

Lamont School of Music



Love Stories

**Heidi Melton, soprano &
Sahar Nouri, piano**

Friday, February 13, 2026
7:30 p.m.
Frederic C. Hamilton Family Recital Hall



**Robert & Judi Newman Center
for the Performing Arts**

Please silence your cell phones

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Program

Wesendonck Lieder

- I. Der Engel
- II. Stehe Still!
- III. Im Treibhaus
- IV. Schmerzen
- V. Träume

Richard Wagner

Text by Mathilde Wesendonck

INTERMISSION

Torch Songs

To be announced from stage

Please join us in the Spencer Artists Room immediately after the performance for a reception, generously provided by La Belle Rosette.

Text and Translations

Wesendonck Lieder

Der Engel

In der Kindheit frühen Tagen
Hört ich oft von Engeln sagen,
Die des Himmels hehre Wonne
Tauschen mit der Erdensonne,
Daß, wo bang ein Herz in Sorgen
Schmachtet vor der Welt verbor-
gen,
Daß, wo still es will verbluten,
Und vergehn in Tränenfluten,
Daß, wo brünstig sein Gebet
Einzig um Erlösung fleht,
Da der Engel niederschwebt,
Und es sanft gen Himmel
hebt.
Ja, es stieg auch mir ein Engel
nieder,
Und auf leuchtendem Gefieder
Führt er, ferne jedem Schmerz,
Meinen Geist nun himmelwärts!

Stehe Still!

Sausendes, brausendes Rad der
Zeit,
Messer du der Ewigkeit;
Leuchtende Sphären im weiten
All,
Die ihr umringt den
Weltenball;
Urewige Schöpfung, halte doch
ein,
Genug des Werdens, laß mich sein!

Halte an dich, zeugende
Kraft,
Urgedanke, der ewig
schafft!
Hemmet den Atem, stilltet den
Drang,
Schweiget nur eine Sekunde lang!
Schwellende Pulse, fesselt den
Schlag;

Wesendonck Songs

The Angel

In the early days of childhood
I often heard tell of angels
Who exchange heaven's pure bliss
For the sun of earth,
So that, when a sorrowful heart
Hides its yearning from the
world
And would silently bleed away
And dissolve in streams of tears,
And when its fervent prayer
Begs only for deliverance,
That angel will fly down
And gently raise the heart to
heaven.
And to me too an angel
descended,
And now on shining wings
Bear my spirit, free from all pain,
Towards heaven!

Stand Still!

Rushing, roaring wheel of
time,
You that measure eternity;
Gleaming spheres in the vast
universe,
You that surround our earthly
sphere;
Eternal creation -
cease:
Enough of becoming, let me be!

Hold yourselves back, generative
powers,
Primal Thought that always cre-
ates!
Stop your breath, still your
urge,
Be silent for a single moment!
Swelling pulses, restrain your
beating;

Wenn Auge in Auge wonnig trinken, Seele ganz in Seele versinken; Wesen in Wesen sich wiederfindet, Und alles Hoffens Ende sich kündigt, Die Lippe verstummt in staunendem Schweigen, Keinen Wunsch mehr will das Innre zeugen: Erkennt der Mensch des Ew'gen Spur, Und löst dein Rätsel, heil'ge Natur!	When eye gazes blissfully into eye, When soul drowns utterly in soul; When being finds itself in being, And the goal of every hope is near, When lips are mute in silent wonder, When the soul wishes for nothing more: Then man perceives Eternity's footprint, And solves your riddle, holy Nature!
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Im Treibhaus

Hochgewölbte Blätterkronen,
Baldachine von Smaragd,
Kinder ihr aus fernen Zonen,
Saget mir, warum ihr klagt?

In The Greenhouse

High-arching leafy crowns,
Canopies of emerald,
You children who dwell in distant climes,
Tell me, why do you lament?

Schweigend neiget ihr die Zweige, Malet Zeichen in die Luft, Und der Leiden stummer Zeuge Steiget aufwärts, süßer Duft.	Silently you bend your branches, Inscribe your symbols on the air, And a sweet fragrance rises, As silent witness to your sorrows.
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Weit in sehndem Verlangen Breitet ihr die Arme aus Und umschlinget wahnbefangen Öder Leere nicht'gen Graus.	With longing and desire You open wide your arms, And embrace in your delusion Desolation's awful void.
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Wohl ich weiß es, arme Pflanze: Ein Geschicke teilen wir, Ob umstrahlt von Licht und Glanze, Unsre Heimat is nicht hier! Und wie froh die Sonne scheidet Von des Tages leerem Schein, Hüllet der, der wahrhaft leidet, Sich in Schweigens Dunkel ein.	I am well aware, poor plant; We both share a single fate, Though bathed in gleaming light, Our homeland is not here! And just as the sun is glad to leave The empty gleam of day, The true sufferer veils himself In the darkness of silence.
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Stille wird's, ein säuselnd Weben Füllet bang den dunklen Raum: Schwere Tropfen seh' ich	It grows quiet, a whirring whisper Fills the dark room uneasily: I see heavy droplets
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schweben
An der Blätter grünem Saum.

Schmerzen

Sonne, weinest jeden Abend
Dir die Schönen Augen rot,
Wenn im Meeresspiegel badend
Dich erreicht der frühe Tod;

Doch erstehst in alter Pracht,
Glorie der düstren Welt,
Du am Morgen, neu erwacht,
Wie ein stolzer Siegesheld!

Ach, wie sollte ich da klagen,
Wie, mein Herz, so schwer dich
sehn,
Muß die Sonne selbst verzagen,
Muß die Sonne untergehn?

Und gebietet Tod nur Leben,
Geben Schmerzen Wonnen nur:
O wie dank'ich daß gegeben
Solche Schmerzen mir Natur.

Träume

Sag, welch wunderbare
Träume
Halten meinen Sinn umfängen,
Daß sie nicht wie leere Schäume
Sind in ödes Nichts vergangen?

Träume, die in jeder Stunde,
Jedem Tage schöner blühn,
Und mit ihrer Himmelskunde
Selig durchs Gemüte ziehn!

Träume, die wie hehre Strahlen
In die Seele sich versenken,
Dort ein ewig Bild zu malen:
Allvergessen, Eingedenken!

Träume, wie wenn Frühlingssonne

hanging
From the green edge of the leaves.

Agonies!

Every evening, sun, you redden
Your lovely eyes with weeping,
When, bathing in the sea,
You die an early death;

Yet you rise in your old splendour,
The glory of the dark world,
When you wake in the morning
As a proud and conquering hero!

Ah, why should I complain,
Why should I see you, my heart, so
depressed,
If the sun itself must despair,
If the sun itself must set?

If only death gives birth to life,
If only agony brings bliss:
O how I give thanks to Nature
For giving me such agony!

Dreams

Say, what wondrous dreams are
these
Embracing all my senses,
That they have not, like bubbles,
Vanished to a barren void?

Dreams, that with every hour
Bloom more lovely every day,
And with their heavenly tidings
Float blissfully through the mind!

Dreams, that with glorious rays
Penetrate the soul,
There to paint an eternal picture:
Forgetting all, remembering one!

Dreams, as when the Spring sun

Aus dem Schnee die Blüten küßt,
Daß zu nie geahnter
Wonne
Sie der neue Tag begrüßt,

Kisses blossoms from the snow,
So the new day might welcome
them
In unimagined bliss,

Daß sie wachsen, daß sie blühen,
Träumend spenden ihren Duft,
Sanft an deiner Brust verglühen,
Und dann sinken in die Gruft.

So that they grow and flower,
Bestow their scent as in a dream,
Fade softly away on your breast
And sink into their grave.

Biographies

Grammy Award winning American dramatic soprano **Heidi Melton** has been called “the Wagnerian voice we have been waiting for since Flagstad and Nilsson” (La Presse), with a voice that is “big, gleaming and tonally resplendent” (San Francisco Chronicle). Especially well known for her interpretation of Wagnerian heroines, Ms. Melton has sung at the Bayreuther Festspiel (Sieglinde), Metropolitan Opera (Third Norn), San Francisco Opera (Sieglinde, Third Norn), BBC Proms (Elisabeth), Deutsche Oper Berlin (Sieglinde, Third Norn, Gutrune, Elsa, Elisabeth and Venus), Canadian Opera Company (Sieglinde), Seattle Opera (Isolde), Mariinsky Theater, (Isolde), English National Opera (Isolde), Houston Grand Opera (Gutrune and Third Norn), Les Palau des Arts (Sieglinde), Badisches Staatstheater (Brünnhilde, Sieglinde, Third Norn, Gutrune, Elsa, Elisabeth, Venus) and with the Vienna Philharmonic (Brünnhilde), New York Philharmonic (Sieglinde and Brünnhilde), Stockholm Philharmonic (Sieglinde and Isolde), Dallas Symphony (Brünnhilde and Sieglinde), BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra (Sieglinde), Baltimore Symphony (Sieglinde), Montreal Symphony (Sieglinde), New World Symphony, Hong Kong Philharmonic (Sieglinde and Brünnhilde) and has worked with such conductors as Sir Simon Rattle, Sir Donald Runnicles, Zubin Mehta, Kent Nagano, Fabio Luisi, Valery Gergiev, Kiril Petrenko, Karina Cannellakis, Alan Gilbert, Jaap van Zweden, and Patrick Summers.

Outside of the Wagnerian world, Ms. Melton also enjoys singing Mahler, Strauss, Schoenberg and Ligeti, among other composers. The role of Mescalina in Ligeti’s *Grand Macabre* has taken Heidi on a concert tour with the Berlin Philharmonic led by Sir Simon Rattle and directed by Peter Sellars, the London Symphony Orchestra also with Sir Simon Rattle, a production with the Hamburg Philharmonic led by Alan Gilbert and a concert version at the Concertgebouw led by James Gaffigan.

Ms. Melton can be found on recordings of *Götterdämmerung* with the Metropolitan Opera (Decca), as Sieglinde in *Die Walküre* and *Brünnhilde* in *Siegfried* with the Hong Kong Philharmonic (Naxos), *Eine Leibesmesse* by Jan van Gilse with the Radio Filhamonisch Orkest, and in a solo recital of Wagnerian Arias and Excerpts with the Orchestra National Bordeaux Aquitaine.

Alongside her appointment as an Assistant Professor at the Lamont School of Music, Ms. Melton has lent her passion for education and advocacy in the arts to positions as a visiting professor at the University of British Columbia, Artist in residence at Carleton University, faculty on a variety of summer programs including UBC Summer Vocal Workshop,

New Opera Intensive (a joint program with Against the Grain and the University of Toronto), and Bay Area Vocal Academy among others. Ms. Melton has led various masterclasses, most notably for NATS and for The INSTIGATORS, a ground breaking program at the San Francisco Opera which aims to infuse the rich but at-old art form of opera with new thinking and perspectives. Ms. Melton proudly shares her expertise with Turn The Spotlight, a foundation working to identify, nurture, and empower leaders – and in turn, to illuminate the path to a more equitable future in the arts. Turn The Spotlight offers mentorship by and for exceptional women, people of color, and members of other equity-seeking groups in the arts.

Iranian conductor and pianist, **Sahar Nouri**, has been Music Director of Lamont Opera Theater at University of Denver since 2019. She has also served at Opera Colorado as chorus master/assistant conductor since 2016. Ms. Nouri is the founder/director of Dandelion Opera Institute.

At the University of Denver, Ms. Nouri has conducted productions of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Die Zauberflöte*, *Alcina*, *Cabildo*, *Les marmelles de Tirésias*, and *The Little Prince*.

Her work with Opera Colorado has included productions of: *Samson et Dalila*, *The Flying Dutchman*, *Don Giovanni*, *Turandot*, *Die Tote Stadt*, *Rigoletto*, *Carmen*, *The Shining*, *Tosca*, *Cavalleria rusticana*, *Pagliacci*, *Le nozze di Figaro*, *La traviata*, *Falstaff*, *Il barbiere di Siviglia*, *La bohème*, *La fanciulla del West*, and the world premiere of *Steal a Pencil for Me* (Gerald Cohen).

Previously, Ms. Nouri has been part of the music staff at San Francisco Opera, Houston Grand Opera, Dallas Opera, Philadelphia Orchestra at Bravo!Vail, Opera Parallèle, Opera North Carolina, Glimmerglass Festival, Utah Opera, Aspen Opera Theatre, Opera Steamboat, Merola Opera, Boston Conservatory of Music, and San Francisco Conservatory of Music.

An active performer, she has given numerous recitals around the US including those alongside international stars Mane Galoyan, Heidi Melton, and Matthew Polenzani. A multi-lingual coach, she has studied in Czechia, Italy, and Austria and is frequently in demand as a language coach.

Ms. Nouri is a former violinist who has performed with Tehran Philharmonic Orchestra and has won several prizes, for both violin and piano, in national music festivals and competitions in Iran.

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Upcoming Events

Thursday, February 19, 7:30 p.m.

Diction Class Concert

Hamilton Recital Hall

Free admission, no ticket required

Friday, February 20, 7:30 p.m.

Jazz & Pop Vocal Rep Ensemble & Jazz Small Group

Williams Recital Salon

Free admission, no ticket required

Sunday, February 22, 1:30 p.m.

Bassoon Studio Recital

Hamilton Recital Hall

Free admission, no ticket required

Monday, February 23, 7:30 p.m.

Lamont Jazz Orchestra Featuring Philip Dizack

Gates Concert Hall

\$5 reserved parterre seats or FREE general admission

Tuesday, February 24, 7:30 p.m.

Lamont Percussion Ensemble

Gates Concert Hall

Free admission, no ticket required

Tuesday, February 24, 7:30 p.m.

Bow Art Ensemble

Hamilton Recital Hall

Free admission, no ticket required

Wednesday, February 25, 7:30 p.m.

Jazz Small Groups

Williams Recital Salon

Free admission, no ticket required

Thursday, February 26, 7:30 p.m.

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Gates Concert Hall

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