

PHILADELPHIA CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY

a life more beautiful

PREVIEW
NOTES

Lucy Fitz Gibbon, *soprano*

Marlène Ngalissamy, *bassoon*

Ryan McCullough, *piano*

Tuesday, November 8 – 7:30 PM

Benjamin Franklin Hall, American Philosophical Society

PROGRAM INCLUDES

L'invitation au voyage

Emmanuel Chabrier

Born: January 18, 1841, Ambert, France

Died: September 13, 1894, Paris, France

Composed: 1870

Duration: 9 minutes

Chabrier's unique setting of "L'invitation au voyage" is a nine-minute *scène chantée* in which the voice leaps across registers to heights of ecstasy and depths of intimacy. Chabrier's introduction suggests the lapping of water on distant and exotic shores: we are already at our magical destination, the invitation already accepted and acted upon.

Cinq mélodies

Adela Maddison

Born: December 15, 1862, London, UK

Died: June 12, 1929, London, UK

Composed: 1904

Duration: 16 minutes

These songs, Fitz Gibbon writes, "were published in two batches, though all likely written at the end of her time in France, one year before Maddison moved to Berlin with her partner, Marta Gertrud Mundt. They are redolent with the sounds of her artistic milieu: Wagnerian harmonies, French musical sensibilities, and her British roots. Edmond Haraucourt's poetry—ranging from realist to symbolist—takes on particular significance when it is viewed from Maddison's perspective: a pilgrim in a foreign land, a woman for whom countless smiles were meaningless, someone who hopes for the oblivion of forgetting, and ultimately someone who knows that with true companionship, "our hearts are larger than the sea is deep.""

Sicilienne et Allegro Giocoso

Gabriel Grovlez

Born: April 4, 1879, Lille, France

Died: October 20, 1944, Paris, France

Composed: 1930

Duration: 6 minutes

Gabriel Grovlez's compositions proved to be extremely versatile, from Operas and Ballets to solo works. Much of the Grovlez's works show neo-classical features, which is also the case in *Sicilienne et Allegro Giocoso*, where the texture is predominantly melody dominated homophony, cadences are frequently heard, and modulations to related keys occur, despite tonality being interestingly exploited. The *Sicilienne* is unusual in style as it is composed in common time, yet the triplets and sextuplets in the Bassoon part provide the 'tarantella feel' required of the musical genre. This is superbly contrasted by the quirky *Allegro Giocoso*, (fast and cheerful) composed in the relative major.

Cinco peças para canto e fagote

Francisco Mignone

Born: September 3, 1897, São Paulo, Brazil

Died: February 19, 1986, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Composed: 1976

Francisco Mignone's music is noted for its lyricism, colorful instrumentation, and improvisatory style. Most of his early works are tonal, as is typical of the popular and folk music, though later in his career he branched out into polytonal, atonal, and serial writing. In the late 1950s, Mignone drifted away from nationalistic music and toward the then-current trends in academic concert music, composing works which showcased his skillful instrumentation and bravura writing. Mignone was capable of writing in a variety of styles, and his works of the early 1960s and beyond are noted for their eclecticism.