

THE PERSPECTIVE OF INNOCENCE:
A VOICE RECITAL FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF CHILDREN AND OTHER
CHARACTERS WHO DID NOT FULLY UNDERSTAND THEIR SITUATION.

By
ASHLEY NICOLE SOVA

A Thesis Submitted to The Honors College
In Partial Fulfillment of the Bachelors degree
With Honors in
Music Education

THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

D E C 2 0 1 9

Approved by:

Abstract:

This thesis was a culminating recital in accordance with a music degree. It consisted of a one hour solo voice performance that was accompanied by Bonnie Bird on piano. In addition, there were three duets with singers Sebastian Alameda, Brianna Barnhart, and Jacob Walters which required additional planning. For this recital, there are program notes which include background information about the pieces and the structure of the recital, information about the composers, and text and translations of foreign texts. The recital was themed around the innocence of children, and consisted of music in the four themes of children's songs, dreams, the breaking of innocence, and young love. These themes center around different points of innocence or loss of innocence, and create a cohesive recital reflecting on the desire of humans to relive childhood moments.

The Perspective of Innocence

Ashley Sova, soprano

Bonnie Bird, piano

4/14/19

The perspective of innocence is a recital from the point of view of children and other characters who did not fully understand the situations that they were in. This concept came about after a conversation with a friend about how much simpler life was when we were children, and how we both wished we could go back to that simpler time. I decided I wanted to theme my recital around characters who still held at least a shred of that innocence in order to remember what that was like. I broke the recital into four sets that represent different aspects of innocence for a child. I hope you enjoy my recital and that it will bring you back to simpler times allowing you to forget the stresses you are currently facing.

“The world is indeed full of peril, and in it there are many dark places; but still there is much that is fair, and though in all lands love is now mingled with grief, it grows perhaps the greater.”

- J. R. R. Tolkien

Children’s Songs

Walt Disney once said, “Our greatest natural resource is the minds of our children.” This set of songs are all from the perspective of younger children. They show how the mind of a child works, from their long tangents to their moments of true brilliance. Children have a wonderful sense of insight into the world and situations that is often overlooked because of their age. I hope that this set will remind you of what it was like to be a child.

Leonard Bernstein was an American composer and conductor best known for his direction of the New York Philharmonic and his musical compositions including *West Side Story*, *Candide*, and *On the Town*. He wrote *I Hate Music: A cycle of Five Kids Songs for Soprano and Piano* in 1943 and dedicated it to his friend Edys Merrill who would get tired of hearing Bernstein’s constant music in their apartment and say the title phrase of “I Hate Music.” This specific piece falls third in the set of five pieces, and expresses a child’s hatred for music which conflicts their love of singing because the child views singing as something that is free whereas music is something that is structured and can only be one way.

I Hate Music!

I hate music! But I like to sing:

La dee da da dee; la dee da dee.

But that’s not music, not what I call music.

No, sir.

Music is a lot of men in a lot of tails,

Making lots of noise like a lot of females;

Music is a lot of folks in a big dark hall,
Where they really don't want to be at all;
With a lot of chairs, and a lot of airs,
And a lot of furs and diamonds!
Music is silly! I hate music!
But I like to sing: la dee da da dee:
La dee da dee: la dee da dee.

Celius Dougherty was an American composer and pianist. His compositions include many songs for voice and piano, piano works, and even an opera. He loved poetry, so text is very important to his songs. The text of this piece was taken from a letter written by a child in a public school to the United Nations. This piece was published in 1950 following World War II and shows what children thought about the war and their special way of thinking that is so different from adults.

The Children's Letter to the United Nations

War is fighting.
People hate and take people's clothes away.
They should think not to make a war.
They shouldn't have guns.
In Sunday-school they say: "Thou shalt not kill."
People have to be good.
The thing is to make them very kind by giving them good training in this world.
Why don't they love each other and why don't they help ev'ryone
And help to make some buildings for our fam'lies too,
To have some more cows and horses and lambs,
And apple trees and pear trees and peach trees too,
And train the people to make things, to be a barber,
To learn to be a barber and things like that?
Please ask God to kindly make us better,
Ev'ry girl and boy in all the world,
The children across the ocean and all the Americans too.
Please ask God to make the children better.
Please ask God to make them better.

Liza Lehmann was an English composer and singer. She is considered one of England's foremost female composers from the beginning of the 20th century and was the first president of the Society of Women Musicians. She wrote *There Are Fairies at the Bottom of Our Garden* from the text of a poem by Rose Fyleman. This poem was meant for children, which makes it the perfect text for this set, and for Lehmann to set as she wrote many songs for children.

There Are Fairies at the Bottom of Our Garden

There are fairies at the bottom of our garden,
It's not so very, very far away,
You pass the gard'ner's shed
and you just keep straight ahead;
I do so hope they've come to stay.
There's a little wood with moss in it and beetles
And a little stream that quietly runs through;
You wouldn't think they'd dare
to come merrymaking there,
Well, they do – yes, they do!

There are fairies at the bottom of our garden,
They often have a dance on summer nights;
The butterflies and bees
Make a lovely little breeze
And the rabbits stand about and hold the lights.
Did you know that they could sit upon the moonbeams
And snatch a little star to make a fan,
And dance away up there
In the middle of the air?
Well, they can – yes, they can!

There are fairies at the bottom of our garden,
You cannot think how beautiful they are;
They all stand up and sing
When the fairy queen and king
Come lightly floating down upon their car.
Oh, the king is very proud and handsome,
And the queen, now can you guess who that could be?
She's a little girl all day,
But at night she steals away -
Well, it's me- yes, it's me!

Drew Gaspirini is an American composer and lyricist best known for his contemporary musical theatre compositions. This piece explores a kindergartener's first crush in a way that showcases that slightly sporadic mind of a child. Throughout the song, you get to see the development of this relationship and the wonder of how this child still has so much to learn.

Kindergarten Love Song :)

I see that you have a "Mario" lunch box.
Well, look; I have one too.
But mine has a strap and a matching thermos.
Is that something that impresses you?
I see that your mom packed you Nilla Wafers.
Well, that's my favorite food
I'll trade you some wafers for my Jello pudding.
Is that something that you'd like to do?
Do you wanna hold hands? I mean for red rover...
I think there's a game on the grass.
Or maybe we could... Oh! You're talking to Kylie.
Never mind. See you in class!

I notice you notice my crayon collection,
And I noticed you were missing your blue...
You can borrow mine if you wanna.
Is that something that you'd like to do?
Do you wanna play games?
I like playing "ninjas"
or we could pretend we can fly!
The reason I ask is 'cause I think I like y...
Never mind! Your mom's here! Bye!

What's your favorite letter of the alphabet so far?
Mine is "M"! mmm mmm mmm.
Do you like dogs? Mine's out in my mom's car.
She's a lab. And her name is Genevieve

I have a question! My favorite color's magenta!
Guess what! I'm turning 6 on Friday!
My mom's bringing cupcakes to class!
My dad can't come 'cause he has work.
He says Obama takes half of what he makes.
... I don't know what that means!
Do you like my hair-cut? Thanks!
Do you have a scooter? I have a scooter.
We could ride some time if you want...

I like the handshake we made up together.
It's hard, but it's something we do.
Do you think it's weird that you're friends with a girl?
'Cause I don't. I hope you don't too.
Do you wanna come by for some juice after school?

It's the juice with the cat on the can...
If you don't that's okay... I just...
Wait! You do??? Okay, great! It's a plan!

Dreams

This set of songs are all about dreams. I believe that J. K. Rowling said it best when she wrote "For in dreams we enter a world that is entirely our own. Let them swim in the deepest ocean or glide over the highest cloud." Through dreams we are able to enter a childlike state again and to live out fantasies that are otherwise impossible.

Paolo Tosti was an Italian composer who was best known for his Canzone Napoletana and expressive Italian songs. This song depicts a dream of love. While sometimes it can be sad to realize things are dreams, we can always escape to our dreams if we so desire.

Sogno

Ho sognato che stavi a ginocchi,
Come un santo che prega il Signor,
Mi Guardavi nel fondo degl'occhi,
Sfavillava il tuo sguardo d'amor.

I dreamed that you were kneeling
Like a saint who was praying to God
You looked into the depths of my eyes
Your gaze sparkling with love

Tu parlavi e la voce sommessa
Mi Chiedea dolcemente mercè,
Solo un guardo che fosse promessa
Imploravi, curvato al mio piè.

You spoke with a whispered voice
Sweetly begging me for mercy,
Only a look that could be a promise
Begging bent at my feet.

Io taceva e coll'anima forte
Il desio tentatore lottò.
Ho provato il martirio e la morte,
Pur mi vinsi e ti dissi di no.

I was quiet but my soul was strong
I struggled with the tempting desire
I felt martyrdom and death
Then I overcame it and told you no.

Ma il tuo labbro sfiorò la mia faccia
E la forza del cor mi tradi.
Chiusi gli occhi, ti stesi le braccia,
Ma, sognavo e il bel sogno svanì!

But you lips brushed against my face
And the strength of my heart was betrayed
I closed my eyes and extended my arms to you
But I was dreaming and the beautiful dream vanished

Franz Schubert was an Austrian composer from the late classical and early romantic periods. He is best known for his lieder such as this piece. The text of this piece was written by Matthäus von Collin and it reflects on night and dreams.

Nacht Und Träume

Heil'ge Nacht, du sinkest nieder;
Nieder wallen auch die Träume,
Wie dein Mondlicht durch die Räume,
Durch der Menschen stille Brust.

Holy night, you sink down
Dreams flow down low too
Like moonlight through space
Through the man's quiet breast

Die belauschen sie mit Lust;
Rufen, wenn der Tag erwacht:
Kehre wieder, heil'ge Nacht!
Holde Träume, kehret wieder!

They watch with delight
They call when the day wakes up
Return again, holy night!
Lovely dreams, return again!

Ricky Ian Gordon is an American composer known for composing vocal music. This piece explores wishes and dreams. The words express a desire for something better and greater for the future and present the hope of being able to make a difference in the world and do something greater than just passing through life.

A Horse With Wings

I wanna cry I wanna feel the world around me whirling by.
I wanna cry for those that live and those that die.
You sing a lullabye.
I wanna cry.

I wanna pray that all my wishes could come true after today,
And should I put a word for you in should I say an extra Kyrie?
I wanna pray.

I wanna lie I wanna think that things are better than they are.
I wanna think we've gotten further
And that far is just an inch away.
I wanna lie.

A horse with wings;
I wanna think of things like that, and other things.
I want two brothers, one who laughs, and one who sings,
I hope the future brings a horse with wings.

I wanna know
the things they told me way back then were really so
I wanna make a little mark before I go,
Not barely just get by. I wanna fly!

Breaking of Innocence

J. M. Barrie's Peter Pan tells the story of a boy who never grew up and kept his childlike innocence. After Wendy's adventures in Neverland, she asks her mother why she is no longer able to fly. Her mother responds that it is because she is a grown up and because grownups "are no longer gay and innocent and heartless. It is only the gay and innocent and heartless who can fly." When we grow up, we lose some of the joy and innocence that we possessed as a child and once that breaking of innocence happens, we cannot go back.

Richard Oberacker is an American composer and conductor best known for his musical theatre compositions and his conducting of Cirque du Soleil's Kà in Las Vegas. *Bandstand* the musical takes place right after World War II and depicts the struggles of the soldiers returning as well as the struggles of the people back home who lost loved ones. This piece shows the two main characters finally expressing their true feelings for each other, but with the realization that they are in real life and not a fantasy so they will have to deal with the complications and hardships that go along with that.

This is Life

If we were in an MGM film,
we would kiss and walk through that door there.
If we were in a radio play,
we'd admit we're friends but there's more there.
If we were singing Hammerstein songs
We could fix all the wrongs in rhyme.
But this is life, with the heartache it brings
And we know that these things take time.

If we were in a Hemingway book,
We would laugh and drink 'til the morning.
If this were a ballet then I might
sweep you off your feet without warning.
Or film noir with a dang'rous affair
I would ask if you'd care to stay.
But this is life, and I'm wondering if
We should play it a different way.

Maybe perfect nights of celebration.
Hotel hallway brief flirtation
Might be overrated. Life's more complicated.
We could write our own take on it.
Or leave well enough alone shake on it.

No one planned for a moment like this,
There's no perfect script that provides us

Words to say, or the answers that might
Overcome the past that divides us.
Movie stars with the passions they feel
Somehow in the last reel unite, that's right,
But this is life, so at least for today
We should probably say good night.

Manuel De Falla was a Spanish composer and is considered one of Spain's most important musicians from the early 20th century. This piece plays heavily on Spanish expressions that cannot just be taken word for word. It tells of someone who feels betrayed by someone who does not love them back.

Canción

Por traidores, tus ojos voy a enterrarlos;
No sabes lo que cuesta, "Del aire,"
Niña, el mirarlos. "Madre, a la orilla, Madre."

Because your eyes betrayed me I'm going to bury them
Ahhh, you don't know how much it costs
Mother there it goes!

Dicen que no me quieres, ya me has querido
Váyase lo ganado, "Del aire,"
Por lo perdido. "Madre, a la orilla, Madre."

They say you don't love me, but you already did.
Whatever! Ahhh,
There it goes! Mother, there it goes!

Translation by Diana Peralta

Celcius Douherty's the K'e is taken from the text of an ancient Chinese poem. The text tells the story of this woman's first love and how that love led to betrayal and loss, and caused her to lose her childhood and the innocence that she once possessed.

The K'e

The K'e still ripples to its banks, the moorfowl cry.
My hair was gathered in a knot, and you came by.
Selling of silks you were, a lad not of our kin;
You passed at sunset on the road from far-off ts'in.

The frogs were croaking in the dusk; the grass was wet.
We talked together and I laughed; I hear it yet.
I thought that I would be your wife; I had your word.
And so I took the road with you, and cross the ford.

I do not know when first it was your eyes looked cold.
But all this was three years ago, and I am old.

Jason Howland is an American composer, conductor, and music director who is best known for his work in musical theatre. *Little Women*, based on the book of the same title, takes place during Civil War times, and tells the story of four sisters, Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy, and their relationships with each other and those around them. In this piece Beth, who has scarlet fever, is saying goodbye to Jo, because she knows she will soon be dead. Beth is reassuring Jo that she is okay with her death because she feels so loved and grateful for the life she has lived.

Some Things Are Meant to Be

Let's pretend we're riding on a kite.
Let's imagine we're flying through the air.
We'll ascend until we're out of sight.
Light as paper we'll soar.
Let's be wild, up high above the sand.
Feel the wind, the world at our command.
Let's enjoy the view and never land.
Floating far from the shore.

Some things are meant to be:
The clouds moving fast and free.
The sun on a silver sea.
A sky that's bright and blue.
And some things will never end:
The thrill of our magic ride.
The love that I feel inside for you.

We'll climb high, beyond the break of day.
Sleep on stardust and dine on bits of moon
You and I will find the Milky Way.
We'll be mad and explore.
We'll recline, a loft upon the breeze.
Dart about, sail on with windy ease.
Pass the days doing only as we please.
That's what living is for.

Some things are meant to be:
The tide turning endlessly.
The way it takes hold of me.
No matter what I do.
But some things will never die:
The promise of who you are,
Your memories when I am far from you.
All my life I've lived for loving you. Let me go now.

Young Love

In *Great Expectations*, Charles Dickens writes, “I loved her against reason, against promise, against peace, against hope, against happiness, against all discouragement that could be” and the Wizard of Oz says, “hearts will never be practical until they are made unbreakable.” These quotes represent young love. It is full of passion and may be unclear or have many signs saying that it is wrong, but that is why with the love, there is also pain. Young love is naïve to the world around it, and that makes it even stronger causing more pain when it does not end well.

Léo Delibes was a French composer best known for his operas and ballets. While this piece is in French, it features Spanish influence that is present in the rhythms and style of the piano and voice as well as in the content of the text. In this piece she is looking for love and hopes a man will find her attractive, saying that all he has to do is ask and she would be his.

Les filles de Cadix

Nous venions de voir le taureau
Trois garçons, trois fillettes,
Sur la pelouse il faisait beau,
Et nous dansions un bolero
Au son des castagnettes;

We had come from watching the bullfight
Three boys, three girls,
On the lawn it was beautiful,
And we were dancing a bolero
To the sound of castanets;

Dites moi, voisin, si j'ai bonne mine,
Et si ma basquine va bien, ce matin,
Vous me trouvez la taille fine?
Les filles de Cadix aiment assez cela.

Tell me, neighbor, if I am attractive,
And if my skirt is good this morning,
Do you find my waist slender?
The daughters of Cadix love that.

Et nous dansions un bolero,
Un soir c'était dimanche,
Vers nous s'en vint un hidalgo
Cousu d'or, la plume au chapeau,
Et la poing sur la hanche:

And we were dancing a bolero,
On a Sunday evening,
Towards us came a nobleman
With a gold feather in his hat
And his fist on his hip

Si tu veux de moi, brune au doux sourire,
Tu n'as qu'à le dire, cette or est à toi.
Passez votre chemin, beau sire,
Les filles de Cadix n'entendent pas cela.

If you desire me, brunette with the sweet smile,
You just have to say, and this gold is for you.
Go on your way, handsome sir,
The daughters of Cadix do not listen to that.

Gioachino Rossini was an Italian composer who gained acclaim for his operas. This piece is about a shepherdess who sells flowers and fruit to passerby's during the day, and then offers shelter in the night for the one she deems worthy. In this flirty piece you can hear a yodeling style as the shepherdess is calling out to people from the mountains to come to her.

La Pastorella

Son bella pastorella,
che scende ogni mattino
Ed offre un cestellino
Di fresche frutta e fior.
Chi viene al primo albore
Avrà vezzose rose
E poma rugiadosa,
Venite al mio giardin,

Chi del notturno orrore
Smarri la buona via,
Alla capanna mia
Ritroverà il cammin.
Venite o passeggero,
La pastorella è qua,
Ma il fior del suo pensiero
Ad uno solo darà!

I am the beautiful shepherdess,
Who climbs down every morning
And offers a little basket
Of fresh fruit and flowers.
Those who arrive at the first of dawn
Will have lovely roses
And dewy apples,
Come to my garden,

Those in the the night's terror
Who lose the good road,
At my little cabin
Will find way again.
Come oh traveler,
The shepherdess is here,
But the flower of your thoughts
To only one she will give!

Enrique Granados was a Spanish composer and pianist. His music sticks to a Spanish style and presents his sense of nationalism. This piece presents the side of young love that is full of hate and angst. The woman longs for a man that she loves, but in vain realizes that he does not love her back.

Amor y Odio

Pensé que yo sabría
Ocultar La pena mía
Que por estar en lo profundo
No alcanzará a ver el mundo:
Este amor callado
Que un majo malvado
En mi alma encendió.
Y no fue así porque él vislumbró
El pesar ocultó en mí.

Pero fue en vano que vislumbrará
Pues el villano
Mostrose ajeno de que le amara.
Y esta es la pena que sufro ahora:
Sentir me alma llena de amor
Por quien me olvida,
sin que una luz alentadora

I thought that I would know
How to conceal my sorrow
That is so profound
That the world will not reach to see it:
This reserved love
That an evil working man
Aroused in my soul.
And it was not because he discerned
The grief hidden in me.

But it was in vain that he discerned
Since the villain
Showed indifference of my love for him.
And this is the pain that I suffer now:
To feel my soul full of love
For the one who forgets me,
With no encouraging light

Surja en las sombras de mi vida.

Rising up in the shadows of my life.

Alan Menken is an American composer who is best known for his musical theater, and film compositions. *Little Shop of Horrors* tells the story of Seymour, a florist, who grows a plant who gains a taste for humans, Audrey, his coworker, and Orin, Audrey's abusive boyfriend. Seymour feeds Orin to his plant without Audrey's knowledge. Audrey, unaware of what has happened, feels guilty about Orin's disappearance because she wished it. During this song, she confides in Seymour about her feelings and realizes what a wonderful guy Seymour is.

Suddenly Seymour

Lift up your head. Wash off your mascara.
Here take my Kleenex. Wipe that lipstick away.
Show me your face, clean as the mornin'.
I know things were bad, but now they're okay.

Suddenly Seymour is standin' beside you.
You don't need no makeup, don't have to pretend.
Suddenly Seymour is here to provide you
Sweet understanding. Seymour's your friend.

Nobody ever treated me kindly.
Daddy left early. Mama was poor.
I'd meet a man and I'd follow him blindly.
He'd snap his fingers. Me, I'd say "sure."

Suddenly Seymour is standin' beside me.
He don't give me orders. He don't condescend.
Suddenly Seymour is here to provide me
Sweet understanding. Seymour's my friend.

Tell me this feelin' lasts till forever.
Tell me the bad times are clean washed away.
Please understand that it's still strange and frightnin'.
For losers like I've been it's so hard to say:

Suddenly Seymour, he purified me.
Suddenly Seymour showed me I can
Learn how to be more the girl that's inside me.
With sweet understanding. Seymour's my man.

Ashley Sova, soprano
Bachelor of Music Education Recital

Bonnie Bird, piano

Sunday, April 14, 2019
Holsclaw Hall
4:00 p.m.

PROGRAM

Children's Songs

- I Hate Music!* Leonard Bernstein
From *I Hate Music!: A Cycle of Five Kid Songs* (1918-1990)
- The Children's Letter to the United Nations* Celius Dougherty
(1902-1982)
- There Are Fairies at the Bottom of Our Garden* Liza Lehmann
(1862-1918)
- Kindergarten Love Song* Drew Gasparini
(b. 1986)

• • •

Dreams

- Sogno* Francesco Paolo Tosti
(1846-1916)
- Nacht und Träume* Franz Schubert
(1797-1828)
- A Horse With Wings* Ricky Ian Gordon
(b. 1956)

INTERMISSION



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS

Fred Fox School of Music

Breaking of Innocence

This is Life..... Richard Oberacker
From *Bandstand* (b. 1969)
Sebastian Alameda, tenor

Canción..... Manuel de Falla
From *Siete canciones populares españolas* (1876-1946)

The K'e Celius Dougherty
(1902-1986)

Some Things Are Meant to Be Jason Howland
From *Little Women* (b. 1971)
Brianna Barnhart, soprano

• • •

Young Love

Les filles de Cadix Léo Delibes
(1836-1891)

La Pastorella Gioacchino Rossini
(1792-1868)

Amor y Odio Enrique Granados
(1867-1916)

Suddenly Seymour..... Alan Menken
From *Little Shop of Horrors* (b. 1949)
Jacob Walters, tenor

• • •

*Ashley Sova is a Bachelor of Music Education student in the voice studio of
Dr. Kristin Dauphinais. This recital is presented as an Honors project.*

HOLSCLAW HALL IS PROUD TO FEATURE THE
Peter & Debbie Coogan Steinway B



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS

Fred Fox School of Music

Artist's statement

For my thesis, I presented a one hour long solo voice recital as the culminating project of my degree. I was required to learn and memorize the 15 songs on my recital, and I wrote program notes for the entire concert program. This recital was titled *The Perspective of Innocence*: a recital from the point of view of children and other characters who did not fully understand their situation. Innocence is defined as the lack of worldly experience or sophistication, and two examples that my dictionary gave for the word were the trusting innocence of childhood, and the age of innocence was over. With the approach of graduation, and the fear of not knowing what was next, several of my friends and I had been reminiscing on our childhoods and how we wished we could go back to that time and return to the state of childhood where we were unaware of the hardships of the world. It was during this time that I decided on my theme. I wanted to reflect on that sense of childhood joy and naivety that we lose as we age and face the brokenness of the world.

In structuring my recital into the theme, I decided to focus on four subcategories that connected to the idea of innocence in order to create my different sets of music. These four categories were Children's Songs, Dreams, Breaking of Innocence, and Young Love. Each of these themes captured an important moment in the development of a child.

The first set of Children's Songs were all from the perspective of young children. The first piece on my recital was "I Hate Music" by Leonard Bernstein. This piece is part of a 5 song cycle, and they are all written from the perspective of a girl who is only 10 years old. The next piece was entitled "The Children's Letter to the United Nations" by Celius Dougherty used the text from a letter written by a child to the UN following World War II. This piece shows what children were thinking and feeling about the war at the time, and demonstrates a different side of

the thoughts of children. The third piece in this set was “There are Fairies at the Bottom of Our Garden” which is from the perspective of a young girl who believes there are fairies at the bottom of her garden. At the end she provides a riddle to the audience about a fairy queen, and it ends by revealing that she is the fairy queen. This piece shows the wonderful imagination that children possess. The final piece in this set was a musical theatre piece by Drew Gasparini, called “Kindergarten Love Song.” This song is from the perspective of a kindergartener who has a crush on a boy in her class and details her attempts to express her love to him such as comparing lunch boxes, sharing crayons, playing at recess and inviting him over for juice after school. This piece truly encapsulates the mentality of a kindergartener with the long tangential texts that follow a simple melody.

I decided on the second set of dreams because even though dreams are not exclusive to children, through dreams we can return to our childlike selves, and we can leave behind our reality. Also, In dreams, we cannot control what happens and so we are innocent to our surroundings. This set started with an Italian piece by Paolo Tosti entitled “Sogno” which means dream in Italian. It depicts a beautiful dream the character is had about a loved one coming to her to express their love. In the end she is sad because she woke up and the beautiful dream was gone. In waking up, she was pulled from the happy and childlike state that she was in during the dream. The next piece, *Nacht Und Träume*, by Franz Schubert ends with a call out for dreams to return because the dream like state was more beautiful than reality. Finally, I closed this set with “A Horse With Wings” by Ricky Ian Gordon a song that focuses on this character’s desires. The character starts with practical things and moves to more carefree desires such as a horse with wings, and even ending with the desire to fly.

The third set was about the breaking of innocence. I included this set because it is the turning point in a child's life. Once they lose their innocence, they cannot go back to their childhood. These songs were about the loss of a love, death, betrayal and the realization that life is not a fairytale and we have to live in reality and that we cannot always have the dreams we desire. The first song "This is Life" is from the musical *Bandstand*. This musical deals with the struggles of soldiers coming back from World War II and the loved ones of soldiers who died in the war. The characters in this song are singing about how if they were in a movie or musical, they would be the romantic lead and would be together, but since it is real life, for now they need to say goodnight and go their separate ways. Their dreams are broken by the reality of life and they have to focus on the real world. The next song *Canción* by Manuel De Falla is a Spanish Song that plays heavily on Spanish expressions that cannot be translated into English, but roughly express betrayal at a loved one leaving the character, but she will be fine because it is out of her hands. "The Ke" by Celius Dougherty is taken from an old Chinese poem that tells the story of a young love that pulled this woman away from her family, and then the love left her and she ended up alone. It is the tragic story of the loss of her innocence and how through that, she lost everything. The next song, "Some Things are Meant to Be" is from the musical *Little Women*. This song takes place between Beth and Jo right before Beth dies. At this point, Beth knows she is going to die, and Beth is telling Jo that some things are meant to be, like her dying. She is telling Jo to keep living her life and even though Beth is dying and losing her chance at life, Jo should keep living out her childhood.

The final set of my recital was entitled *Young Love*, and it focused on how young love is naïve to the world around it and how that actually makes it stronger, rather than it being a weakness. The first song in the set was a French piece titled "Les filles de Cadix" or the

daughters of Cadix. It is a flirtatious song with the influence of Spanish dance that depicts the story of a night where this woman met someone she likes, and expresses that if he wants to be hers, he just has to say so. The second piece, “La Pastorella” is an Italian piece by Gioachino Rossini, is about a shepherdess who sells fruit and flowers to those around during the day, but is really just looking for someone she deems worthy to offer her shelter to at night. This lighthearted piece follows her search for young love. The third piece “Amor y Odio” by Enrique Granados shows the angst and anger on the other side of young love where it is unrequited. The woman in this piece longs for the man she loves, and when she realizes that he does not love her back, she sees no light anymore, and is full of pain as the man she loved has become a villain to her. The final piece in the recital was “Suddenly Seymour” from Alan Menken’s musical Little Shop of Horrors. This song is between Audrey and Seymour, the two leads of the show. Audrey is upset at this point because her abusive boyfriend has gone missing and she feels guilty and that it is her fault because she wished that he would be gone. Right before this song, she confided her feelings in Seymour, and during this song, Seymour tries to cheer him up, and she realizes that she is not alone and that Seymour is a wonderful guy. These songs about young love show the happy moments that growing up can lead to, and it shows that even though growing up and losing that innocence can be scary, there are moments where we can find it again.

Overall, this recital helped me to grow as a performer, and to be able to tell a story through music. I was able to grow greatly in my craft through this experience, and I am excited that I will be able to look back on this as a success for years to come.

Link to recital:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1bFfVUEi80Oj3amvzQaEVLZ_xuY60tl_/view?usp=sharing