

School of Music Staff

Dr. Jeffrey Bush.....Director of Music
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William Posey.....Director of Concert and Support Services
Constance Driscoll.....Administrative Assistant, Bands
Judy Sager.....Administrative Assistant
Kimberley Velazquez.....Administrative Assistant
Donna Wampler.....Program Support Specialist

Upcoming Events

April 2017

Show Choir Concert, Sun., Apr. 30 @ 2 pm, Anthony-Seeger

Group Voice Recital, students of Scott Z. Smith Sun., Apr. 30 @ 6 pm, MB Rm 142

May 2017

DMA Recital | Shirley Lam, *piano* Fri., May 5 @ 4 pm, Recital Hall

DMA Recital | Tin Vi La, *piano* Fri., May 5 @ 8 pm, Recital Hall

For tickets and further information, visit www.jmu.edu/forbescenter or call the Forbes Center Box Office at (540) 568-7000. For more on the School of Music, go to www.jmu.edu/music or call (540) 568-6714.

JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY

School of Music

presents the Doctoral Recital of

Jordan Davidson, *tenor*

Jeremiah Padilla, *piano*

Dr. Andrew Connell, *clarinet*

**The Art Songs of
Zachary Wadsworth**

Saturday, April 29, 2017

5 pm

Music Building



Document Abstract

This Doctor of Musical Arts Document explores the role Zachary Wadsworth plays in the development of American Art Song. Born in 1983, composer Zachary Wadsworth has written over forty songs. His music is complex and challenging with influences from all musical eras, with much of his work focusing on the techniques and sounds of twentieth century modernism. Wadsworth's choice of poetry focuses on English literature from many different musical eras, embracing a broad range of themes subjects, and emotions.

Following a brief biography of Wadsworth's early life and career, the document will survey his contributions to contemporary American art song regarding Wadsworth's compositional process, influence, and style. This study will analyze Wadsworth's influences, specifically Benjamin Britten's text settings, J.S. Bach's techniques in counterpoint, and how Wadsworth incorporates them in his writing and personal style. This thesis will also explore the use of centricity as a compositional device that underpins the formal foundations of his music. While his music can be characterized as atonal, Wadsworth suggests pitch centers as a foundation which may be unnoticeable to most singers. This document will include an annotated catalog of forty-five works for solo voice and various accompanying instruments. The annotated catalog will provide support in music analysis, text analysis, non-standard score indications and an outline of Wadsworth's interpretive preferences. The annotated catalog will provide essential information about the piece as well as the level of difficulty and accessibility for singers, teachers, pianists, and coaches. The research was conducted through interviews with Wadsworth. In addition to preparing, coaching, and performing many of these works, the remaining songs were examined through both professional and unpublished recordings. Several prominent performers of Wadsworth's vocal music provided live interviews. This study serves as a basis for further research into Wadsworth's life and works, and for successful performances of his songs.

Program

The Dreame

from *for nothing lesse than thee*

The Garden by Moonlight

Aubade

from *Pictures of the Floating World*

Under the Night Forever Falling

deep inside the woods

Abendländisches Lied

Patrons are reminded to turn off all pagers, cell phones, personal computers, and any other electronic devices.

The unauthorized videotaping or any other recording of this production is strictly prohibited in adherence with Federal copyright laws.

*This recital is presented in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree Doctor of Musical Arts.
Jordan Davidson is from the studio of Kevin McMillan.*