

# Civic Morning Musicals

## Wednesday Recital Series

**Morgan Manificier, tenor**  
**Corinne Penner, piano**

Wednesday, April 28, 2021  
12:15 pm, [CMM on YouTube](#)

Drei Gesänge, Op. 83 (1810)

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)

1. Wonne der Wehmut
2. Sehnsucht
3. Mit einem gemalten Band

Clarières dans le ciel (1913-14)

Lili Boulanger (1893-1918)

1. Elle était descendue au bas de la prairie
2. Elle est gravement gaie
3. Parfois, je suis triste
4. Un poète disait
5. Au pied de mon lit
6. Si tout ceci n'est qu'un pauvre rêve
7. Nous nous aimerons tant
8. Vous m'avez regardé avec toute votre âme
9. Les Lilas qui avaient fleuri
10. Deux Ancolies
11. Par ce que j'ai souffert
12. Je garde une médaille d'elle
13. Demain fera un an

### ***Upcoming Events with Civic Morning Musicals***

Wed., May 5 – [Katie North Peck, soprano; Kathleen Haddock, piano](#)

Sun., May 9 – [CMM Live! Songs and Strings](#)

Wed., May 12 – [Ilana Joyce Cady, flute; Maria Alvarado, piano](#)

Wed., May 19 – [Wendy Neikirk, voice; Kathleen Haddock, piano](#)



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## Program Notes

*Drei Gesänge*, op. 83 by L. v. Beethoven

After being commissioned to write music to Goethe's *Egmont* at the end of 1809, Beethoven became increasingly interested in his contemporary's poetry and decided to set three of his poems to the songs of opus 83. The sense of longing in both the music and the text is immediately palpable. From the opening song, "Wonne der Wehmut" (literally *the bliss of melancholy*), the back and forth between voice and piano evokes the search for balance between the joy and sadness of a broken relationship that calls for eternity. In the following "Sehnsucht" and "Mit einem gemalten Band," the exploration of inner yearning is also at the forefront of the narrative and imagery. In the former, this yearning is embodied by an almost unutterable yet irresistible desire for a love and goodness which is not from this world; in the latter, the protagonist's longing is finally fulfilled only in the love from the beloved and the promise of marriage.

*Clairières dans le ciel*, by Lili Boulanger

Born in the Pyrénées-Atlantiques, near Basque country, Francis Jammes (1868 - 1938) is perhaps one of the most enigmatic figures of French poetry. He spent most of his life in the provinces of Southern France, where he wrote and enjoyed a life far away from the buzzing of Parisian life. This physical distance, however, did not stop his poetry from being enjoyed by other established writers and poets, such as André Gide and Marcel Proust. Although Jammes' versification and syntax remind us of the freedom and "breaking down" of symbolist poetic structures, his devotion to clarity and simplicity separates him from his well-known contemporaries, including Mallarmé, Rimbaud, and Verlaine. The poems of Boulanger's song cycle were selected from his collection entitled *Tristesses (sadnesses)*, themselves published in his 1906 volume called *Clairières dans le ciel*. Written after the failure of a love affair, they depict the colliding emotions experienced after a romantic separation and pour out vivid images of unfulfilled longings; from the transparent sweetness of lush memories, to the crushing weight of hopelessness. Boulanger's music beautifully reflects this duality, and certainly even mirrors the dramatic dimension of her own life.

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## Performer Biographies

French tenor **Morgan Manificier** is pursuing his DMA at Stony Brook University under the tutelage of Randall Scarlata and Dr. Jeremy Little. This season, he reprises the role of Ararat in *January 19th, 2007* by Joseph Bohigian, and creates the role of Siavash in the world premiere of *We the Innumerable* by Niloufar Nourbakhsh. Other role credits include the title role of *Pygmalion*, Don Ottavio in *Don Giovanni*, Tamino in *Die Zauberflöte*, Chevalier de la Force in *Dialogues des Carmélites*, Sultan Soliman in *Zaide*, Agenore in *Il re pastore*, Sorcerer in *Dido and Æneas*, and Dr. Blind in *Die Fledermaus*. Morgan is a fellowship recipient from Oxford Lieder, SongFest, the International Baroque Academy, and the AlpenKammerMusik Festival, and has recently performed with the dell'Arte Opera Ensemble, Amherst Early Music Workshop, Manhattan Opera Studio, and Stony Brook Opera. He is the grateful recipient of career grants from the Performing Arts Consortium and the Anna Sosenko Assist Trust.

Pianist **Corinne Penner** has enjoyed a rich musical training in both solo and collaborative piano, spending several summers studying with pianist Ann Schein at the Aspen Music Festival and receiving fellowships at the Tanglewood Music Center and SongFest. She concertizes frequently in the New York area with her recital partner, tenor Morgan Manificier, and they were recently invited to participate as a duo in the Oxford Lieder Mastercourse. Corinne's coaches have included Margo Garrett, Dawn Upshaw, Roger Vignoles, and Kevin Murphy, and she has played in master classes for Menahem Pressler, Boris Berman, Julian Martin, Renée Fleming, Stephanie Blythe, and others. Her performances have been broadcast on WMHT, and she has been a prizewinner in various solo, chamber, and concerto competitions. She is currently a DMA candidate in piano performance at Stony Brook University, where she studies with Christina Dahl.



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