

Liberty University School of Music

presents

Student Recital Series

Senior Voice Recital

Mia Lemon, *alto*

October 25, 2026

Doug Oldham Recital Hall

MUSIC 170

7:30 PM

STUDENT RECITAL SERIES: SENIOR VOICE RECITAL

Mia Lemon, *alto*
Andrew Bertolino, *piano*

Program

Và godendo
from *Serse* G.F. Handel
(1685-1759)

Dolente immagine di Fille mia Vincenzo Bellini
(1801-1835)

Als Luise die Briefe ihres ungetreuen
Liebhabers verbrannte Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
(1756-1791)

Plaisir d'amour Johann-Paul Martini
(1741-1816)

Ouvre ton cœur
from *Vasco da Gama* Georges Bizet
(1838-1875)

Don't You Worry 'bout a Thing Stevie Wonder
(b. 1950)
Bekah Zapanta, Micah Wylde; *percussion*

I'm Here Brenda Russell (b. 1952),
from *The Color Purple* Allee Willis (1947–2019),
& Stephen Bray (b. 1956)

Alabaster Box Janice Sjöstrand
(b. 1976)

- PROGRAM NOTES -

Và godendo

“Và godendo” is an aria from George Frideric Handel’s opera Serse, Sung by Romilda. In the aria there is imagery of a joyul stream rushing toward the sea to illustrate the happiness and freedom found in love. The music has a light, bouncy, carefree, and playful quality which reflects the text with the vocal line imitating the movementt of water and joyful quality of love.

Va godendo vezzoso e bello
That brook revels, charming and lovely,

quel ruscello la libertà.
in its liberty.

E tra l'erbe con onde chiare lieto al mare correndo va.
And through the grass in clear waves it gladly runs to the sea.

Dolente immagine di Fille mia

“Dolente immagine di Fille mia” is an Italian arietta by Vincenzo Billini. The text portrays the mourning of Fille, addressing her sorrowful image and assuring her, that even after her death, his love has not faded. The piece is filled with grief, longing, and remembrance of his love. The flowing melodic lines create the atmosphere of reflection and communicate deep emotion.

Dolente immagine di Fille mia
Mournful image of my Fille

Perchè sì squallida mia siedi accanto?
Why are you so agonized next to me?

Che de più desideri?
What more do you desire?

Dritto pianto Io sul tuo cenere versai finor.
I have wept my eyes out onto your ashes up to now.

Temi che immemore de' sacri giuri Io possa accendermi ad altra face?
Do you fear that, forgetful o the sacred vows, I could be ignited to another flame?

Ombra di Fillide, riposa in pace; È inestinguibile l'antico ardor.
Spirit of Fillide, rest in peace; Inextinguishable is our old passion.

- PROGRAM NOTES (CONT.) -

Als Luise die Briefe ihres ungetreuen Liebhabers verbrannte

“Als Luise die Briefe ihres ungetreuen Liebhabers verbrannte” is a German art song by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, with poem by Gabriele von Baumberg. The title translates to “As Luise Burned the Letters of Her Unfaithful Lover.” Louise is experiencing heartbreak and betrayal as she burns the letters from her former lover. The song illustrated the intensity of the poem and the burning of the letters.

Translation:

As Louise Burned Her Faithless Lover's Letters

*Made by burning fantasy, in a rapturous hour
into the world brought, go back to dust, you children of melancholy!
You owe the flames your life, I give you back now to the flames, and all the
rapturous songs,
because ah! he sang them not for me alone.*

Plaisir d'amour

“Plaisir d'amour” is a French romance composed by Johann-Paul-Ègide Martina in 1784, with text by Jean Pierre Claris de Florian. This song reflects on the fleeting joy of love and the lasting pain that can remain after it's gone. There is contrast in the song between the beauty of the melody and the sadness of the text.

Translation:

*The pleasures of love last but a moment
The sorrows of love last all life through.
I have given up everything for the ungrateful Suia
She left me and took another lover.
The pleasures of love last but a moment
The sorrows of love last all life through.*

*As long as this water runs gently
Towards the brook that borders the meadow,
I shall love you; Sylvia told me.
The stream still flows, but she has changed.
The pleasures of love last but a moment
The sorrows of love last all life through.*

- PROGRAM NOTES (CONT.) -

Ouvre ton cœur

“Ouvre ton cœur” is a French melody by Georges Bizet, with text by Louis Delâtre. In the text he asks his beloved to open her heart to his love, like a flower unfolding toward the sun. This piece has a Spanish influenced style with a passionate quality, with the music itself opening up as the text becomes more expressive.

Translation:

Open your heart

*The daisy closed its flowery crown,
Twilight has closed the eyes of day,
My lovely beauty, will you keep your word?
Open your heart to my love.*

*Open your heart to my desire, young angel
May a dream charm your slumber
I want to take back my soul
As a flower opens to the sun!*

Don’t You Worry ‘bout a Thing

“Don’t You Worry ‘bout a Thing” was written and recorded by Stevie Wonder in 1973 for his album *Innervisions*. The song is encouraging and for someone who may be uncertain or struggling, reminding that not to worry about life’s difficulties. The song has playful and rhythmic vocal writing, giving the listener a sense of joy and freedom. I chose this song because it was the first song I performed in showcase in high school.

I’m Here

“I’m Here” is from the musical *The Color Purple*, with music and lyrics by Brenda Russell, Allee Willis, and Stephen Bray. The song is sung by the character Celie as she recognized her own worth and begins to embrace the person she has become, without the need of someone else’s approval. The music grows from quiet reflection to a powerful declaration of self-worth.

Alabaster Box

“Alabaster Box” was written by Janice Sjöstrand and recorded by CeCe Winans in 1999. This song is inspired by the biblical story of Mary, who anointed Jesus with an alabaster jar. The text reflects on who she was and the transformation she experienced through Jesus. I choose to wrap up my recital with this piece because it reflects the heart behind why I sing. I want to give all that I have as an offering, without concern of the thought of others.

I would like to thank everyone for joining me in celebrating this milestone in my musical journey. This accomplishment would not have been possible without the love and support of my parents, who have continually poured into me throughout these four years, believed in me from the beginning, and never gave up on my dreams.



Thank you to my sister and family for your unwavering encouragement and constant support. Thank you to my boyfriend for his ongoing reassurance, patience, and belief in me throughout this journey. I am so grateful to have had you by my side.

To those who encouraged me, pushed me to keep going when I felt like giving up, and reminded me of what I was capable of, thank you.

Most of all, I would like to thank the Lord for allowing me to use my voice as a vessel for His will and for guiding me throughout this journey. All glory belongs to Him.

Mia is a student of Dr. Sherry Montgomery.

This recital is presented in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Bachelor of Science in Music Vocal degree.

**We would like to thank the
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their faithful support of the School of Music.**

Dr. Dondi Costin, President
Dr. Stephen Müller, Dean, School of Music
The School of Music Administration, Faculty, and Staff

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