

Bard College Conservatory of Music

Finding Home

Graduate Degree Recital

Montana Smith, soprano, Bat-Erdene Batbileg, piano

Friday, May 5th, 2023 at 7:30pm

László Z. Bitó '60 Conservatory Building

If There Were Dreams to Sell John Ireland (1879 - 1962)

Kid in the Park, from *Genius Child* Ricky Ian Gordon (b. 1956)

Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child H.T. Burleigh (1866 - 1949)

Verlassen Arnold Schoenberg (1874 - 1951)

Klage Franz Schubert (1797 - 1828)

Sonetto XXXVIII, from *Seven Sonnets of Michelangelo* Benjamin Britten (1913 - 1976)

Angst und Hoffen, from *Das Buch der Hängenden Gärten* Arnold Schoenberg

Norden Jean Sibelius (1865 - 1957)

Island, from *Shadow of the Blues* John Musto (b. 1954)

Der Wanderer, D. 489 Franz Schubert

Soluppgång Jean Sibelius

INTERMISSION

Стояла Я і Слухала Весну Kyrylo Stetsenko (1882 - 1922)

L'adieu en barque, from *Cinq ballades françaises de Paul Fort* André Caplet (1878 - 1925)

Auf dem See Franz Schubert

Cloche d'aube, from *Cinq ballades françaises de Paul Fort* André Caplet

Dolce far niente Jean Sibelius

Die Nachtigall, from *Sieben frühe Lieder* Alban Berg (1885 - 1935)

Der Einsame Franz Schubert

The World's Highway Charles Ives (1874 - 1954)

The Wider View H. Leslie Adams (b. 1932)

Home, Sweet Home! Sir Henry Bishop (1786 - 1855)

Soprano **Montana Smith** is a young artist with a mission to cultivate community through song. Her repertoire within the classical genre spans from antiquity to the present day, with her focus in each context being on generous and inclusive communication. Programming thoughtful and community-oriented recitals is a new passion for Montana, most recently commemorated by a collaborative recital *let it be forgotten*; co-curated by friends and colleagues in the Bard Conservatory Vocal Arts Program and Collaborative Piano Fellowship Program, she found incredible joy and fulfillment in sharing a message with audiences through repertoire and poetry. This graduate recital is an endeavor to do so yet again, this time through pastiche of poetry of her own finding, and gratefully with the support of consummate pianist, collaborator, and now friend, Bat-Erdene Batbileg.

Currently based in the Hudson Valley, Montana is in her second year of graduate studies in the Bard Conservatory Graduate Vocal Arts Program under the tutelage of Edith Bers, while working closely with faculty Kayo Iwama, Erika Switzer, Lucy Fitz Gibbon, Elizabeth Reese, and mezzo-soprano Stephanie Blythe. Among her upcoming engagements is an appearance as soloist in the Pergolesi *Stabat Mater* on May 19th, organized by students of the Bard Conservatory.

Bat-Erdene Batbileg was born in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. He began studying piano at age seven at the Mongolian State Conservatory. As a child, he won national and international competitions which led to awards from the Mongolian Government and in 2008, an invitation to attend the United College of the Adriatic in Duino, Italy. In 2013, he obtained his Bachelor's with highest honors at the Conservatory of Music G. Tartini in Trieste, Italy and his Masters degree at the Conservatory of J. Tomadini in Udine, Italy.

A winner of many competitions and awards, highlights include 4th Prize at Concorso Pianistico di "Premio Venezia" reserved for the best graduates in Italy and at the end of the selection, he performed in the Great Hall of Theater "La Fenice" in Venice, Italy in October 2014; the Fryderyk Chopin international piano competition for the pre-selection in Warsaw in 2015; and "The Best Accompanist" prize from XVI International Tchaikovsky Music Festival, Saint-Petersburg, Russia in 2019.

Currently he is working in the Collaborative Piano Fellowship Program (2021/2023) at the Bard College in New-York, USA. He performs regularly in major concerts as a soloist and a collaborative pianist. Recently he appeared at New York's Weill Hall (Carnegie) in February 2023.

I would like to take the time to acknowledge the faculty, family, and friends who have forged me into the musician and person that I am today. This recital is every bit of my experiences culminating in one work of artistic expression that I'm proud to call my own, but ultimately would never have had the honor without each one of your contributions, however profound. Thank you all for your patience and presence in my life, and for being part of a home I would never have known to ask for, and could never dream of a life without. Thank you. - Montana