction.
Ah! who loves and knows me is far away.
I am dizzy, it burns my guts.
Only those who know longing know what I suffer!

Gretchen am Spinnrade

My peace is gone, my heart is heavy;
I will find it never and nevermore.

Where I do not have him, that is my grave.
The whole world is bitter to me.
My poor head is crazed, my poor mind is shattered.

My peace is gone, my heart is heavy;
I will find it never and nevermore.

Only for him I look out the window,
Only for him I will go out of the house.

His tall walk, his noble figure,
His mouth's smile, his eyes' power,
And the magic flow of his words,
His handclasp, and ah, his kiss!

My peace is gone, my heart is heavy;
I will find it never and nevermore.

My bosom urges itself toward him.

Ah, if I could grasp and hold him!
And kiss him as I want, and at his kisses perish!

My peace is gone, my heart is heavy!

Je dis

I say that nothing frightens me,
I say, alas! that I answer for myself;
but no matter how brave I am,
at the bottom of my heart,
I am dying of fright!
Alone in this wild place, all alone I'm afraid,
but I am wrong to be afraid;
you will give me courage,
you will protect me, Lord.

I am going to see this woman up close
whose evil wiles have finished by making
a criminal of the man I once loved!
She is dangerous, she is beautiful,
but I do not want to be afraid,
I will speak out in front of her.
Ah! Lord, you will protect me!

Ah! I say that I let nothing frighten me, *etc.*
... protect me, O Lord! Protect me, Lord!

Olas gigantes

Giant waves who break roaring
On deserted and remote beaches,
Wrapped between the sheets of foam,
Take me with you!

Hurricane gusts that tear
From the high trees the withered leaves,
Dragging them into the blind whirlwind,
Take me with you!

Storm clouds that break with lightning
And decorate in fire the broken surf
Caught up in the dark fog,
Take me with you!

Take me, out of pity, to where vertigo
Can tear out memory and reason...
For pity's sake! I'm afraid to remain
Alone with my pain!

Tu pupila es azul

Your eye is blue, and when you laugh, its soft clarity
reminds me of the shimmering glow of morning
that is reflected in the sea.

Your eye is blue, and when you cry, the transparent
tears in it seem to me dew drops upon a violet.

Your eye is blue, and if in its depths like a point of
light an idea radiates, it seems to me
in the evening sky a lost star! Ah!

Besa el aura

The gentle breeze that moans softly kisses
The light waves that ripple playing;
The sun kisses the cloud in the west
And shades it in purple and gold; ah!
The flame around the burning trunk,
In order to kiss another flame,
Glides until the willow, bowing under its weight
To the river that kisses it, returning a kiss. Ah!

Chi il bel sogno

Who could ever guess Doretta's beautiful dream?
Why her mystery came to an end?

Alas! one day a student kisses her mouth
and that kiss was a revelation: it was passion!

Crazy love!
Insane intoxication!
The subtle caress
of such an ardent kiss,
who could ever describe that?

Ah! my dream!
Ah! my life!
Who cares about riches when at last flourishes
Blissful happiness!
Oh golden dream to be able to love like this!



Rick Tripodi and The Bösendorfer Piano



The Church of the Transfiguration is extremely grateful to Rick Tripodi, who bequeathed his piano and harpsichord to the church.

Frederick A. (Rick) Tripodi, received his Bachelors in 1971 and Masters in 1976 in organ performance from The Julliard School. He went on to have a long career as a church organist and choir director throughout the New York and greater Fairfield county Catholic dioceses. Rick was a protégé of legendary organist Virgil Fox and regularly performed concerts at many prestigious churches, including St. Patrick’s Cathedral, The Cathedral Church of St. John

the Divine, Trinity Church Wall Street, St. Thomas Episcopal Church Fifth Avenue and Church of the Transfiguration. He was also a consultant to churches in the region and leaves behind a legacy of organ installations, organ consultations and many friends in the industry.

Bösendorfer, one of the world’s oldest piano manufacturers, was established in 1828 by Ignaz Bösendorfer. In 1830, it was granted the status of official piano maker to the Emperor of Austria. To date, Bösendorfer remains recognized as one of the best piano makers in the world. It continues to make handcrafted pianos in the same Vienna factory. Almost 300 of these premium pianos are made every year. The most famous characteristic of the Bösendorfer piano is the extension of the typical 88-key keyboard to a 92-key keyboard in the Model 225, and a 97-key keyboard in Model 290, which can play eight octaves and enable the most complex organ works from J.S. Bach to be transcribed into piano music and played on the Bösendorfer piano. The sound of the piano is noted to be richer, fuller and more powerful than other pianos. It surely produces the most glorious sound that cannot be missed.

