

THE MANHATTANVILLE COLLEGE SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
MUSIC DEPARTMENT PRESENTS
THE SENIOR RECITAL OF

Kyra Gurny

Mezzo Soprano

Accompanists:
*Miles Plant, Mark Cherry, Beverly Meyer,
and Diane Guernsey*

Saturday, March 27th, 2021, 2:00PM

This recital is in the partial fulfillment of the Bachelor of Fine Arts in Musical Theatre, and the candidate is responsible for the written content provided herein.



My Dream Roles

I was just a little kid, as young as six, when I discovered my love and passion for theatre. It happened while I was watching a very mediocre production of *Annie* at my elementary school. I gazed in awe as the little girl playing Annie yelled the song “Tomorrow” (which sounded more like “tamarrah”) and thought to myself, “I want to do that.” And so I did. In fact, five years later, I got the chance to play my childhood dream role of Annie at the age of eleven, and it truly *was* a dream. In the years leading up to it, I enthusiastically performed many shows for my parents in my living room starring just me, myself, and I. I played every single role and did not limit myself in the slightest, which is what this recital is about. Over the years, as I’ve grown, I’ve become attached to new characters who I love and now dream of playing. Some of these characters I *could* play one day, and others I couldn’t, whether it be due to my gender, typecast, my “look”, or any other reason. However, because I love these characters so much, I wanted to have one chance, guaranteed, to play them in some kind of way, which is why they are represented here in my recital.

The reason I love these characters, aside from the obvious reasons that some of them are funny and all of their songs are great, is because I see a part of myself in each one. Belle, from *Beauty and the Beast*, was one of my earliest favorite characters as a child and has remained so as I’ve grown into adulthood. I admire and relate to her enthusiasm, optimism, thirst for adventure, and a feeling of more being out there for her. While Elder Price from *The Book of Mormon* is conceited and obnoxious, he too has this strong sense of purpose, demonstrated in the song “You and Me (But Mostly Me)”, where he sings “Something incredible, I’ll do something incredible!” Fiona, from *Shrek*, and the pilot Beverley Bass from *Come From Away*, are both determined and never give up on their dreams, whether it be true love or flying a plane, and I too relate to such persistence and positive thinking. Lastly, Wednesday Addams from *The Addams Family* seems like the *last* person I’d relate to, given we’re such opposites in personality, but the song “Pulled”, where she feels this powerful calling towards a new direction that has her just as excited as she is scared, has been something that has resonated with me very much lately.

Overall, not only am I excited to be able to sing the songs of some of my favorite characters and dream roles, I am also excited to show you, in a way, who I am.

Translations

Psyché

Je suis jaloux, Psyché, de toute la nature!
Les rayons du soleil vous baisent trop souvent,
Vos cheveux souffrent trop les caresses du vent,
Quand il les flatte, j'en murmure!
L'air même que vous respirez
Avec trop de plaisir passe sur votre bouche.
Votre habit de trop près vous touche!
Et sitôt que vous soupirez
Je ne sais quoi qui m'effarouche
Craint, parmi vos soupirs, des soupirs égarés!

I am jealous, Psyche, of all nature!
The sun's rays kiss you too often,
your hair suffers too much from the wind's caresses.
As it strokes them, I grumble!
Even the air that you breathe
passes over your mouth with too much pleasure.
Your dress touches you too closely!
And as soon as you sigh
I know not what it is that startles me so
and fears, amidst your sighs, some sighs for another

Translated by Christopher Goldsack

Che Fiero Costume

Che fiero costume
D'aligero nume
Che a forza di pene si faccia adorar!
E pur nell'ardore
Il dio traditore
Un vago semblante mi fe' idolatrar
Che crudo destino
Che un cieco bambino
Con bocca di latte si faccia stimar!
Ma questo tiranno
Con barbaro inganno,
Entrando per gli occhi, mi fe' sospirar!

What bestial force
This winged divinity possesses,
Punishing you until you adore him!
And still, in my burning passion
This deceitful God
Has made me idolise an enchanting face.
How cruel fate is
That a blind child
With a mouth full of milk can fill himself with pride!
But this tyrant
With barbaric trickery,
Has passed through my eyes and made me sigh!

Translated by Nicholas Cornforth

Preludios

Madre, todas las noches junto a mis rejas
canta un joven llorando indiferencia:
"Quiéreme, niña, y al pie de los altares serás bendita."
Esta dulce tonada tal poder tiene
que me pone al oír la triste y alegre;
¿Di por que causa
entristecen y alegran estas tonadas?
"Hija, lo que las niñas como tu sienten
cuando junto a sus rejas a cantar vienen
es el preludio del poema
más grande que hay en el mundo.
Tornada en Santa Madre la Virgen pura
tristezas y alegrías en ella turnan,
y este poema es niña
el que ha empezado junto a tus rejas
y este poema es niña
el que ha empezado junto a tus rejas."

Mother, every night outside my window lattice,
a youth sings sadly of my coolness:
"Love me, maiden, and you shall be blessed before the
altar.
This sweet tune has such power
That hearing it can move me to heartache and to gladness;
Tell me how these songs can impart both sadness and joy?
"Daughter, what girls like you feel
When such songs waft through their windows
Is prelude to the greatest
Poem in the world.
"Transforming a pure Virgin into the Holy Mother,
Sorrows and joys alternating within her,
And this poem is, daughter, what has begun outside your
window lattice. And this poem is, daughter, what has begun
outside your window lattice."

Translated by Michael P. Rosewall

Program

Morning Person..... From <i>Shrek</i>	Music by Jeanine Tesori Lyrics by David Lindsay-Abaire
Nobody Does It Like Me..... From <i>Seesaw</i>	Music by Cy Coleman Lyrics by Dorothy Fields
I Can Cook Too..... From <i>On the Town</i>	Music by Leonard Bernstein Lyrics by Betty Comden and Adolph Green
Will He Like Me?..... From <i>She Loves Me</i>	Music by Jerry Bock Lyrics by Sheldon Harnick
Psyché.....	Émile Paladilhe (1844-1926)
They Say It's Wonderful..... From <i>Annie Get Your Gun</i>	Music and lyrics by Irving Berlin
Home..... From <i>Beauty and the Beast</i>	Music by Alan Menken Lyrics by Howard Ashman and Tim Rice
Che fiero costume.....	Giovanni Legrenzi (1626-1690)
You and Me (But Mostly Me)..... From <i>The Book of Mormon</i>	Music and lyrics by Trey Parker, Robert Lopez, and Matt Stone
Suzanna Butterfield	
Andrews Sisters Medley..... Don Raye, Hughie Prince, Victor Shoen, Ray McKinley, Jaromír Vejvoda, Lew Brown, Wladimir Timm, Sholom Secunda, Jacob Jacobs, Sammy Cahn, Saul Chaplin, Charles Tobias, Sam H. Stept, Lionel Belasco, Leonard Ware, Sidney Bechet, Zequinha de Abreu, Lee Lester, Manners Zeke, Saxie Dowell, Josephine Carringer, Bernice Idins	Music and lyrics by
Jessica Ramon, Suzanna Butterfield	
Preludios.....	Manuel de Falla (1876-1946)
My Funny Valentine..... From <i>Babes in Arms</i>	Music by Richard Rodgers Lyrics by Lorenz Hart
Better Luck Next Time..... From <i>Easter Parade</i>	Music and lyrics by Irving Berlin
Into the Night.....	Clara Edwards (1930)
As Long as He Needs Me..... From <i>Oliver!</i>	Music and lyrics by Lionel Bart
Me and the Sky..... From <i>Come From Away</i>	Music and lyrics by Irene Sankoff and David Hein
Pulled..... From <i>The Addams Family</i>	Music and lyrics by Andrew Lippa

Biography

Kyra Gurny is an exuberant actress and singer from Harrison, NY, currently working towards a BFA in Musical Theatre at Manhattanville College. During her time at Manhattanville, Kyra has played the roles of Marta in *Company*, Topeka Abotelli in *Swingtime Canteen*, and has also been a soloist in two cabaret performances. Additionally, although the pandemic has certainly created challenges, as well as made her senior year look vastly different than expected, she still found a way to be a part of theatre throughout it all, specifically in the virtual musical *Gilbert and Sullivan Deconstructed*. While sad to be reaching the end of her Manhattanville journey, Kyra is hopeful for her future, determined to have a successful life on the stage or in front of the camera.

Special Thanks

Mom and Dad: Thank you for always supporting everything I do and for all that you've done for me. I would not be here today and have accomplished so much without you two. I love you both so much, and I hope I have made you proud.

Aidan: Thank you for being the absolute best boyfriend ever, I am so grateful for all of your love and support. I love you more than anything.

Diana Canova: Thank you so much for an incredible four years. You've taught me so much and because of you, I've grown tremendously as a singer and performer. You were more than just my voice teacher, and because of that, I will miss you and our lessons so much.

Professor Cherry and Ms. Meyer: Thank you for being two of the best professors I've ever had. You've helped me grow in so many ways while always being encouraging, compassionate, and supportive. You've taught me so much and I am truly grateful for the opportunities you've given me, as well as all of the unbelievably fun memories.

Diane Guernsey: Thank you for all the great and helpful coachings over the years and for always being such an amazing accompanist for all my performances!

Kelsey: Thank you for all the laughs, all the fun and amazing memories we share, and for always being there for me. I'm so lucky to call you my best friend.

My fellow musical theatre seniors: Thank you for being the best class ever! I truly appreciate each and every single one of you. You're all so unique in the greatest ways possible, and each so talented, and I'm really grateful for how close we've all become. I can't wait to see each of you continue to grow and accomplish so much in your futures, which I know you all will.