

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Voice Recital performed by Kerrigan Bigelow, soprano and Ben Pawlak, piano

Sunday, March 12, 2023, at 3:00 p.m.

Parish of Christ Church, 33 Central Street, Andover, Massachusetts

Admission is \$20/\$10 for students and seniors.

Reception to follow the program.

COVID protocol: mask-wearing is recommended, but not required.

The program features the songs of Joseph Canteloube, Lee Hoiby, Claude Debussy, Sergei Rachmaninoff, Richard Strauss, Gabriel Fauré, Willem Pijper, Benjamin Britten, James McConaughy, and Samuel Barber.

On Sunday March 12, 2023, at 3: 00 p.m. Music at Christ Church Andover will present soprano Kerrigan Bigelow and pianist Ben Pawlak in a recital featuring the works of Joseph Canteloube, Lee Hoiby, Claude Debussy, Sergei Rachmaninoff, Richard Strauss, Gabriel Fauré, Willem Pijper, Benjamin Britten, James McConaughy, and Samuel Barber. Admission is \$20, \$10 for students and seniors. The performance will be held at the Parish of Christ Church, 33 Central Street in Andover, Massachusetts. A reception will follow the recital in the church's parish hall. Mask wearing is recommended but not required. For further information you may contact the church's Minister of Music Barbara Bruns at 978-475-0529 or 978-290-3835.

Soprano Kerrigan Bigelow, from North Andover, Massachusetts, is an undergraduate student at The Juilliard School in New York City. There, she is under the tutelage of Elizabeth Bishop. At Juilliard, Bigelow has performed in many recitals, presenting various types of repertoire including contemporary opera and art song. In 2021, she covered the roles of Sospetto and Grace 2 in the Juilliard Opera premiere production of Rossi's *L'Orfeo*. During the summer of 2022, she made her debut as Zerlina in Mozart's *Don Giovanni* and as Kahout in Janáček's *The Cunning Little Vixen* at the Chautauqua Opera Conservatory. Bigelow placed first and won the award for Best Performance of a Grieg Song at The Edvard Grieg Society Vocal Competition in New York. Other accomplishments include second prize in The National Society of Arts and Letters Shirley Rabb Winston Scholarship Competition, and first prize in the Boston National Association Teachers of Singing, and also Music Worcester Young Artists Competition in 2021. Bigelow will make her Juilliard Opera debut as Una Novizia in *Suor Angelica* by Puccini and her New York Festival of Song debut at Juilliard in May. She also will sing in Brian Zeger's *Liederabend* production and present her junior year recital at the end of March at Juilliard. In August, she will present a recital at The Edvard Grieg Society in New York focusing on Icelandic music.

Pianist Benjamin Pawlak is a graduate of The Juilliard School, where he studied under Jonathan Feldman and Lydia Brown. A 2019 graduate of Texas Christian University, he received a Master of Music in piano performance there while studying with John Owings, and holds bachelor of music in piano performance from Ithaca College where he studied with Vadim Serebryany, Jennifer Hayghe, and the late Greg DeTurck. At Juilliard, he performed as a member of the Juilliard Orchestra and AXIOM, and appeared in ChamberFest during the winter term of 2020 and in the spring of 2022. During his time in New York City, Benjamin has also performed at venues such as Merkin Hall at the Kaufman Center, and Carnegie Hall. Other appearances include performances in Juilliard's *Sonatenabend* and *Liederabend* series. Since graduation, Benjamin has played with the New York Philharmonic, the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Princeton Symphony Orchestra. He was a featured musician in the Nashville Chamber Music Society's summer 2022 concert series. Pawlak has performed as soloist, chamber musician and accompanist in numerous national and international music festivals. Additionally, he has composed music for solo piano, voice and piano, and film and has had his works performed in both Europe and the United States. His writing on film music was presented in December 2022 at the Université de Versailles as a part of their symposium on John Williams.