

Liberty University School of Music

presents

Student Recital Series

Junior Recital **Leta Hixon, *voice***

November 19, 2025
Doug Oldham Recital Hall
MUSIC 170
6:00 PM

STUDENT RECITAL SERIES: JUNIOR RECITAL

Leta Hixon, *voice*

Program

Se tu ma'mi Alessandro Parisotti
(1710-1796)

Dr. Mindy Damon, *piano*

Weigenleid Johannes Brahms
(1833-1897)

Dr. Mindy Damon, *piano*

You Don't Withhold Leta Carlene

Daniela Rolon, *cajon*

Jesus It's You Leta Carlene

Eliana Hartian, *acoustic guitar*
Daniela Rolon, *cajon*

Always on Time Elevation Worship

Eliana Hartian & Taylor Knapp, *vocals*
Daniela Rolon, *cajon*

Higher UNSPOKEN

Eliana Hartian, *voice and guitar*
Taylor Knapp, *voice*
Zach Wariner, *piano*
Ashleigh Denson, *bass*
Daniela Rolon, *cajon*

- PROGRAM NOTES -

Theme: Wait and Trust

“Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you.”

— Deuteronomy 31:6

“But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.”

— Isaiah 40:31

Se tu m’ami

This song reflects the romantic interpretation style of the time, with lush orchestration and expressive vocal phrasing.

The Italian song *Se tu m’ami*, written by Alessandro Parisotti in 1880, portrays the delicate balance between romantic love and emotional vulnerability. The style of the song reflects the music of the Romantic era, providing a beautiful orchestration and an expressive melody that tells the story of the lyrics.

Songs of the Romantic era offered much more emotional depth than those of the prior Neoclassical period, which emphasized logic, order, and reason. The Romantic era, by contrast, focused on feelings and emotion—and this song displays just that.

In *Se tu m’ami*, Parisotti uses emotion-led melodies and lyrics to tell the story of a man expressing deep affection for a woman. He rejoices in her love while recognizing that to love her is to risk true heartbreak. The lyric “Facilmente a t’ingannar” (“Easily deceived”) reflects his awareness of love’s potential to wound, even as he chooses to give his heart fully. Through this tension between desire and caution, the song captures the universal experience of opening oneself to love and to feel, despite the logical possibility of pain.

Translation:

*If you love me, if you sigh
for me, gentle shepherd,
your pain hurts me,
yet I delight in your love.*

*A beautiful purple rose
Silvia will choose today –
because of its thorns,
she will despise it tomorrow.*

*But if you think that
I must return my love only to you,
then, shepherd boy, you are
easily deceived.*

*But men's advice
I will not follow.
Just because I love the lily,
I will not despise the other flowers*

- PROGRAM NOTES -

Wiegenlied

Johannes Brahms composed *Wiegenlied* (“Lullaby”) in 1868 for a close friend celebrating the birth of her second child. It was first performed on December 22, 1869, in Vienna by Louise Dustmann (singer) and Clara Schumann (piano). The song features a mother tenderly singing her baby to sleep.

Brahms, who had previously harbored feelings for this woman, incorporated a melodic reference to a song she once sang to him, *S’Is Anderscht*. The 6/8 time signature evokes the feel of a rocking chair, giving this song its defining lullaby style.

The text, with lines such as “Good evening, good night, watched over by angels,” offers comfort and peace. This gentle lullaby evokes the image of a mother lovingly rocking her child to rest, reminding listeners that, in the same way, we can find rest and security in the arms of our Heavenly Father.

Translation:

*Good evening, good night,
Canopied with roses,
Bedecked with carnations,
Slip beneath the coverlet.
Tomorrow morning, if God wills,
You shall be woken again.
Good evening, good night,
Watched over by angels!
In your dreams they’ll show you
The Christmas Tree:
Sleep sweetly now and blissfully,
Behold Paradise in your dreams.*

You Don’t Withhold

Written during a season of surrender, *You Don’t Withhold* reflects Leta Carlene’s journey of learning to release control and trust in God’s provision. The song speaks to the freedom that comes from yielding one’s life fully to the Lord.

This song was inspired by Leta’s experience of struggling to surrender. She was scared to let go of the plans she had made, but felt that the Lord was calling her to release them. She went through a season of wrestling with the Lord and experiencing deep inner turmoil. Ultimately, Leta reached a moment where she could wrestle no longer—she had nothing left to do but fully surrender. She prayed, “Lord, I surrender—I will do whatever You want.”

- PROGRAM NOTES -

You Don't Withhold (cont.)

In doing so, she was changed. She felt peace and joy for the first time in so long. All her inner turmoil was replaced with God's joy, love, and peace. This song serves as a powerful reminder that in surrendering to God, we find everything we could ever need. All we need is the Lord. He will give us joy, peace, and satisfaction when we are surrendered to Him and walking each day with Him.

God withholds no good thing from His children, for the greatest gift He offers is Himself. Walking in His will is the best place you will ever be.

Jesus, It's You

Jesus, It's You emerged from a season of profound grief following the passing of Leta's father from cancer. In the midst of sorrow, she experienced the Lord's comfort and strength in transformative ways.

The verses of Philippians 4:12–13 became a guiding truth for her:

“I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content... I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength.”

This song proclaims that while everything in life is temporary and ever-changing, Jesus remains constant. He is our rock, our foundation, and the source of all that we truly need. There is nothing in this world that we can hold onto—nothing that will last forever—apart from our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Romans 8:38–39 gives us great hope, saying:

“For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

There is nothing else in which we can place our hope, treasure, or worth apart from Christ alone. We can rest in the one thing that will never change—our God, who will never leave us.

- PROGRAM NOTES -

Always on Time

Always on Time by Elevation Worship featuring Bella Cordero was first performed live at Elevation Church in Charlotte, North Carolina, as part of their *When Wind Meets Fire* album release on July 18, 2024.

This song is a reminder of the Lord's faithfulness and perfect timing. 2 Peter 3:8 declares, "A day is like a thousand years to the Lord, and a thousand years like a day." God exists beyond time and perceives the entirety of our lives from an eternal perspective.

When we find ourselves waiting or praying for something yet to come, we can trust that His timing is intentional and purposeful. This song reassures us that God knows exactly what we need and when we need it because He sees the greater perspective when we don't. Therefore, it invites us to rest in His perfect plan and trust that we can wait on the Lord and His perfect timing—because He knows better than we do.

Higher

Higher, released by Unspoken on May 13, 2016, is a powerful declaration of praise, calling believers to worship God in every season of life. The style of the song is upbeat and groovy, blending contemporary pop with hints of funk, R&B, and soul. Brass elements add to its energy and richness.

This song acknowledges that pain and hardship can deepen our devotion, leading us to glorify the Lord with even greater passion and lift His name higher.

Verse two emphasizes that if we are ever entrusted with success, wealth, or recognition, we are to direct all honor back to God—lifting His name higher. Whether in the valleys of struggle or the heights of joy, the Lord remains constant and deserving of all glory and praise.

So let's lift His name HIGHER no matter the circumstance!

Special thanks to my vocal professors, Nirva Ready and Mindy Damon, for the incredible growth I've seen over the past three years. I'm deeply grateful to Professor David Hahn for his unwavering encouragement throughout my time at Liberty. I want to honor my parents, Tammy and Don Hixon, for the wisdom and love they've poured into me. Most importantly, I thank Jesus Christ—for everything. For the gift of purpose I've found in being part of His kingdom, and for the beauty I've discovered in making music to glorify Him.



Leta Hixon is a student of Dr. Mindy Damon.

This recital is presented in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Bachelor of Music in Commercial Music: Songwriting Concentration degree.

**We would like to thank the
Liberty University Administration for
their faithful support of the School of Music.**

Dr. Dondi Costin, President
Dr. Scott Hicks, Provost and Chief Academic Officer
Dr. Stephen Müller, Dean, School of Music
The School of Music Administration, Faculty, and Staff

LIBERTY
UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL *of* MUSIC