

*A RECITAL OF VOCAL MUSIC*

*PAULA BLACKMON, soprano*

*ANDREA JABER, mezzo-soprano*

*THOMAS JABER, piano*

*Sunday, November 20, 1994*

*7:00 p. m.*

*Stude Concert Hall*

RICE UNIVERSITY

the  
Shepherd  
School  
of Music

## PROGRAM

### **Duetto from Cantata No. 78** **“Wir eilen mit schwachen”**

Johann Sebastian Bach  
(1685-1750)

*We hasten with timid but diligent paces, O Jesus, O master, to Thee for Thy help. Thou seekest the ailing and erring most faithful. Ah, harken, as we our voices are raising to beg Thee for succor! Let on us Thy countenance smile ever gracious.*

### **O del mio amato ben**

Stefano Donaudy  
(1879-1925)

*O last enchantment of my dearly beloved, far from my eyes is he who was my glory and pride! Now through the empty rooms, I seek him and call with a heart full of hope. But I seek in vain and call in vain, and weeping alone I nourish my heart. To me, it seems, without him, sad in every place. Night is day, ice is fire. I however hope to give myself to another care and I am tormented with one thought: but without him, what shall I do? Life is a vain thing without my beloved.*

### **Spirate pur, spirate**

*Blow then, blow breezes about my beloved, and find out if she holds me in her heart. Find out if she holds me in her heart, light and blessed breezes.*

### **Sonntag**

Johannes Brahms  
(1833-1897)

*So all the week I've not seen my dear love, on a Sunday I saw her standing at her door: My darling love, my darling sweet, would God, I were with her today! So all the week I'll cease not to laugh, on a Sunday I saw her going to church: my darling love, my darling sweet, would God, I were with her today!*

### **Phänomen**

*When the Sun-god mates with a curtain of rain, an arching rim shaded with colours at once appears. I see this same circle drawn in the mist: it is a white bow, yet it is a bow of heaven. So be lively, old man, do not lose your heart: your hair may be white, yet you will love.*

### **Botschaft**

*Blow, breeze, gentle and loving about the cheek of my beloved, play tenderly in her locks, be not swift to fly away. If then she should ask how things are with poor me, say: Infinite has been his woe, critical his state; but now he can hope gloriously to revive, for you, sweet one, are thinking of him.*

### **Die Schwestern**

*We sisters two, fair ones, so equal in our face, no egg thus resembles the other, no star the other at all. We sisters two, we fair ones, we both have light brown hair, and if you plait them in one braid you cannot tell them apart. We sisters two, we fair ones, we wear an equal dress when walking in the meadows green and singing hand in hand. We sisters two, we fair ones, we both can spin so fast, we sit at the same distaff and sleep in the same bed. O sisters two, you fair ones, how has the story changed! You both have the same sweetheart — the song has come to its end.*

**Jota****Manuel de Falla**

(1876-1946)

*They say we don't love each other because they never see us talking; but of your heart and mine they have only to ask. Now I bid you farewell, your house and your window too, even though your mother may not like it, farewell, little girl, until tomorrow.*

**El paño moruno**

*On the delicate fabric in the shop there fell a stain; for a lower price it sells because it lost its value. Ay!*

**Serenade Italienne****Ernest Chausson**

(1855-1899)

*Let us sail in a boat over the sea to pass the night under the stars, see, there is just enough breeze to inflate the canvas of the sails. The old Italian fisherman and his two sons, who steer us, listen but understand nothing of the words we speak. On the sea, calm and dark, see, our souls may commune, and none will understand our voices but the night, the sky and the waves.*

**Puisqu'ici-bas toute âme****Gabriel Fauré**

(1845-1924)

*Since everything below doth, in its mortal state, its tone, its fragrance, or its glow communicate; Since all that lives and moves upon the earth, bestows on what it seeks and what it loves, its thorn or rose; Since April to the trees gives a bewitching sound, and somber night to grief gives ease, and peace profound; Since day-spring on the flower a fresh'ning drop confers, and the fresh air on branch and bower its choristers; Since the dark wave bestows a soft caress, imprest on the green bank to which it goes seeking its rest; I give thee at this hour, thus fondly bent o'er thee, the best of all things in dow'r that in me be. Receive, — poor gift, 'tis true, which grief, not joy endears, — my thoughts, that like a shower of dew, reach thee in tears. My vows untold receive, all pure before thee laid; receive all the days I live the light or shade! My hours with rapture fill'd, which no suspicion wrongs; and all the blandishments distill'd from all my songs. My spirit, whose essay flies fearless, wild, and free, and hath, and seeks, to guide its way no star but thee. No pensive, dreamy muse, who, though all else should smile, oft as thou weep'st, with thee would choose, to weep the while. Oh, sweetest mine! This gift receive; — 'tis thine alone; — My heart, of which there's nothing left when love is gone.*

**Les chemins de l'amour****Francis Poulenc**

(1899-1963)

*The paths that lead to the sea have: watched our passage — The open flowers and the echo through its trees our clear laughter — Alas the days of happiness — radiant joys I cannot retrace in my heart — The paths of my heart I search you often — Forgotten paths are no more and your echoes are muted — Paths of sadness, paths of remembrance and paths of the first day — Divine paths of love —*

**Barcarolle from Les Contes D'Hoffmann****Jacques Offenbach**

(1819-1880)

*Beautiful night of love smile on our happiness. Night more sweet than the day, beautiful night of love! Time flees and bears away the passions that possess us, far from this enchanted place, returning never more. The Zephyrs embrace you and kiss you. Ah!*

## INTERMISSION

*Psalm 100*

*Ruth Watson Henderson*

*And God shall wipe away all tears*

*Eleanor Daley*

*For the Beauty of the Earth*

*John Rutter*

*Medley of songs by Rodgers and Hammerstein*

*arr. Thomas Jaber*

*It's a Grand Night for Singing (State Fair, 1945)*

*O What a Beautiful Mornin' (Oklahoma, 1942)*

*Do-Re-Mi (The Sound of Music, 1959)*

*The Sound of Music (The Sound of Music, 1959)*

*Wonderful Guy (South Pacific, 1949)*

*Do I Love You (Cinderella, 1957)*

*I Have Dreamed (The King and I, 1951)*

*Island Magic from Trouble in Tahiti*

*Leonard Bernstein  
(1918-1992)*

## BIOGRAPHIES

*PAULA BLACKMON* was an undergraduate at Westminster Choir College and Houston Baptist University. She received a Master of Music degree from The Shepherd School of Music where she was a student of Virginia Babikian. Ms. Blackmon was a Finalist in the National Opera Association Artist Awards and was awarded "Singer of the Year" by the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) 1990 Regional Auditions.

*ANDREA JABER* received her Bachelor and Master of Music Education degrees from Arkansas State University. She is also a graduate of the Academy of Vocal Arts in Philadelphia having studied with Neill Rankin. Currently a music assistant at Chapelwood United Methodist Church in Houston, she has performed as a soloist with Houston Masterworks Chorus, Houston Community College, and The Shepherd School of Music.

*THOMAS JABER* is Director of Choral Activities and Associate Professor of Vocal Coaching at The Shepherd School of Music. In addition to coaching all graduate students and senior voice majors, Mr. Jaber teaches song literature and conducts four ensembles: Rice Chorale, Shepherd Singers, Sallyport, and Chorus Angelorum. These groups have been heard nationwide on both the National Public Radio and CBS Radio Networks. Before moving to Houston in 1988, Mr. Jaber was Music Director of the Opera Theatre of Temple University in Philadelphia for two seasons. He also worked as a vocal coach and conductor at Philadelphia's Academy of Vocal Arts from 1977 to 1986. He was chosen as vocal coach for the Opera Company of Philadelphia/Luciano Pavarotti International Competition and served as an assistant conductor of the Opera Company of Philadelphia. As pianist, Mr. Jaber has appeared with many artists, including Katherine Ciesinski, Stephen Varcoe, and Suzanne Mentzer, in performances for the Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival, Dallas Opera Guild, and Da Camera of Houston. From 1978 to 1988, Mr. Jaber was the Organist/Choirmaster of The First Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia. He is currently the Organist at Chapelwood United Methodist Church in Houston.