

2023 Spring Concert Series

Pastels of Spring

Gossamer Edge

May 17, 2023
12:10PM



LIVE *from*
HOCHSTEIN

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

PROGRAM

<i>Soir Païen (Country Evening)</i>	Georges Hüe (1858-1948)
<i>Soir Païen (Grecian Evening)</i>	Phillipe Gaubert (1879-1941)
<i>La Fille aux Cheveux de Lin (The Girl with the Flaxen Hair)</i>	Claude Debussy (1862-1918)
<i>Beau Soir (Beautiful Evening)</i>	Debussy
<i>En Bateau (In the Boat) from "Petite Suite"</i>	Debussy
<i>The Water is Wide</i>	American Folk Song Arr. Hal Hopson (b. 1933)
<i>Sioux Serenade</i>	Native American Songs Transcr./Arr. Thurlow Lieurance (1878-1963)
<i>In Mirrored Waters</i>	Lieurance
<i>By the Waters of Minnetonka</i>	Lieurance
<i>Ave Maria</i>	Vladimir Vavilov (1925-1973)

Gossamer Edge

Allyn Van Dusen, mezzo-soprano

Rita George Simmons, flute

Paula Rodney Bobb, piano

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

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

PERFORMERS

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.

Allyn Van Dusen, mezzo-soprano, is a regular performer on Rochester stages, comfortably crossing over from classical music and opera to musical theater and popular standards. City Newspaper's Critic's Choice named her Most Enduring Vocalist in Rochester, and she has designed and directed many shows as well. She has received critical acclaim for her theatre work as well as for solo appearances with Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, Boston Symphony Orchestra, Rochester Oratorio Society, Eastman-Rochester Chorus, Madrigalia, and many other ensembles and concert series. With two solo CDs on Songburst Records, she holds a Master's in voice with Performer's Certificate from the Eastman School of Music. Among numerous musical ventures, she has co-founded and co-directed the innovative Fortissimo! Chamber Music Series, the Rochester Vocal Arts Collaborative, Rochester Lyric Opera, the Perpetual Anticipation Vocal Quintet, and Gossamer Edge Trio. Allyn enjoys teaching voice privately, and sharing the gift of song – the language of the heart – in a wide variety of public performances.

Rita George Simmons holds Degrees from Boston Conservatory and Ithaca College. In addition to performing with Allyn Van Dusen and Paula Rodney Bobb in Gossamer Edge since 2013, Rita founded the Telos Trio with Hochstein colleagues Debbie Grohman (clarinet) and Dr. Willie La Favor (piano) in 2012. An experienced piccoloist, Rita performed for 21 years with the Greater Rochester Music Educators' Wind Band, and was featured as guest soloist on both flute and piccolo. She performed for the National Flute Association Conventions in Columbus, Pittsburgh, and San Diego. Rita has also performed on Hochstein's *Spotlight on Faculty* series in addition to several performances on *Live from Hochstein*. A dedicated teacher, Rita has been on the flute faculty at Hochstein since 2001. Her students have won seats in the Rochester Philharmonic Youth Orchestra, Hochstein Youth Symphony Orchestra, Hochstein Philharmonia, and NYSSMA All-County and area All-State ensembles. Rita has also served on the faculty of the Rochester Flute Association (RFA)/Hochstein Flute Camp, and Webster High School Marching Band. She has given lectures and performances for the RFA and Florida Flute Conventions, and has held several positions with RFA. She is a member of the National Flute Association, the National Association for Music Education, and is an active NYSSMA adjudicator.

A faculty member at Hochstein since 1986, pianist **Paula Rodney Bobb** has performed numerous times on *Live from Hochstein*, *Spotlight on Faculty*, and at various other concert venues. She earned her 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. Paula is a former co-chair of Hochstein's piano department, and was the 2011 recipient of Hochstein's 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.

NOTES AND TRANSLATIONS

Soir Païen literally means "Pagan Evening." The two songs on the program with this title might appear to be two settings of the same text, but are actually two entirely different ones. The root word of "*pagan*" being "*rural*," it can simply refer to the beauties of the country, and peasant life. The same root applied to religion describes nature-based practices and personified deities typical of the ancient Greeks. Because Gaubert's setting mentions gods and goddesses and a Greek-sounding landscape overlooking a busy harbor, it is translated *Grecian Evening*. The poem Hüb chose is evocative of a crystalline moonlit night in a remote and uninhabited forest, and thus is called *Country Evening*.

Soir Païen (Country Evening) – Georges Hüb

Lyrics by Andre Lebey

The moon glistens above the woods
with a sweet and opaline paleness.
Do you hear all the voices
rise from deep down in the ravines?
Be quiet! Listen, listen...
A flute is softly playing deep in the forest.
I dream of figures on the road,
who will come alive again.
We forget that this hour is brief
and that dawn will come again.
The night flowers bloom like a dream,
but the sun will close them tight once more.

Soir Païen (Grecian Evening) – Philippe Gaubert

Lyrics by Albert Samain

It is a beautiful evening of light-amber and pink hue.
The temple of Adonis, high up on the promontory,
Carves its black colonnade onto the gold background,
And the first star has shone upon the sea...
While a pure reed flute plays a slow chord,
Pan, down below, with his elbows resting on the hills,
Rises to watch the nymphs dancing barefoot on the shore,
And Asian ships exude their fragrance in the old harbor. . .
Women talk, relaxed during the transition to evening,
Leaning their urns on the fountain's rim,
While the oxen, yoked together, leave behind their plowing. . .
Night arrives perfumed with roses of Syria,
And Diana with her bright crescent, in a dreamy reverie this evening,
Behind vast black woods silvered by a long ray,
Ineffably kisses Endymion's eyes.

**Diana is here referred to as the goddess of the moon, overseeing the peaceful countryside. Endymion is the beautiful sleeping youth she loves.*

Beau Soir (Beautiful Evening) – Claude Debussy

Lyrics by Paul Bourget

When the setting sun turns the rivers pink
and a shiver of wind runs through fields of wheat,
an exhortation to be happy seems to exude from all things
and rises toward the troubled heart;
An exhortation to taste the charms of being in this world
While you are young and the evening is beautiful.

NOTES AND TRANSLATIONS (cont.)

For we are on the way – just as this wave is –
It, to the sea – we, to the grave.

Thurlow Lieurance attended the Cincinnati College of Music and taught music to local Native Americans as part of traveling tent-style “Chautauquas” (modeled on the Chautauqua Institution we are familiar with). He became interested in Native American culture and began transcribing and recording songs he heard, and learned the craft of making Native American flutes. In 1911, on Montana’s Crow Reservation, Lieurance recorded Sitting Eagle singing the melody of *By the Waters of Minnetonka*, which he then arranged and published. It became a bona fide hit that remained popular throughout until the 1950s. The other Lieurance songs we are performing are of similar provenance, and are part of an overall oeuvre of over 300 works.

Sioux Serenade

Lyrics by Alfred Fletcher, alt.

With love calls of the wild, the air of night is stirred;
Of wolf and elk and bird, have you not heard, love sends you word.
All nature for love cries, the winds the blossoms woo,
And all my song and sighs, from my heart true, are just for you.
Within my tepee room, gifts for my bridegroom.
Come now and claim my all, come and abide here by my side.

In Mirrored Waters

Moon girl, goodbye.
Singing Water, farewell.
My Red Bird flown.
White Eagle flown.

By the Waters of Minnetonka

Lyrics by J. Cavanass

Based on a *Romeo and Juliet*-like legend, Moon Deer and Sun Deer were lovers from different clans, forbidden to marry. In tears they ran away to Minnetonka (“Large Water”) and, afraid of being separated, disappeared together beneath the waves. Years later tribe members camping by the lake heard a haunting melody, and saw floating above the moon-path on the water two lilies – the spirits of Moon Deer and Sun Deer.

Moon Deer, how near your soul divine.
Sun Deer, no fear in heart of mine.
Skies blue over you look down in love;
Waves bright give light, as on they move.
Hear now my vow, to live, to die.
Moon Deer, so near, beneath this sky.

Ave Maria – Vladimir Vavilov

Although this *Ave Maria* is usually attributed to 16th century composer Giulio Caccini, it was actually composed and first performed by Russian guitarist, lutenist, and composer Vladimir Vavilov on his 1970 album *Lute Music of the XVI-XVII Centuries* with the attribution “Anonymous.” Almost all songs on this album were composed by Vladimir Vavilov but ascribed to composers of the Baroque era. Vavilov’s daughter said, “My father was convinced that the self-taught works of an unknown composer with the trivial name ‘Vavilov’ will never be published, but he really wanted his music to reach an audience and he went so far as to give all the glory to medieval composers and ‘unknown’ authors.” In 1975, soprano Irina Bogacheva released an album including this song, listing the authorship as Giulio Caccini. The error continued on the 1987 album released by soprano Irina Arkchipova, which led to worldwide popularity and numerous recordings, most with the incorrect attribution.



Explore
Summer at Hochstein!
July 10 to August 18
Lessons, Camps, Classes and more!



Register
today!

Tuition assistance is available

HOCHSTEIN.ORG/SUMMER

Hochstein would like 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 on how to support Hochstein, please contact Alette Jordan, Director of Development & Community Engagement, at ayette.jordan@hochstein.org or 585.454.4403 x223.

ENJOY THESE PERFORMANCES?

If you wish to support future *Live from Hochstein* performances for the Rochester community, please consider making a donation in the baskets provided at the exits or at <https://hochstein.org/Support>. Any checks can be made out to The Hochstein School with *Live from Hochstein* in the memo. THANK YOU!

AUDIENCE REMINDERS

- Please enter and exit the hall only during applause.
- Food and beverages are not allowed in the Performance Hall.
- Please turn off cell phones and other devices that may sound or light up 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 rear of the Performance Hall.

SEE YOU IN THE FALL!

Live from Hochstein returns October 18, 2023



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.