# Liberty University School of Music

*presents*

## *Student Recital Series*

# Senior Recital

## Elizabeth Cobb, *soprano*

**October 4, 2024**
**Doug Oldham Recital Hall**
**MUSIC 170**
**7:00 PM**

# STUDENT RECITAL SERIES: SENIOR RECITAL

Elizabeth Cobb, *soprano*
Brianna Quilitzsch and Jonathan Mercurio, *piano*

## *Program*

| | |
|---|---|
| Sebben, crudele | Antonio Caldara (1670-1736) |
| O Cessate Di Piagarmi | Alessandro Scarlatti (1660-1725) |
| Seligkeit | Franz Schubert (1797-1828) |
| Simple Gifts | Aaron Copland (1900-1990) |
| Falling in Love with Love<br>*from "The Boys from Syracuse"* | Richard Rodgers (1902-1979) |
| Thank You for the Music<br>*from "Mamma Mia"* | Benny Andersson (b. 1946) and Björn Ulvaeus (b.1945) |

Brianna Quilitzsch, *piano*

| | |
|---|---|
| A Thousand Years | Christina Perri (b. 1986) |
| You Belong With Me | Taylor Swift (b. 1989) |
| Love Song | Sara Bareilles (b.1979) |

Jonathan Mercurio, *piano*

# - PROGRAM NOTES -

**Sebben, crudele**

*Sebben, crudele* is an Itallian aria from Antonio Caldara's 1710 opera, La costanza in amor vince l'inganno (Faithfulness in love conquers treachery). *Sebben, crudele* is from the third scene of the opera's first act and is sung by Aminta, a nobleman whose wife is unfaithful. This song is a heart cry of a love that will never give up. Even through his wife's unfaithfulness, Aminta claims he will always love her. While La costanza in amor vince l'inganno isn't often performed in modern times, *Sebben, crudele* remains a popular concert aria and has been recorded by many notable opera singers.

**O Cessate Di Piagarmi**

*O Cessate Di Piagarmi* is an arietta from the fourth opera, Il Pompeo. In the opera, Sesto, the son of Pompey, sings to his love interest, Issicratea. Already married and wishing to return home to her husband, she rebuffs his advances. *O Cessate Di Piagarmi* was written by Alessandro Scarlatti who was known as "Mr. Opera." He wrote many beautiful melodies during his life. Scarlatti's works were popular among the upper class who were the main opera goers during the Baroque period.

**Seligkeit**

*Seligkeit* was originally written as a poem and was later turned into a musical work. The overall tone of *Seligkeit* is slightly ironic and perhaps even critical of conventional piety. This is odd because the title is believed to refer to the Beatitudes which are found in the Sermon on the Mount where Jesus explains who is 'blessed' or 'happy'. It has been argued that *Seligkeit* is really sincere and just represents accepting reality rather than chasing a fantasy. The lyrics of *Seligkeit* are about living life happy with the things you can be sure of and enjoying life to the fullest.

**Simple Gifts**

*Simple Gifts* is a Shaker song written and composed in 1848, generally attributed to Elder Joseph Brackett. The Shaker song became widely known when Aaron Copland used its melody for the score of Martha Graham's ballet, Appalachian Spring. Before Aaron Copland popularized Simple Gifts it was mostly unknown to anyone outside of Skaker communities. Thanks to the work of Aaron, this song is now enjoyed as an American classic.

# - PROGRAM NOTES -

**Falling in Love with Love**

*Falling in Love with Love* is a show tune from the Rodgers and Hart musical, *The Boys from Syracuse*. The musical premiered on Broadway in 1938 and is set to a waltz. *Falling in Love With Love* is sung by the character Adriana, who is aching with loneliness due to the absence of her husband. Adriana ruefully reflects on her love life through the lyrics of this piece. Since it's release, there have been many notable recordings of *Falling in Love With Love* which focuses on the skeptism of love.

**Thank You for the Music**

*Thank you For the Music* is a song by Abba that became part of the musical *Mamma Mia* featuring Abba's music. In the musical, this song is performed by the lead, Sophie, who is searching for her real father as her wedding day is quickly approaching. After finding out about her mother's extensive romantic life Sophie invites the men she believes could potentially be her father to her wedding. Throughout the musical, Sophie is preparing for her wedding all the while trying to figure out who her is her birth Father.

**A Thousand Years**

The heart of *A Thousand Years* speaks to the experience of excitement and pain that comes with loving someone so deeply. The boundaries of time seem to become meaningless with the human experience of love. *A Thousand Years* captures the lost boundaries of time and the fear attached to falling in love. *A Thousand Years* was written to highlight the deep emotions and feelings. Christina wrote *A Thousand Years* for the film Breaking Dawn Part 1, specifically for the two main characters that have a love story she saw during the prescreening of the movie. She wrote this song for them and the entire Twilight movie saga.

**You Belong With Me**

Written by Taylor Swift, *You Belong With Me* is considered to be one of her more signature songs that are widely loved by her fans and even people who wouldn't consider themselves 'swifties'. *You Belong With Me* was released in Swift's second studio album which she wrote while on tour as an opening act for country music musicians. *You Belong With Me* specifically was inspired when a band member on tour was on the phone with his girlfriend and Swift overheard him being defensive while his girlfriend confronted him about something. Swift overhearing the conversation inspired the opening of her song which turned into what is still one of her biggest hits.

## - PROGRAM NOTES -

**Love Song**

*Love Song* was released as a debut single by Sara Bareilles in June 2007 and spent 19 weeks on the top ten charts. When *Love Song* first was released Sara shared that she wrote something for herself and that's how the song came to be. However, a few years later she said in an interveiw that she wrote this song and secretly directed it at her label. Sara's label had wanted her to only make safe "radio-friendly" songs and they were turning down her ideas for other songs without saying why. *Love Song* came to be out of her frustration of not wanting to write the label the love song they wanted.

Elizabeth would like to thank her parents for their continual support over the past three years she's been at Liberty and the dedication they have shown to helping her dreams come true. She would also like to thank Dr. Greenawalt for his vocal instruction and his help in crafting tonight's performance. Lastly, she would like to thank Liberty Univerity's School of Music for the excellence in music she has learned over her years studying under the wonderful professors at the University.



Elizabeth Cobb is a student of Dr. Mark Greenawalt.

*This recital is presented in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Bachelor of Music in Commercial Music: Artist Development 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

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