



Emma Grimsley & David Walton  
Vocal Duo

with

Benjmamin Blozan, piano

Friday, January 31, 2025  
Reconsidered Goods  
Greensboro, NC

# O Danny Boy

Lyrics by Frederic Weatherly (1848-1929)

Music "Londonderry Air" Trad.



Frederic Weatherly was an English lawyer, author, and lyricist of over 3,000 songs throughout his life. Weatherly wrote the lyrics for "O Danny Boy" in 1910, which were later adapted to fit the tune in 1913. "O Danny Boy" is another incredibly popular tune about the sorrows and longing of being separated from a loved one. This simple yet beautiful tune will certainly pull at your heartstrings.



# If I Loved You

Music by Richard Rogers 1902-1979

Lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein 1895-1960

After long and highly distinguished careers with other collaborators, Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II joined forces in 1943 to create what is arguably the most successful partnership in American Musical Theatre.

Rogers worked with Lorenz Hart on a number of productions while Hammerstein worked with multiple composers such as Rudolf Friml, Sigmund Romberg and Vincent Youmans. Rogers & Hammerstein came together on *Oklahoma!* It was the first of a new genre, the musical play, representing a unique fusion of Rodgers' musical comedy and Hammerstein's operetta. They went on to write *Carousel*, *Allegro*, *South Pacific*, *The King And I*, *Me And Juliet*, *Pipe Dream*, *Flower Drum Song* and *The Sound Of Music*.



Similar to opera writing style, "If I Loved You" is a musical conversation – which was significant in musical theater at the time. Stephen Sondheim has referred to this scene as "probably the singular most important moment in the evolution of contemporary musicals."

Characters Billy Bigelow and Julie Jordan sing this song as they hesitantly declare their love for one another, yet are too shy to express their true feelings. The lyrics were inspired by lines of dialogue from Ferenc Molnar's 1909 play *Liliom*, which is the source material for the musical.



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## Wishing You Were Somehow Here Again" from *Phantom of the Opera*

Music by Andrew Lloyd Webber (b. 1948)

Lyrics by Charles Hart (b. 1961) &  
Richard Stilgoe (b. 1943)

English born Andrew Lloyd Webber is a renowned musical theatre composer. He is best known for creating iconic musicals such as *Cats*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, and *Evita*. Lloyd Webber has received numerous awards, including a knighthood in 1992! Charles Hart and Richard Stilgoe are also English born songwriters who wrote the lyrics for *Phantom of the Opera*.

"Wishing You Were Somehow Here Again" from *Phantom of the Opera* is performed by the character Christine Daaé, a young soprano. In this beautiful ballad, she visits the grave of her father, expressing her longing and grief for him. The song begins gently and grows to a dramatic climax towards the end. This is a gorgeous song that showcases the depth of emotion necessary to portray the character Christine.

# "Maria" from *West Side Story*

Music by Leonard Bernstein (1918-1990)  
Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim (1930-2021)



Leonard Bernstein was an American composer, conductor, pianist, and educator. He was also the first American-born conductor to become known internationally. Stephen Sondheim was an American composer and lyricist known for his musicals *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street* and *Into the Woods*. Sondheim's work earned him eight Tony Awards and a Pulitzer Prize.

"Maria" features the character Tony, singing about meeting Maria for the first time. The song expresses Tony's fascination and enchantment with Maria, emphasizing the beauty of her name and his newfound love. Bernstein and Sondheim blend their styles together beautifully to create this timeless classic in musical theater.

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# "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" from *The Wizard of Oz*

Music by Harold Arlen (1905-1986)  
Lyrics by Edgar Harburg (1896-1981)

Harold Arlen was an American composer known for his contributions to the Great American Songbook, with famous songs like "Over the Rainbow" from *The Wizard of Oz* and "Stormy Weather". Edgar "Yip" Harburg was an American lyricist. He is perhaps best known for his work on *The Wizard of Oz*, where he and Arlen created the iconic song "Over the Rainbow".

"Somewhere Over the Rainbow" expresses Dorothy's longing for a better, happier place away from the troubles of her current life. Its wistful melody and hopeful lyrics have made it a beloved classic. There are countless arrangements of this tune, making it perhaps one of the most well-known modern songs.

# "Bésame Mucho"

Consuelo Velázquez 1916-2005)

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Bésame Mucho is one of the most famous romantic songs in Latin music, written in 1940 by Mexican songwriter Consuelo Velázquez. Velázquez was the songwriter and lyricist of many Latin standards, such as "Amar y Vivir," "Yo No Fui", "Franqueza," "Que Seas Feliz," and "Cachito," but it was the romantic 1940s standard "Bésame Mucho," that became an international hit and made her the first female songwriter to have a pop hit on both sides of the border. The song's title translates to "Kiss Me Much". Velázquez wrote Bésame Mucho with passionate and longing lyrics, though she herself claimed she had never been kissed at the time.

This song has been covered by numerous artists, including The Beatles, Frank Sinatra, and Andrea Bocelli.



# "Cantique"

Nadia Boulanger 1887-1979)

Nadia Boulanger was one of the most important women conductors and composers of the 20th century. She was born in Paris in 1887 and was raised in a musical family. Her father, Ernest Boulanger, and her sister, Lili Boulanger, were also both composers. Boulanger was the first woman to conduct many major orchestras in America and Europe, including the Boston Symphony, New York Philharmonic, and the BBC (British Broadcasting Corporation) Symphony.

"Cantique" is one of Nadia Boulanger's early compositions, written in 1909. The piece is a secular (non-religious) choral work with a text by the Belgian playwright and poet Maurice Maeterlinck. It is a simple composition, "sparse chords on the piano twinkle like starlight, underpinning a melody that sounds as if it has been woven from a single thread" writes Anna Lapwood who recorded the piece in 2022. A year after Boulanger composed "Cantique", she wrote a sacred (religious) version for voice, violin, cello, harp, and organ, with the text changed to "Lux aeterna", or "Eternal Light". This program features the secular version for piano and solo voice.



# "Tonight" from *West Side Story*

Music by Leonard Bernstein  
Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim

"Tonight" is sung by the characters Tony and Maria from *West Side Story*. The song takes place after they meet at a dance and fall in love at first sight. The song captures their excitement and anticipation for the future despite the ongoing conflict between their respective groups, the Jets and the Sharks. Its beautiful melody and heartfelt lyrics make it one of the most memorable and romantic moments in the musical. This beautiful duet is the perfect closing to this program.



# Matt Wilson, Program Notes

Matt Wilson, the author of the program notes that you hopefully found illuminating and inspiring, is a violinist and violist from South Carolina. He received a Bachelor's in Music Education from Appalachian State University in Boone, NC, before teaching in the public schools for several years. He received a Master's in Music Education from UNC Greensboro and is a Doctoral Candidate in Music Education at the University of Kansas (KU) in Lawrence, KS. Rock Chalk! He is an active researcher and presenter at the state and national levels, focusing on issues of gender and sexuality in music education.

Matt has served in several leadership roles in the NC Music Educators Association - Orchestra Section. He is a member of the National Association for Music Education and the American String Teachers Association (ASTA). He is currently the Chair of ASTA's National Student Advisory Committee.

