



Western Music

Don Wright Faculty of Music

FRIDAYS @ 12:30 SERIES MUSICA CANADIANA, PART ONE

Friday, October 15, 2021

12:30 p.m., [via livestream](#) from von Kuster Hall

Margie Bernal and Bethany Hörst, *sopranos*

Marianna Chibotar-Rutkevich, *piano*

Seven Tableaux from the Song of Songs (1992)

- I. O let him kiss me*
- II. I am dark but lovely*
- III. Who is that coming*
- IV. How beautiful you are my love*
- V. Catch for us the little foxes*
- VI. He took me to the wine garden*
- VII. Set me as a seal upon your heart*

Srul Irving Glick
(1934-2002)

Bethany Hörst, soprano

Canciones de Exilio (2010)

Text by Julia Esquivel (1930- 2019)

- Salario*
- Suspiro*
- Elección*
- Certeza*
- Decisión*

Jeff Smallman
(b.1965)

Margie Bernal, soprano

THE ARTISTS

Colombian soprano **Margie Bernal** recently completed her Doctorate of Musical Arts (D.M.A) at Western University. Margie holds a Master in Music from this same institution and a Bachelor degree in Voice Performance from National University of Colombia. A versatile performer, Margie enjoys to perform in both operatic and recital stages. Her interest in contemporary music has led her to collaborate with various composers, premiering different works. Margie has been a soloist for the National Symphonic Orchestra, National University Orchestra, and Bogotá Philharmonic Orchestra in Colombia; Mississauga Symphony Orchestra, Orchestra London Canada, Western University Orchestra and Windsor Symphony Orchestra in Canada; and The Boise Philharmonic in the USA. She has collaborated with Caldas University Opera Workshop (Colombia), the Canadian Operatic Arts Academy, Summer Opera Lyric Theatre, Queen of Pudding's Music Theatre, Toronto Operetta Theatre (Canada) and the Accademia Europea Dell' Opera (Italy). Some of Margie's operatic credits include Ännchen (Weber's *Der Freischütz*), Salud (Falla's *La Vida Breve*), Mimì and Musetta (Puccini's *La Bohème*), Micaëla (Bizet's *Carmen*), Donna Anna (Mozart's *Don Giovanni*), Magda Sorel (Menotti's *The Consul*) and the title role in Puccini's *Suor Angelica*. Margie's passion for Spanish music and commitment to her Hispanic heritage has led her to delve into the world of Spanish art song, and Spanish opera, being the latter the inspiration for her doctoral research "Introduction to a Spanish Opera Aria Anthology for Soprano". She currently resides in London, ON, with her husband Emer, and two daughters Anna María and Gabriella.

Described as possessing "a bright, round and supple sound," (*Kitchener-Waterloo Record*) **Bethany Hörst** is quickly establishing herself on the stage in both opera and concert. Ms. Hörst has appeared in numerous productions with opera companies across Canada, France and the Netherlands. Her roles include multiple Baroque operas, many Classical works and 20th century repertoire. Equally comfortable in concert, Ms. Hörst has sung oratorio works with orchestras and major choirs across Canada and the USA. Ms. Hörst has won several international competitions including the Lyndon Woodside Oratorio Solo Competition at Carnegie Hall in New York City. Hörst was twice honoured as a District Winner and Regional Finalist at the Metropolitan Opera National Auditions. She has received the Encouragement Award at the Met Regional Finals and also at the Palm Beach International Opera Competition. Hörst is also a recipient of the prestigious Canadian Opera Grant, the Jacqueline Desmarais Award. Hörst has placed first in the Advanced Singer's category at NATS and NATSAA (Chicago and Indianapolis), the NYCO Mozart Competition, the International Aria Competition, the Opera Lyra Ottawa Studio Competition and Conservatory Canada's Vocal Competition. Hörst recently placed second at the Brian Law Competition in Ottawa. She has been honoured with Western University's Board of Governor's Award, the A. E. Rose Award, the Doris E. Tanton Award and the Abner Martin Music Scholarship. Ms. Hörst holds a Masters of Music in Literature and Performance from Western, where she currently teaches voice.

Marianna Chibotar-Rutkevich is an accomplished Concert Pianist, holding a Masters Degree in Piano Performance and Literature and Musicology, and a Post-Masters Degree in Piano Performance and Pedagogy from the State University of Kishinev in Moldova, where she also held a studio as an Associate Professor of Piano. She has been privileged to have studied with some of the most internationally renowned piano masters and legendary pedagogues from Russia, the Ukraine, Romania, Germany, Holland, Brazil and Australia. Having performed internationally playing numerous solo recitals, concertos, and chamber music, Marianna has honed her talents as a pianist and has further developed her special commitment to music. As an accomplished performer she has received any awards and scholarships and has been praised in newspapers for her unique sound quality. The most noteworthy international competitions and festivals include those held in Prague, Athens, Rotterdam, Bucharest, Ettingen and Moscow. While maintaining an active performing schedule, she is also a dedicated teacher. Marianna is currently on the piano faculty at the Don Wright Faculty of Music at Western University, as Piano Instructor and Collaborative pianist. Highly demanded for collaborating with vocalists and instrumentalists she holds respect as a teacher and her students have distinguished themselves at the national and international levels, winning top prizes at competitions and being accepted into prestigious universities and music schools. Recently she has been honoured to perform live for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation Radio and Television, to appear as the official Pianist for the Canadian Music Competition, and the Provincial and National Music Competitions. She also maintains a full studio of private piano students in London, Ontario.

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