

SISTER--Show me Eternity: The Creative Process

Our presentation will explore how we transformed disparate musical settings of poems by Emily Dickinson by a variety of American composers into a cohesive work of theater. By focusing primarily on the relationships between Emily, her younger sister Lavinia, her sister-in-law Susan, we created vignettes of the Dickinson household.

This work further developed into a collaboration between faculty and students. It has been performed at several colleges, and includes a residency with the principle artists.

In this handout, you will find the original program of "Sister---Show me Eternity" as well as residency details of our program.



The Music Department Presents

SISTER- Show me Eternity

Musical scenes of sisterhood, seclusion, and strength

Conceived by Sylvia Stoner-Hawkins

Directed by Elizabeth Margolius

Musical direction and composition by Evan Mack

Sunday, February 19, 2017 at 3:00 PM

ARTHUR ZANKEL MUSIC CENTER

Helen Filene Ladd Concert Hall

CAST

(in order of appearance)

Anne Jennifer Nash - Lavinia Dickinson, Emily's sister

Sharon O'Connell Campbell- Susan Gilbert, Emily's sister-in-law and Austin's wife

Sylvia Stoner-Hawkins- Emily Dickinson

Margaret Fitzgerald- Mabel Loomis Todd, Austin's mistress

Samuel Dusman- Joseph Lyman, Lavinia's suitor

Laura Noejovich- Frances Norcross, cousin to the Dickinsons

Napolean Sylvester-Austin Dickinson, Emily's brother and Susan's husband

Stage Director: Elizabeth Margolius

Musical Director/Additional song composer: Evan Mack

🎵 PROGRAM 🎵

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| Sister, Show me | <i>Lavinia, Susan, Emily</i> | Evan Mack (b. 1981) |
| My Letter to the World | <i>Emily</i> | Gwyneth Walker (b. 1947) |
| Going to Heaven! | <i>Emily, Susan</i> | Aaron Copland (1900-1990) |
| Transition #1 | <i>Ensemble</i> | Evan Mack |
| The Shining Place | <i>Emily</i> | Lee Hoiby (1926-2011) |
| As Well as Jesus? | <i>Susan, Emily</i> | Jake Heggie (b. 1961) |
| Bind me ---I still can sing | <i>Lavinia, Joseph</i> | Libby Larsen (b.1950) |
| We Outgrow Love | <i>Lavinia</i> | Dan Breedon (b. 1945) |
| In This Short Life | <i>Emily, Lavinia</i> | Lori Laitman (b.1955) |
| Heart! We will forget him! | <i>Lavinia</i> | John Duke (1913-1984) |
| Wild Nights---Wild Nights! Good Morning, Midnight! | <i>Susan</i> | R. Pearson Thomas (b. 1957) Arthur Farwell (1872-1952) |
| 4. Love's Stricken "Why" | <i>Lavinia, Emily</i> | Ned Rorem (b. 1923) |
| 14. Love's Stricken "Why" | <i>Susan</i> | Ned Rorem |
| Transition #2 | <i>Ensemble</i> | Evan Mack |
| There is Another Sky | <i>Mabel, Susan, Austin</i> | Henry Mollicone (b. 1946) |
| The Rose did caper on her cheek | <i>Lavinia</i> | John Duke |

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| As Imperceptibly as Grief | <i>Susan, Lavinia, Emily</i> | André Previn (b.1929) |
| Estranged from Beauty | <i>Emily</i> | Ricky Ian Gordon (b.1956) |
| The Bustle in the House | <i>Frances, Ensemble</i> | William Bolcom (b. 1938) |
| The Chariot | <i>Emily</i> | Aaron Copland |
| Finale | <i>Lavinia, Susan, Emily, Ensemble</i> | |

All narrative text was inspired by Susan Gilbert's eulogy at the funeral of Emily Dickinson.

This program was made possible through the support of the Office of the Dean of Faculty.

Sister—Show me Eternity

Residency Details

I. Performance

- A. Student Quartet: Our concert offers a quartet of students the opportunity to assume roles in our program.
 1. Austin Dickinson (Baritone)
 2. Joseph Lyman (Tenor)
 3. Mabel Loomis Todd (Soprano)
 4. Frances Norcross (Mezzo)
- B. These students perform both monologues and ensemble numbers, and the women each have brief vocal solos. Monologues and music for the four ensemble numbers and the two solos will be provided in advance. The student quartet will learn their music and memorize monologues prior to our arrival.
- C. One “Sister” will come to the university a few days ahead to prepare the students prior to rehearsing with the complete ensemble.

II. Additional Residency Features

- A. Masterclass
 1. Part of the residency includes the option for individual or combined vocal masterclasses.
 2. We are also available to work with individual studios or performance classes.

- B. Interdisciplinary Engagement
We are available to visit various English classes including Creative Writing, Poetry, Women's Studies, among others. Topics for these classes, rising out of critical thinking questioning, have covered the creative process, poetic conventions, compositional technique and interpretive choice.

III. Logistics/ Hosting schools' responsibilities

A. Pianist

1. If the hosting school has a pianist who would like to coach the students and play the show, we are happy to collaborate.
2. We may also bring our own pianist for an additional fee.

B. Advance logistics

1. Cast quartet
2. Distribute materials to quartet
3. Monitor quartet's preparation and facilitate communication with "Sisters"
4. Assist with scheduling time and space for approximately 7-8 hours (ideal; 6 hours minimum) student rehearsal sessions* with the artist who arrives in advance
5. a rehearsal accompanist for at least three hours of this advance rehearsal time
6. scheduling support for four additional hours of rehearsal with all artists present
7. venue** scheduling for concert and rehearsal time with all artists
8. Scheduling support for master classes and liberal arts classes

*Rehearsal sessions ideally do not exceed 3 hours in length

** Intimate venues/recital halls are preferable

B. Logistics during residency

1. support with stage set up: tuned piano, 7 chairs (black preferred)
2. ideally, lighting support -- single lighting cue after beginning of show routine
3. normal advertising for venue's events; artists can provide poster and program template or can provide information for host organization's PR area. Host will print and distribute.

IV. Budget

- A. Transportation: Depending upon location and distance, coverage for airfare or mileage (within 6 hour radius).
- B. Accommodation: Homestays or hotels
- C. Rental Car: needed if all artists fly
- D. Artist/Pianist Fee: negotiable