The University of Delaware School of Music Presents:

Brianna Loughlin, soprano
Lydia Bak, piano
September 30th, 2023
Bayard Sharp Hall

I

O mio babbino caro
From Gianni Schicchi
Giacomo Puccini (1858-1924)

Saper Vorreste
From Un ballo in maschera
Giuseppe Verdi (1813-1901)

II

Aimons-nous
Camille Saint-Saëns (1835-1921)

Das Veilchen
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)

Durch Zärtlichkeit und Schmeicheln
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)
From Die Entführung aus dem Serail

III

Love In The Dictionary
Celius Dougherty (1902-1986)

The Red Dress
Ricky Ian Gordon (1956-)

INTERMISSION

IV

Elastic Heart
Sia (1975-)

Gravity
Sara Bareilles (1979-)

Fly
Maddie & Tae (1995-)

V

Someone Gets Hurt
Jeff Richmond (1961-)
From Mean Girls on Broadway

Defying Gravity
Stephen Schwartz (1948-)
From Wicked
**Brianna Loughlin - Senior Recital**

**Program Notes**

**Why these songs?**

Each song that has been included in this program has been handpicked by myself for different reasons surrounding expression and my passion for music. Music is practiced and performed not only for the purpose of learning and creating, but for expression and emotion. You often hear the phrase “music is a universal language” and that is completely true. No matter what language you are singing in or what country a piece of music comes from, it is expressing something. This will be very apparent in the songs that I chose. Each and every song included in this program was chosen due to the fact that they mean something to me. Whether I was touched by the music, the words, the meaning, etc. or even if I just have fun performing the piece, they meant something to me and I felt as though they should be shared. I hope you enjoy my selections as much as I do and really feel the music, the lyrics, and my passion.

**O mio babbino caro**

**From Gianni Schicchi**

Giacomo Puccini (1858-1924)

“O mio babbino caro” is a very emotion filled soprano aria that is originally from the opera *Gianni Schicchi*, written by Giacomo Puccini. *Gianni Schicchi* is a comic Italian opera, Puccini’s only comic opera, and was composed in 1917-1918. This opera portrays what people view as a typical Italian family, but with a comedic and a bit dysfunctional twist. “O mio babbino caro” translates to “My Beloved Father”. This might sound sweet and very emotional, but it is actually a portrayal of some manipulation. This aria is sung by the character Lauretta, who is Gianni Schicchi’s daughter. Throughout the song, the daughter is pleading to her father ultimately because she wants something and wants to get her way. She pretty much has her father wrapped around her finger so the portrayal, although very emotional, is her way of suckering him into getting what she wants. The words portray the emotion throughout this song, but the way the music was written is a huge emotional portrayal as well. I come from a very Italian family so I have always loved singing in Italian, and this is a classic. It’s even more special to me because this is the first classical piece I truly looked forward to singing from the start, plus I picked it out with my mom and my grandma who are very special to me. I am very excited to be sharing this song with you all.

---

**O mio babbino caro**

Mi piace, è bello, bello
Vo’andare in Porta Rossa
A comperar l’anello!
Sì, sì ci voglio andare!
E se l’amassi indarno
Andrei sul Ponte Vecchio
Ma per buttarmi in Arno!
Mi struggo e mi tormento!
O Dio, vorrei morir!
Babbo, pietà, pietà!
Babbo, pietà, pietà!

**O my dear father**

I like it, it’s beautiful, beautiful
I want to go to Porta Rossa
To buy the ring!
Yes, yes I want to go!
What if I loved him in vain
I would go to the Ponte Vecchio
But to throw myself into the Arno!
I pine and torment myself!
O God, I would like to die!
Father, have mercy, have mercy!
Father, have mercy have mercy!
The aria “Saper vorreste” is from the opera *Un ballo in maschera*, written by Giuseppe Verdi. The plot of this opera is based around the assassination of King Gustav III of Sweden in 1792. This assassination took place at a masked ball and the story includes the events of finding out who assassinated the king. The character who sings this song is a boy named Oscar. He is a young boy who works at the palace and happened to have witnessed something having to do with the murder of the King when he was not supposed to. Throughout this song he is being questioned about the information he now has, and he is being quite stubborn while refusing to give up the information. He does this in a teasing way to taunt the person who is questioning him. I included this piece because I have had a lot of fun working on it. It has helped me a lot in improving my acting skills while performing a classical piece in another language. The character I am depicting is a type of character I had never played before so it really took me out of my comfort zone while working on it, but it has been so much fun figuring it out while also putting my own little spin on it.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Saper vorreste</th>
<th>You would like to know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Di che si veste,</td>
<td>What does he wear,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quando l’e cosa</td>
<td>When and what</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ch’ei vuol nascosa.</td>
<td>What he wants hidden.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oscar lo sa,</td>
<td>Oscar knows it,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ma nol dirà.</td>
<td>But he won’t say it.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tra la la la la la</td>
<td>Tra la la la la la la la la</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tra la la la la la</td>
<td>Tra la la la la la la la la</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Pieno d’amor            | Full of love                    |
| Mi balza il cor,        | My heart leaps,                 |
| Ma pur discreto         | But still discreet              |
| Serba il segreto.       | Keep the secret.                |
| Nol rapirà              | Nothing will kidnap             |
| Grado o beltà.          | Grade or beauty.                |
| Tra la la la la la     | Tra la la la la la la la la     |
| Tra la la la la la     | Tra la la la la la la la la     |
“Aimons-nous” is a very pretty and extremely expressive song in French written by Camille Saint-Saëns who was a French composer, organist, pianist, and conductor during the Romantic era. The music of the Romantic Era is known for its emotional expression and idealization of nature, both of which are shown in this piece. This piece is a love song that has pops of ideas of nature in it. The song is describing the idea that no matter what, love is always present and strong. It also touches on the idea that nature represents and expresses certain aspects of love. After translating this song, the feel of the texture of the piece all made sense to me. It is a flowing and light piece, yet strong at the same time. The different rhythms and dynamics really capture the essence and feeling of the piece and it truly is so beautiful.

Aimons-nous et dormons  
Sans songer au reste du monde!  
Ni le flot de la mer, ni l’ouragan des monts  
Tant que nous nous aimons  
Ne courbera ta tete blonde,  
Car l’amour est plus fort  
Que les dieux et la mort!

Le soleil s’eteindrait  
Pour laisser ta blancheur plus pure,  
Le vent qui jusqu’à terre incline la forêt,  
En passant n’oserait  
Jouer avec ta chevelure,  
Tant que tu cacheras  
Ta tete entre mes bras!

Et lorsque nos deux coeurs  
S’en iron aux sphères heureuses  
Ou les celestes lys eclairont sous nos pleurs,  
Alors, comme deux fleurs,  
Joignons nos lèvres amoureuses,  
Et tâchons d’épuiser  
La mort dans un baiser!

Let’s love each other and sleep  
Without thinking about the rest of the world!  
Neither the flood of the sea, nor the hurricane of the mountains  
As long as we love each other  
Do not bow your fair head,  
Because love is stronger  
Than the gods and death!

The sun would go out  
To leave your whiteness purer,  
The wind that bends the forest to the ground,  
In passing would not dare  
Playing with your hair,  
As long as you hide  
Your head in my arms!

And when our two hearts  
Will go to happy spheres  
Where the celestial lilies will bloom under our tears,  
So, like two flowers,  
Let’s join our loving lips,  
And let’s try to exhaust  
Death in a kiss!
Das Veilchen

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
(1756-1791)

“Das Veilchen” is a German vocal and piano piece that was written in 1785 in Vienna. This song is based on a poem that was written by Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe and the song itself was composed by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. Mozart, being one of the greatest composers of all time, began music when he was very young and wrote many pieces gaining great fame throughout his career. This piece is about a sweet violet flower in a meadow and its story. The violet wanted the shepherdess who would sing in the meadow to notice him, and instead of noticing, she trampled over it and the sweet violet died. Despite how the violet was treated, it still had love for the shepherdess. There are drastic differences in emotion throughout this piece as the story is told and you can hear the differences in emotion throughout the song in the music. The changes in musical accents and phrases as well as how the different lines sound all tell the story without the lyrics even being present. I chose to include this piece because it was actually the first song in German I truly enjoyed singing and I just thought everything about this piece was so beautiful and should be shared.

Ein Veilchen auf der Wiese stand
Gebückt in sich und unbekannt
Es war ein herzig’s Veilchen

There was a violet in the meadow
Hunkered down and unknown
It was a lovely violet

Da kam eine junge Schäferin
Mit leichtem Schritt und munterm Sinn
Daher, daher
Die Wiese her, und sang

Then a young shepherdess came
With a light step and a lively spirit
Therefore, therefore
The meadow came and sang

Ach, denkt das Veilchen, war’ ich nur
Die schönste Blume der Natur
Ach, nur ein kleines Veilchen

Oh, thinks the violet, it was just me
Nature’s most beautiful flower
Oh, just a little while

Bis mich das Liebchen abgepflückt
Und an dem Busen matt gedrückt!
Ach nur, ach nur,
Ein Viertelstündchen lang!

Until my sweetheart picked me off
And pressed weakly on the breasts!
Oh just, oh just,
A quarter of an hour long!

Ach, aber ach, das Mädchen kam
Und nicht in acht das Veilchen nahm
Er trat das arme Veilchen

Oh, but oh, the girl came
And didn’t pay attention to the violet
Kicked the poor violet

Es sank und starb
Und freut’ sich noch
Und sterb’ ich denn, so sterb’ ich doch
Durch sie, durch sie
Zu ihren Füssen döc

It sank and died
And I’m still happy
And if I die, I’ll die anyway
Through her, through her
At her feet döc

Das arme Veilchen
Es war ein herzigs Veilchen!

The poor violet
It was a sweet violet!
“Durch Zärtlichkeit Und Schmeicheln” is a piece from the German opera *Die Entfuhrung aus dem Serail*, which means “The Abduction from the Seraglio”, written by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. The opera has a pretty commonly found theme of the hero trying to rescue his love and the obstacles he and his servant goes through in order to do so. The opera was written because the Austrian Emperor of the time, Joseph II, wanted to have his company perform an opera in the German language instead of the widely performed operas in the Italian language. “Durch Zärtlichkeit und Schmeicheln" is a pretty typical song that would be sung by the damsel in distress of a typical story such as this one. Its theme is that a woman’s heart can be conquered easily through tender and kind behavior, but with actions other than that love and faithfulness will go away. This song is very pretty and includes some challenging runs with smoothe phrases that all come together to tell the story.

| Durch Zärtlichkeit und Schmeicheln, | With tenderness and pretty words, |
| Gefälligkeit und Scherzen,         | Kindness and pleasntries,        |
| Erobert man die Herzen             | It is easy to conquer,           |
| Der guten Madchen leicht           | Good girl’s hearts,              |
| Doch mürrisches Befehlen           | But surely commands,             |
| Und Poltern, Zanken, Plagen        | Banging about, nagging, tormenting, |
| Macht, dass in wenig Tagen         | Will result, in a few days,      |
| So Leib’ als Treu entweicht        | In love and fidelity departing.  |

“Love in the Dictionary” is such an interesting and fun song that was written by Celius Dougherty. Celius Dougherty was a famous American pianist and composer of mainly art songs, but he also wrote other types of music as well. This piece displays and explains a very different take on love than we usually see in songs performed. The text to this piece is the actual definition of love, word for word, that can be found in the dictionary. It has a very light and comical flair to it which is something different than what I normally perform so I am very excited to perform this and play into that. The performer in this piece is basically making fun of love while literally defining it which I think is so cool and different. Throughout the piece there are some short and light parts, and then there are some more “meaty” and dense parts to hold out and dramatize as well that help in the sarcasm. I am very excited to take on a different view of a love song and perform this piece.

**Love**: A strong, complex emotion or feeling of personal attachment.
Causing one to appreciate, delight in, or crave the presence or possession of the object, and to please and promote the welfare of that object;
Devoted affection or attachment;
Specifically, the feeling between husband and wife;
Brother and sister;
Or lover and sweetheart;
One who is beloved;
A sweetheart;
Animal passion;
The personification of the love-passion;
Cupid;
In some games, as tennis, nothing
“The Red Dress”, a song that was composed by Ricky Ian Gordon in 1995, has honestly become one of my favorite songs. Its beautiful melody and words are just so much fun to sing and so touching. I first heard this song being performed by Audra McDonald and I immediately fell in love with it. I knew I needed to sing this song. “The Red Dress” is part of one of Ricky Ian Gordon’s song books titled “A Horse With Wings”. Throughout this song you will follow the story of the life of a girl. Beginning with her being a little girl, dreaming of wearing a red dress and meeting the guy of her dreams at some point in her future, and ending with her having the “silly gown” in the future she imagined as a little girl. Although I still have a ways to go before I am at that point completely, I can definitely relate to this song in my own way, especially in regards to this recital. As a freshman music major, you hear about your senior recital. Throughout your time here you attend countless senior recital performances and you think about what yours will be like, what color you will wear, what you will sing, etc. And now I am here, at my own senior recital.

I always saw, I always said
If I were grown and free
I’d have a gown of reddest red
As fine as you could see

To wear out walking, sleek and slow
Upon a Summer’s day
And there’d be one to see me so
And flip the world away

And he would be a gallant one
With stars behind his eyes
And hair like metal in the sun
And lips too warm for lies

I always saw us, gay and good
High honored in the town
Now I am grown to womanhood
I have the silly gown
“Elastic Heart” is a very emotion filled pop ballad written by Australian singer and songwriter, Sia. It was written originally for the soundtrack of the movie “The Hunger Games: Catching Fire”, recorded with The Weekend, but it was then added to her album, “1000 Forms of Fear”, as a solo version. The lyrics of this song describe the emotions felt after enduring a heartbreak. The struggles, mind games, battles, as well as acceptance and overcoming are all present and felt through the lyrics and music. Throughout the song you will hear the story of a girl having realized that a relationship was not working out, her ending it, as well as how she is dealing with it afterwards. Although this includes some difficult things to overcome, she will not let any of it break her and she will keep moving forward knowing that her heart is strong and will bounce back. It is ultimately a song of strength and brings a different view of a sad breakup song which I love.

And another one bites the dust
Oh, why can I not conquer love?
And I might’ve thought that we were one
Wanted to fight this war without weapons

And I wanted it, and I wanted it bad
But there were so many red flags
Now another one bites the dust
Yeah, let’s be clear I trust no one

You did not break me
I’m still fighting for peace

I’ve got thick skin and an elastic heart
But your blade it might be too sharp
I’m like a rubber band until you pull too hard
I may snap and I move fast
But you won’t see me fall apart
‘Cause I’ve got an elastic heart

I’ve got an elastic heart
Yeah, I’ve got an elastic heart

And I will stay up through the night
Let’s be clear, won’t close my eyes
And I know that I can survive
I’ll walk through fire to save my life

And I want it, I want my life so bad
I’m doing everything I can
Now another one bites the dust!
It’s hard to lose a chosen one

You did not break me
I’m still fighting for peace

I’ve got thick skin and an elastic heart
But your blade it might be too sharp
I’m like a rubber band until you pull too hard
I may snap and I move fast
But you won’t see me fall apart
‘Cause I’ve got an elastic heart

I’ve got an elastic heart
Yeah, I’ve got an elastic heart
“Fly” is a beautiful country song, originally performed as a duet, by country stars Maddie and Tae, included in their album “Start Here”. I am such a country music fan so I wanted to make sure I included that part of me in my recital because it shows a different part of me. Country music speaks to me like no other. In searching for country songs to add to my recital repertoire, I had a bit of trouble because I liked too many songs and I was very picky with what accompaniment parts I felt really captured the essence of the song without completely ridding the country flare. I came across this song and I instantly fell in love with the song, the lyrics, and the message. The lyrics are about someone wanting to give up and feeling as though they are falling apart, but spreading the message that there is always a reason to keep going. Even if you feel as though nothing is going right, as if you are falling, you can turn it around, pick yourself up and learn to fly. I think that is a beautiful song with an even more beautiful message that I can definitely connect to and I feel is important to share.

Fly
Maddie & Tae
(1995-)

Baby blue staring in the window pane
Just counting drops of rain
Wondering if she’s got the guts to take it
Running down her dreams in a dirty dress,
Now her heart’s a mess
Praying she’ll find a way to make it

So keep on climbing, though the ground might shake
Just keep on reaching though the limb might break
We’ve come this far, don’t you be scared now
‘Cause you can learn to fly on the way down

You won’t forget the heavy steps it took to let it go
Close your eyes, count to ten, hold your breath and fly

Searching for a sign in the night even like a lonely string of lights
That’ll burn just long enough for you to see it
The road’s been long and lonely and you feel like giving up
There’s more to this than just the breath you’re breathing

So keep on climbing, though the ground might shake
Just keep on reaching though the limb might break
We’ve come this far, don’t you be scared now
‘Cause you can learn to fly on the way down
“Gravity” by Sara Bareilles is a song that I just recently discovered and immediately loved. It still baffles me that I have not heard this song before this year. It is included in one of her most famous albums, “Little Voice”, released in 2007. It has so much emotion embedded in the lyrics and the music. The story being told in this piece describes the feeling of being drawn to someone and the feeling of falling in love with someone even though they are unwanted feelings. This connection is so strong, but it is ultimately bringing them down, like gravity. The conflictedness of this story is shown truly brilliantly through the song and the alignment of the parts. Throughout the song, the vocal line and the piano accompaniment are doing very different things and do not come together very often. This is showing the different thoughts and feelings that are happening throughout the song. It has been so much fun discovering, learning, and working on this song and I am very excited to share it with you all.

Something always brings me back to you
It never takes too long
No matter what I say or do
I’ll still feel you here ‘till the moment I’m gone

You hold me without touch
You keep me without chains
I never wanted anything so much than to drown in your love
And not feel your rain

Set me free, leave me be
I don’t want to fall another moment into your gravity
Here I am, and I stand
So tall, just the way I’m supposed to be
But you’re on to me and all over me

Oh, you loved me ‘cause I’m fragile
When I thought that I was strong
But you touch me for a little while
And all my fragile strength is gone

Set me free, leave me be
I don’t want to fall another moment into your gravity
Here I am, and I stand
So tall, just the way I’m supposed to be
But you’re on to me and all over me

I live here on my knees as I try to make you see
That you’re everything I think I need here on the ground
But you’re neither friend nor foe though I can’t seem to let you go
The one thing that I still know is that you’re keeping me down
You’re on to me, on to me, and all over

Something always brings me back to you
It never takes too long
“Someone Gets Hurt”, written by Jeff Richmond, is from Mean Girls on Broadway and is probably one of the most fun musical theater songs that I have sung. I have been casted as a lot of villainous, mean characters throughout my musical theater experience, but none like Regina George. Regina George is THE mean girl of the school. Everyone wants to be just like her, all of the guys want to be with her, everyone wants to be liked by her and become a part of her group, which is called “the plastics”. In this song, Regina finds out that her ex boyfriend is beginning to flirt with the new girl of the school and she is not happy about it. Even though she really doesn’t like him anymore, she does not like the idea that he likes anyone else that is not her. Throughout this song she is basically gaslighting him, trying to manipulate him to come back to her by making him feel bad. It is so much fun playing a role that is the complete opposite of your personality, especially when the song is as good as this one. This song has such power behind the music and the vocal lines, it really puts an emphasis on the lyrics and the story being told with a sassy undertone. I have had so much fun working on this song and I am very excited to share it.

Yes, I look perfect
Ice Queen, that’s what you see
It’s what they all expect from me
But it’s all show

Face it, you used me
You saw the sexy clothes
My supermodel pose
What did you know?

Was I a game to you?
Was I a way to be cool?
I truly cared
Was I the fool?

It’s fine for you
It’s fine to flirt
It’s fine
‘Til someone gets hurt

Feel my heart beating?
I’m just like her or you
People forget I’m human too
Yes, they do that

This is performance
This is all self-defense
I thought you had the sense
To see through that

Was I too proud with you?
Was I too cold and forbidding?
That you chose her over me
Are you kidding?

Poor little me
All trapped in this fabulous show
You could set me free
But if you’re going go

It’s fine for you
It’s fine to flirt
It’s fine
‘Til someone gets hurt
“Defying Gravity” by Stephen Schwartz is one of my absolute favorite songs of all time. It is from the musical *Wicked*. This musical is a spin off of the movie and musical “The Wizard of Oz”. It is the story of how all of the characters came to be, and it is primarily being told from the perspective of the Wicked Witch of the West, Elphaba, who sings this song. Throughout the story Elphaba is always looked at as being different because her skin is green, and people always seem to underestimate her. She begins to believe the thoughts of everyone else and thinks that she is less than she is. This song is not only about her actually learning how to defy gravity and fly, but also about her changing her mindset and learning that she can defy people’s expectations and thoughts by not listening to what they say. I can personally relate to this song because I have had many instances where people have thought I would not be good at something, or they thought less of me for different reasons, but I have had to learn to not listen to what they say and keep moving. I have learned to worry about myself, do what I know I can do, and defy what people think of me and I feel as though this song embodies this perfectly. I chose to close with this song not only because it is a powerhouse and one of my favorites, but because the meaning is something I personally relate to and think is important for everyone to remember.

---

Defying Gravity

From *Wicked* (1948-)

Something has changed within me
Something is not the same
I’m through with playing by the rules of someone else’s game
Too late for second guessing
Too late to go back to sleep
It’s time to trust my instincts
Close my eyes and leap

It’s time to try defying gravity
I think I’ll try defying gravity
And you can’t pull me down

I’m through accepting limits
‘Cause someone says they’re so
Some things I cannot change
But ‘till I try I’ll never know
Too long I’ve been afraid of losing love I guess I’ve lost
Well if that’s love, it comes at much too high a cost

I’d sooner buy defying gravity
Kiss me goodbye I’m defying gravity
And you can’t pull me down

Unlimited
My future is unlimited
And I’ve just had a vision almost like a prophecy
Thank you all very much for coming to my recital, listening to me sing, and sharing in my special day. I appreciate you all very much and hope you enjoyed!!