

2022 Spring Concert Series

Gossamer Edge: Garden of Delights

Allyn Van Dusen, mezzo-soprano
Rita George Simmons, flute
Paula Rodney Bobb, piano

May 11, 2022
12:10PM



LIVE *from*
HOCHSTEIN

50 N. Plymouth Ave. • Rochester, NY • www.hochstein.org • 585.454.4596

BIOS

Gossamer Edge, a voice-flute-piano trio featuring Allyn Van Dusen, mezzo soprano, Rita George Simmons, flute, and Paula Rodney Bobb, piano, was formed in 2012 to explore the vibrant repertory for this trio combination, as well as solo literature and duos combining the instruments different ways. These sonic possibilities make for intriguing and varied programs in which the performers point to meaningful interconnections, soul journeys, and playful perspectives on life, expressed through the sheer beauty of the music and poetic texts. The name of the group implies the delicacy and poignancy of music's power to touch us deeply. Gossamer Edge has performed on concert series presented by The Hochstein School, Asbury Methodist Church, Lyric Theatre, and Downtown United Presbyterian Church.

Mezzo-soprano **Allyn Van Dusen** is a versatile professional singer/actor who has appeared as soloist to critical acclaim with the RPO, the Boston Symphony Orchestra, Rochester Oratorio Society, Eastman-Rochester Chorus, and many other prominent ensembles. Often appearing onstage in opera and musical theater productions, she has also co-designed and performed in numerous musical theater revues. She was recently named City Newspaper's Critic's Choice for Most Enduring Vocalist in Rochester. An active recitalist and recording artist, she has two solo CDs on Songburst Records (songburst.net) and contemporary works on Albany Records. She won the Audience Prize in CyberSing 2002, a global Internet art song competition, and was a winner in the Jesse Kneisel Lieder Competition at Eastman, where she earned the Master's degree and Performer's Certificate and studied with renowned mezzo Jan DeGaetani. She co-directed and performed in the innovative Fortissimo! Chamber Music Series for several seasons and sang with Madrigalia for over 20 years. She also served on the Hochstein voice faculty and is currently Program Director for the Rochester Lyric Opera.


Flutist **Rita George Simmons** holds degrees from Boston Conservatory and Ithaca College, and has been an active flute teacher and performer. She has given lecture presentations on flute performance throughout upstate New York, and has performed in many venues around Rochester and on WXXI Classical Radio. Rita has served on Hochstein's Flute Faculty since 2001. A dedicated chamber musician, she has been featured on Hochstein's Spotlight on Faculty Series with chamber trio Gossamer Edge. Rita also performs with the Telos Trio, which performed at the Chautauqua Festival, Memorial Art Gallery, and Civic Morning Musicals Concert Series Syracuse. With the Telos Trio, she has performed on concert series in Virginia, West Virginia, Indiana, Ohio and California in addition to conducting masterclasses at DePauw and Otterbein Universities. Rita has also given flute clinics at area schools and her students have won seats in the RPYO, HYSO, All-County and All-State ensembles, and many have gone on to pursue further musical studies.

A faculty member at the Hochstein School since 1986, pianist **Paula Rodney Bobb** has performed numerous times on Live from Hochstein, the Hochstein Spotlight on Faculty Series, and at various other concert venues. She earned the Master of Music degree in Piano Performance from the New England Conservatory of Music and Bachelor of Arts degree in Music from the University of Pittsburgh, studying with Natalie Phillips and Patricia Zander. She was a winner of the Pittsburgh Concert Society, accompanist at the Pennsylvania Opera Festival, and performed numerous opera scenes under the auspices of Young Audiences, Inc. Ms. Bobb is a former co-chair of Hochstein's piano department, and was the recipient of Hochstein's 2011 Faculty Service Award. She has served as chief instigator in performances of PDQ Bach's *Erotica Variations* and in 2012 performed Mozart on toy piano with the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra on their popular OrKIDStra Series. Paula is co-founder of the voice-flute-piano trio, Gossamer Edge.

PROGRAM

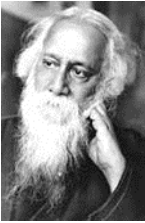
- Viens! une flûte invisible soupire... André Caplet
(1878-1925)
- Sicilienne Gabriel Fauré
(1845-1924)
- Poem 1: from The Gardener*
- Four Songs of Rabindranath Tagore, Op. 68 Mikhail Ippolitov-Ivanov
(1859-1935)
Our hands cling to each other
Little yellow bird
Don't go, my love, without saying goodbye
Give him this flower from my hair
- Poem 2: from Gitanjali*
- from *Gitanjali Dances: Five Joys* Cary Ratcliff
Dance No. 4 – This little flute of a reed... (b. 1953)
- from *Gitanjali (Song-Offerings)* Joan Alden Carpenter
When I bring to you coloured toys (1876-1951)
The sleep that flits on baby's eyes
- Poem 3: "Serenade"*
- Ständchen (Serenade) Franz Schubert, arr. Franz Liszt
(1797-1828)
- Sérénade Louis Diémer
(1843-1919)

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Today's Live from Hochstein performance is broadcast live and in stereo
on  FM, 91.5 with host Mona Seghatoleslami.

The Hochstein School is grateful to Sidney & Barbara Sobel for generously providing continuous underwriting support for Live from Hochstein since 1993.

PROGRAM NOTES



Rabindranath Tagore was born in 1861 into a wealthy family and was a lifelong resident of Bengal, the eastern Indian province whose capital was Kolkata (formerly Calcutta). Born before the invention of film, Tagore was a keen observer of India's emergence into the modern age; much of his work was influenced by new media and other cultures. Tagore was largely self-taught, and was associated with non-violent social change. A multitasking artist – writer, musician, visual artist, and film composer – he was a supporter of Indian independence and a friend of Mahatma Gandhi's.

Though he wrote in many genres, Tagore was principally a poet who published more than 50 volumes of verse, as well as plays, short stories, and novels. With over 2,000 songs to his name, Tagore's output of music is extremely impressive. Many continue to be used in films, while three of his songs were chosen as national anthems by India, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka—an unparalleled achievement. He won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1913.

Today, Tagore's significance as a songwriter is undisputed. A YouTube search for Tagore's songs, using the search term "Rabindra Sangeet" (Bengali for "Tagore songs"), yields about 234,000 hits. Although Tagore was, and remains, a musical icon in India, this aspect of his work hasn't been recognized in the West.

~ Alex Labet, *Quartz* (excerpt)

TEXTS & TRANSLATIONS

AN INVISIBLE FLUTE (Victor Hugo)

Translation by Allyn Van Dusen

Come! An invisible flute sighs in the orchards.
The most peaceful song is the song of the shepherds.
The wind stirs, under the holly, the grey mirror of the water.
The most joyous song is the song of the birds.
May no care disturb you. Let us love each other always!
The most charming song is the song of lovers.

From THE GARDENER (Rabindranath Tagore)

Translation by Allyn Van Dusen

1. Our hands cling to each other,
Our eyes hold each other's gaze,
And from this moment on
Our hearts are joined together.
The moonlit night surrounds us,
A fragrant breeze is blowing,
My flute now lies forgotten
There in the soft green grass.
The garland of flowers
Has fallen from your lap,
This love that blooms between us
Grows stronger every moment,
Like a song, a simple song, deep and pure.
And now our hearts are one.

TEXTS & TRANSLATIONS (cont.)

2. Little yellow bird singing in the tree
Makes my heart so happy
For my love's close to me
In this tiny village by a bubbling stream
Lit by moon and starlight,
Shining like a dream – ah!
 In our little village Kanjana,
 We are both well known to everyone.
 We walk by the river,
 Anjana they call it –
 Everybody knows us!
 And they smile and wave and wish us well.
There's a lane that passes
From my house to his
Overhung with flowers
Yellow like the bird is
There we meet in secret
Where the mangoes grow
In the shade of evening
We speak soft and low – ah!
 In our little village Kanjana
 We are both well known to everyone.
 We walk by the river,
 Anjana they call it –
 Everybody knows us!
 And they smile and wave and wish us well.
3. Don't go, my love, without saying goodbye,
My darling! I waited up, for I wanted to see you.
Now my eyes are heavy with sleep
But I'm afraid if I sleep I will miss you.
Don't go, my love, without saying goodbye.
Startled... I stretch out my hands to touch you
I ask myself, "Is this real or is it just a dream?"
I want to wrap your feet tight in my heartstrings.
Don't go, my love, without saying goodbye.
Don't go away...
4. Every day he comes and sits outside my door
And then goes away, but he never says why.
So go, my friend, and give him this flower from my hair.
But please, if he asks who it was that sent him the flower
Do not tell him my name, I beg of you.
Please just make him a seat out of flowers and leaves
For his eyes are sad, and it makes me sad, too.
Every day he comes and sits under the tree,
And then goes away, but he never says why.
So go, my friend, and give him this flower from my hair.
But if he asks you, don't say a word, my friend!

TEXTS & TRANSLATIONS (cont.)

From GITANJALI (Rabindranath Tagore)

When I bring to you coloured toys, my child,
I understand why there is such a play of colours on clouds,
on water, and why flowers are painted in tints –
when I give coloured toys to you, my child.

When I sing to make you dance,
I truly know why there is music in leaves, and why waves
send their chorus of voices to the heart of the listening earth –
when I sing to make you dance.

When I bring sweet things to your greedy hands,
I know why there is honey in the cup of the flowers
and why fruits are secretly filled with sweet juice –
when I bring sweet things to your greedy hands.

The sleep that flits on baby's eyes...
Does anybody know from where it comes?
Yes, there is a rumor that it has its dwelling
Where, in the fairy village,
Among the shadows of the forest,
Dimly lit with glow-worms,
There hang two timid buds of enchantment.
From there it comes to kiss baby's eyes.

SERENADE (Gabriel Marc)

Translation by Allyn Van Dusen

If I were, o my love, the breath of a perfumed breeze
Brushing against your smiling mouth
I would be abashed by your charms.

If I were a bee or a seductive butterfly flying above you,
I would never frivolously leave you for another flower.

If I were the tender, trembling rose
Placed on your heart by your hand,
So near to you, I would faint with happiness.

But in vain I seek to please you.
I moan and sigh. I am a human being, and what can I do?
Love you . . . tell you. . . and weep!

POETRY READINGS

Poems by Rabindranath Tagore

Poem 1 - from *The Gardener* #30

You are the evening cloud floating in the sky of my dreams.
I have caught you and wrapped you, my love, in the net of my music.
You are my own, my own, Dweller in my deathless dreams!

Poem 2 - from *Gitanjali*

This little flute of a reed thou hast carried over hills and dales,
and hast breathed through it melodies eternally new.
At the immortal touch of thy hands my little heart loses its limits in joy
and gives birth to utterance ineffable.

Poem 3 - "*Serenade*"

My songs beckon softly through the night to you,
below in the quiet grove. Come to me, beloved!
Do you hear the nightingales' call?
They understand the heart's longing, they know the pain of love;
They calm each tender heart with their silver tones.



ENJOY THESE PERFORMANCES?

The *Live from Hochstein* series requires financial support to continue providing performances for the Rochester community. If you enjoy these performances, please consider making a donation to The Hochstein School in the baskets provided at the exits, or at <https://hochstein.org/Support>. Any checks can be made out to The Hochstein School, and *Live from Hochstein* should be in the memo. THANK YOU!

SOME AUDIENCE REMINDERS

- Please keep your mask on at all times in the Performance Hall.
- Please remember to bring proof of vaccination to EACH *Live from Hochstein* performance that you attend.
- Please enter and exit the hall only during applause.
- Please turn off any cell phones or other devices that may sound during the performance. The use of cameras/recording devices is strictly prohibited.
- Restrooms are located downstairs and can be accessed from the back of the Performance Hall. Wheelchair accessible/gender neutral restrooms are in the School; please ask an usher for directions.
- Fire exits are located along the sides and back of the Performance Hall.

The Hochstein School wishes to thank its donors and patrons for their support of our mission to provide people of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities with access to excellent music and dance education in a community that nurtures and encourages personal achievement.

For more information, please contact Director of Development & Community Engagement, Alette Jordan, at ayette.jordan@hochstein.org or 585-454-4403 x223.

JOIN US NEXT WEEK:

American Soundscapes: Music for Cello, Trumpet, and Piano
Cora Swenson-Lee, cello; Apollo Lee, trumpet; Yoshiko Arahata, piano
Wednesday, May 18th at 12:10PM



This program is made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Kathy Hochul and the New York State Legislature.