

Liederabend

Songs of Evening, Twilight, and Night

Danielle Talamantes, Soprano

Kerry Wilkerson, Baritone

Mark Irchai, Piano

Sunday, November 2, 2025

Passing Seasons → Toward Twilight

- *Herbstlied* – Felix Mendelssohn

Twilight Longing

- *Sehnsucht* – Fanny Mendelssohn
- *An den Mond* – Franz Schubert
- *Verlust* – Fanny Mendelssohn
- *Abends will ich schlafen gehn* - Engelbert Humperdinck

Nightfall and Reflection

- *O du mein holder Abendstern* – Richard Wagner
- *Nachtwanderer* – Fanny Mendelssohn
- *Die Boten der Liebe* – Johannes Brahms
- *Die Meere* – Johannes Brahms

Sacred Night and Moonlight

- *Im Abendrot* – Franz Schubert
- *Schwestergruss* – Franz Schubert
- *Mondnacht* – Robert Schumann

Shadows and Night Visions

- *Der Doppelgänger* – Franz Schubert
- *Die Mainacht* – Johannes Brahms

Evening Benediction

- *Abendlied* – Felix Mendelssohn

Herbstlied – Autumn Song

Karl Klingemann

Ah, how soon does the seasons 'round fade,
How soon does spring change to winter!
Ah, how soon into sad silence
Does all the merriment fade!

The last sounds will soon have vanished!
The last songsters will soon have gone!
The last verdure will soon have fled!
All of them wish to return home!

Pleasure changes to yearning anguish!
Were you a dream, you thoughts of love?
Sweet as the spring, and quickly gone?
One thing alone shall never falter:
That is the yearning which never fades.

Sehnsucht – Longing

Johann Gustav Droysen

Farther and farther echoes the dance.
How well for me, that around me is silence
On the plain.
Only my full heart
Will not bow to rest.

Listen! The night glides through the spaces,
Its garments rustle through the trees,
Whispering softly.

An den Mond – To the Moon

Ludwig Christoph Heinrich Hölty

Beloved moon, shed your silver radiance
through these green beeches,
where fancies and dreamlike images
forever flit before me.

Unveil yourself, that I may find the spot
where my beloved sat, where often,
in the swaying branches of the beech and
lime,
she forgot the gilded town.

Unveil yourself, that I may delight in the
whispering
bushes that cooled her,
and lay a wreath on that meadow
where she listened to the brook.

Then, beloved moon, take your veil
once more,
and mourn for your friend.
Weep down through the hazy clouds,
as the one you have forsaken weeps.

Verlust – Loss

Heinrich Heine

If the little flowers knew
How deeply my heart is hurt,
They would weep with me
To heal my pain.

If the nightingales knew
How sad I am and sick,
They would joyfully make the air
Ring with refreshing song.

And if they knew of my grief,
Those little golden stars,
They would come down from the sky
And console me with their words.

But none of them can know;
My pain is known to one alone;
For she it was who broke,
Broke my heart in two.

Abends will ich schlafen gehn – I want to go to sleep in the evening

From Hänsel und Gretel

GRETEL, HANSEL

I want to go to sleep in the evening,
fourteen angels stand around me:
two at my head,
two at my feet,
two to my right,
two to my left,
two who cover me,
two who wake me ...

GRETEL

... two who point me
to heaven Paradeisen!

HANSEL

... two, who point to heaven!

O du mein holder Abendstern – O you, my fair evening star

From Tannhäuser

WOLFRAM

Dusk covers the land like a premonition of
death,
Wraps the valley in her dark mantle;
The soul that longs for those heights
Dreads to take its dark and awful flight.
Then you appear, O loveliest of stars,
And shed your gentle light from afar;
Your sweet glow cleaves the twilight gloom,
And as a friend you show the way out of the
valley.

O you, my fair evening star,
Gladly have I always greeted you:
Greet her, from the depths of this heart,
Which has never betrayed her,
Greet her, when she passes,
When she soars above this mortal vale
To become a holy angel there!

Nachtwanderer – Night Wanderer

Joseph von Eichendorff

I wander through the quiet night;
the moon floats so secretly and gently,
often emerging from a dark cover of clouds.
And here and there in the valley
a nightingale awakens
but then all is gray and still again.

O wonderful night-song
from distant parts - the rushing of a stream
and the soft shuddering in the dark trees
confuse my thoughts.
My clamorous singing here
is only like a cry from my dreams

Die Boten der Liebe – Love's messengers

Josef Wenzig

How many messengers
Rushed down the paths
From the woods,
Messengers of faithfulness;
Brought me missives
From a great distance,
Brought me missives
From my beloved!

How many breezes
Have blown since morning,
Blown until evening,
Swiftly, without respite;

Brought me kisses
From the cool water,
Brought kisses to me
From my beloved!

How the standing corn
Swayed on the greening hills,
How the heads of grain
Swayed gently in the fields;
'My golden sweetheart,'
They all whispered,
'My golden sweetheart,
I love you so ardently!'

Die Meere – The Sea

Wilhelm Müller

The winds are all sleeping
on the mirror of the water;
cool shadows of evening
cover the weary.

Luna draws a veil
across her face,
hovering in twilight dreams
over the water.

Everything, everything is silent
on the broad sea!
Only my heart will never
be at peace.

The tide of love
drives it here and there,
where storms do not rest
until the little boat sinks.

Im Abendrot – In the glow of evening

Karl Lappe

How lovely is your world,
Father, in its golden radiance
when your glory descends
and paints the dust with glitter;
when the red light that shines from the
clouds
falls silently upon my window.

Could I complain? Could I be apprehensive?
Could I lose faith in you and in myself?
No, I already bear your heaven
here within my heart.
And this heart, before it breaks,
still drinks in the fire and savours the light.

Schwestergruss – Sister's greeting

Franz von Bruchmann

In the moonlight
I wander up and down
seeing dead bones
and a silent grave.

In the ghostly breeze
something floats past,
flickering
like flame and smoke.

From the deluding mists
a figure rises,
without sin or falsehood,
and drifts past.

Such blue eyes,
such a noble gaze,
as in the fields of heaven,
as in the lap of God.

A white garment
covers the apparition.
From its delicate hand
springs a lily.

In a ghostly whisper
she speaks to me:
'Already I walk
in the pure light.

'I see the moon and the sun
at my feet,

and live in bliss,
kissed by angels.

'Your heart, child of man,
cannot know
how great is the joy
I feel.

'Unless you relinquish
the earth's false gods
before fearful death
seizes you.'

Thus the air echoes;
thus the wind whistles;
the child of heaven
calls to the stars.

And before she flees
her white form
is enfolded
in fresh flowers.

She floats up
in pure flame,
without pain or grief,
to the choir of angels.

Night veils
the holy place;
filled with God,
I sing the Word.

Mondnacht – Moonlit Night

Joseph von Eichendorff

It was as though Heaven
Had softly kissed the Earth,
So that she in a gleam of blossom
Had only to dream of him.

The breeze passed through the fields,
The corn swayed gently to and fro,

The forests murmured softly,
The night was so clear with stars.

And my soul spread
Her wings out wide,
Flew across the silent land,
As though flying home.

Der Doppelgänger – The Spirit Double

Heinrich Heine

The night is still, the streets are at rest;
in this house lived my sweetheart.
She has long since left the town,
but the house still stands on the selfsame
spot.

A man stands there too, staring up,
and wringing his hands in anguish;

I shudder when I see his face –
the moon shows me my own form!

You wraith, pallid companion,
why do you ape the pain of my love
which tormented me on this very spot,
so many a night, in days long past?

Die Mainacht – The May Night

Ludwig Christoph Heinrich Hölty

When the silvery moon gleams through the
bushes,
And sheds its slumbering light on the grass,
And the nightingale is fluting,
I wander sadly from bush to bush.

Covered by leaves, a pair of doves
Coo to me their ecstasy; but I turn away,
Seek darker shadows,

And the lonely tear flows down.

When, O smiling vision, that shines through
my soul
Like the red of dawn, shall I find you here
on earth?

And the lonely tear
Quivers more ardently down my cheek.

Abendlied – Evening Song

Heinrich Heine

When I lie on the bed,
shrouded in night and cushions,
So floats before me a sweet,
lovely dear image.
When silent slumber
has barely closed my eyes,

So creeps the image quietly
into my dream.
And in the morning
it never fades away with the dream:
Then I carry it about with me in my heart
the whole day.

Praised for her “velvety, dark-hued soprano that has a limpid seductiveness,” Mexican-American soprano **Danielle Talamantes** brings her artistry to leading stages across the U.S. and abroad.

In the 2025–26 season, she performs Vaughan Williams’ *Dona Nobis Pacem* with Chorus Austin, Brahms’ *Requiem* with Choralis, her signature role of Mimì in *La bohème* with El Paso Opera, and Verdi’s *Requiem* with the Greensboro Symphony.

Recent seasons have featured Haydn’s *Creation* with New Dominion Chorale, duo recitals with her husband, bass-baritone Kerry Wilkerson, at Opera Roanoke, the Sitka Music Festival, and Close Encounters with Music, a featured recital with Lyric Fest of Philadelphia, and numerous concert and oratorio appearances including Britten’s *War Requiem*, Orff’s *Carmina Burana*, Haydn’s *Lord Nelson Mass*, and several world premieres by composer Henry Dehlinger, including *Kohelet* and a rhapsody based on T.S. Eliot’s *The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock*.

On the opera stage, Talamantes has appeared with companies nationwide, including The Metropolitan Opera, where she performed Frasquita in Bizet’s *Carmen* and Anna in Verdi’s *Nabucco*. Other highlights include Violetta in *La traviata* with Hawaii Opera Theater and Finger Lakes Opera, *Susannah* with Opera Roanoke, Donna Anna in *Don Giovanni* with Cedar Rapids Opera, and her debut at Spoleto Festival USA as Sergente in Cavalli’s *Veremonda*.

Her professional recordings include *At That Hour: Art Songs* by Henry Dehlinger (Avie Records), *Canciones españolas*, and *Heaven and Earth: A Duke Ellington Songbook* (MSR Classics).

www.danielletalamantes.com

Admired by *The Washington Post* for his “amber tone” and commanding presence, bass-baritone **Kerry Wilkerson** is celebrated for performances that combine technical mastery with profound emotional depth. His critically acclaimed Carnegie Hall debut in Vaughan Williams’ *Sancta Civitas* affirmed his reputation as a compelling soloist on concert and oratorio stages nationwide.

A distinguished veteran of the United States Army Chorus, Wilkerson has performed for world leaders and international dignitaries, and has also sung with the United States Air Force Singing Sergeants and the esteemed Robert Shaw Festival Singers. He is a sought-after concert soloist, performing nearly three dozen choral masterworks with leading orchestras and ensembles, including the National Symphony Orchestra, National Philharmonic, Pacific Symphony, Jacksonville Symphony, La Jolla Symphony, and The Washington Chorus. Career highlights include Mendelssohn’s *Elijah* with Choralis, Vaughan Williams’ *Dona Nobis Pacem* at the Kennedy Center, and Kodály’s *Te Deum* with the Oregon Music Festival.

Wilkerson frequently shares the recital stage with his wife, soprano Danielle Talamantes, in critically acclaimed programs that explore opera, art song, and contemporary repertoire. Across concert halls and recital venues, his performances are distinguished by their emotional immediacy, musical integrity, and the rare ability to move audiences, offering a profound reminder of the transcendent power of the human voice.

www.kerrywilkerson.com

Mark Irchai (b. 1996), is an American concert pianist and conductor, hailed as a “virtuoso... who perform[s] with gorgeous balance” (*Wednesday Music Club*). Recently featured on broadcasts for WQXR (NYC Public Radio) and KPBX (Spokane Public Radio), his concertizing has taken him across the United States and Europe, where he has become known for his diverse musical programming and multi-colored sound. His awards include 1st prizes at the XIV International Orfeo Music Competition, the George Mason University Concerto Competition, and the Golden Classical Awards International Music Competition. He was also awarded the Newton Swift Award in Collaborative Piano by the Mannes School of Music, in recognition of his accomplishments as a collaborative pianist.

Irchai performs in recital to regularly sold-out audiences in venues such as Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall, Dumbarton Oaks, the embassies of Turkey and Austria to the United States, and more. He performs frequently with duo partner Amanda Zoe Vest, mezzo-soprano, and with the Continuum Chamber Collective (CCC).

A committed educator, Irchai is currently an adjunct professor at Shenandoah Conservatory in Winchester, VA, and is on faculty at the Levine School of Music in Washington DC, and the Berkshire High Peaks Music Festival in Great Barrington, MA. He also teaches piano and conducting lessons both virtually and in-person from home in Falls Church, VA.

Irchai studied piano with Anna Balakerskaia and Simone Dinnerstein, and holds a BM in Piano Performance from George Mason University, and an MM in Piano from the Mannes School of Music.

www.markirchai.com