



College of Music  
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

ARTIST-FACULTY RECITAL SERIES  
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# **The Old Man and the Sea, Sì, Sí, C, See?**

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Richard Fracker, tenor  
Elden Little, piano

Generously sponsored by  
Jim and Elaine Rauschert

Tuesday, March 15, 2022  
Cook Recital Hall, 7:30 p.m.

# PROGRAM

## The Old Man and the Sì . . .

from *Un Ballo in Maschera*

Dì' tu se fedele

Giuseppe Verdi

(1813–1901)

## The Old Man and the Sea. . .

from *Old English Popular Songs*

adapted from *Three Poor Mariners*

“One” Poor Mariner

from *Three Songs of the Sea*

The Sea-Bird

Moonlight

By the Sea

Roger Quilter

(1877–1953)

## The Old Man and the Sea, Sea, C . . .

Beau Soir

Claude Debussy

(1862–1918)

Les Berceaux, Op. 23

Gabriel Fauré

(1845–1924)

from *Faust*

Charles Gounod

Salut, demeure chaste et pure

(1818–1893)

## Intermission

## The Old Man and the Sí, Sí, Sí . . .

Toledo

Agustín Lara

(1897–1970)

Valencia

María Teresa Lara

(1904–1984)

Granada

Agustín Lara

## The Old Man and the Sì, Sì, Sì . . .

Vieni sul mar

Traditional

Santa Lucia Luntana

E.A. Mario

(1884–1961)

Torna a Surriento

Ernesto de Curtis

(1875–1937)

## The Old Man and the See, See, Sea . . .

Deep River

arr. Harry Burleigh

(1866–1949)

Peace Like a River

arr. Brandon Hayes

Crossing the Bar

Christopher Cooley

## ARTIST-FACULTY BIOS

Named a Beal Outstanding Professor by Michigan State University and its current Area Chair of the Vocal Arts, tenor **Richard Fracker** has cultivated a distinguished performing and teaching resume. Career highlights include 14 international and national broadcasts from “Live at the MET”; world premiere productions of Philip Glass’s *The Voyage*, *Hydrogen Jukebox*, and *Orphée*; and international and national appearances including Calaf (*Turandot*), Cavaradossi (*Tosca*), Nadir, (*Les Pêcheurs de Perles*), Edgardo (*Lucia di Lammermoor*), Rodolfo (*La Bohème*), Hoffman (*The Tales of Hoffman*), Tonio (*La Fille du Régiment*), Duke (*Rigoletto*), and Alfredo (*La Traviata*), among others. Fracker students have routinely appeared professionally in major opera, musical theater, television, and concert venues throughout the world, earned prominent apprenticeships and residencies; won and placed in national and international vocal competitions (including the Metropolitan Council Auditions and NATS National Student Auditions); and secured substantial merit awards and teaching assistantships to the most prestigious graduate programs in the country.

**Elden Little** has worked as a pianist/coach in numerous operatic productions that range from baroque operas to contemporary works with Austin Opera, Opera Birmingham, Kentucky Opera, Opera Neo, San Antonio Opera, and Des Moines Metro Opera, where he has been a member of the music staff since 2006. He was a frequent festival artist and chamber music coach for the Austin Chamber Music Summer Festival and Workshop and toured with the acclaimed choral ensemble Conspirare, and can be heard as a featured soloist on their recording “Through the Green Fuse”, available on the Clarion label. A sought after collaborator and vocal coach, his most recent collaboration on Lee Hoiby’s opera *Bon Appétit* with Grammy winning mezzo-soprano Joyce Castle was broadcast on Iowa PBS and subsequently won the Upper Midwest Regional Emmy winner for outstanding arts program.

His educational training includes a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of California at Santa Barbara in piano performance, and Master and Doctorate degrees in applied piano from the University of Texas at Austin. His collaborative piano studies were with noted collaborative pianists Eugene Bossart, David Garvey, and Gwendolyn Koldofsky.

# TRANSLATIONS

## Di' tu se fedele (Tell me if faithfully)

Tell me if faithfully the waves await me,  
If the beloved women soaked in tears bidding me  
good-bye has betrayed my love.  
With tattered sails and my soul in anguish, I know  
how to plow through the deadly waves-hell and  
heaven to defy. Hell and heaven to defy.  
Quickly explore, divine the challenges—not lightning  
nor furious winds, nor death or love can turn me  
away from the sea . . .

The agile prow (of my ship) tosses me over the womb  
of the sea and if shaken, I wake to the whistles of  
of the storm.  
I recite amid the thunderclaps the sweet songs of my  
native home, reminding me of the kisses of her  
last good-bye—igniting new strength in my heart.  
On then, ring-out your prophecy whatever fate may  
arise; in our souls enters no terror.

## Beau Soir (Beautiful Evening)

When the setting sun turns the rivers pink,  
and a warm shiver runs over the wheat fields,  
a suggestion to be happy seems to emerge and  
ascend to the troubled heart;  
A suggestion to taste the charm of being in the world  
while one is young and the evening beautiful, for  
we ourselves are ebbing as this wave ebbs—she (the  
wave) to the sea—and we to the tomb.

## Les Berceaux (The Cradles)

Along the quay the great ships let the swells tilt  
them in silence.  
Unnoticed the cradles the women's hand rock, but  
comes the day of goodbyes.  
For the women must cry and the curious men attempt  
the horizons that lure them.  
And on that day the great ships fleeing the fading port  
feel their bulk (burdened) by the soul of distant  
cradles.

## Salut, demeure chaste et pure

What unknown emotion enters me?  
I feel love taking over my being.  
O Marguerite, at your feet I am here!  
Greetings, dwelling chaste and pure where one feels the  
senses the presence of an innocent and divine soul!  
What treasure in this poverty, modesty, what happiness!

## TRANSLATIONS (cont.)

O Nature, is it here that you made her so beautiful!

This is where the child slept under your wing, grew up  
before your eyes.

Here with your loving breath enveloping her soul she blossomed in this  
angel from heaven!

It is here! It is here!

### Toledo (City in Spain)

(Like a) Spanish woman with steel eyes  
that heaven kissed

Princess, that the Tagus (River) bathed,  
mouth that will toast the light of the sun . . .

Pride of New Castille, wonder flower that wraps  
around a shawl . . . dagger that my eyes nailed  
to the middle of my heart.

Toledo, sequins for the world are you that adorn like a  
superb cape of light.

Spain, know you are like a brave woman  
that hurts with her (spirited) will.

Toledo, the sword your words recorded—melting into  
one, nobility and value.

Steel from one eye that knows to look at and kill like a dagger kills.

### Valencia

Songs (popular) and ballads of Valencia

A popular refrain that rings like a bell.

The waves of the Júcar (River) bathe the orange trees  
and this is why in your kisses are like sweet water.

You are the legend of the (popular) ballads.

That is why in your eyes, Valencian eyes—tremble two  
eyes that are like tyrants, bewitching Valencian eyes.

Valencia, the garden of Spain—I want the aromas of  
your jasmine trees for my song—beautiful Valencia  
that I dream of . . .

I do not know what is tepid and strange in your  
sunlight . . .

My Valencia, of olive trees—petal that covers my  
Spanish soil with blood and silk.

Valencia, that I dreamed—I do not know what is  
Tepid and strange in your sunlight . .

### Granada

Grenada, a land dreamed of by me.

My singing becomes gypsy when it is for you.

My singing made of fantasy,

## TRANSLATIONS (cont.)

My singing blossoms of melancholy I come to give you.  
Grenada, bloody land of evening bullfights,  
Women who keep the charm of brown eyes.  
Of dreams, rebellious and gypsy-like, covered with  
    flowers and I kiss your mouth of deep red, a juicy  
    apple that speaks of loves.  
Granada, my beautiful one, sung in precious couplets.  
I have nothing else to give you, but roses of soft  
    fragrance worthy to frame the Virgin Morena  
    (the Black Madonna)  
Granada, land of beautiful women, of blood, and sun.

### Vieni sul mar

Oh, maiden the moon awakens you,  
Spreading its rays on the beloved sea.  
Come with me, a dark-haired sailor awaits you.  
Trust your mariner's boat.  
But you sleep and don't think about your trust,  
But those who live on love do not sleep!  
I fly to you at night on the beach and in the day  
    I fly to you with my heart.  
Come on the sea, come to row.  
You will feel the thrill of your marinar!

### Santa Lucia Luntana (Far Away)

The ships are leaving for lands far away.  
They sing on board, the Neopolitans!  
They sing—while in the sunset the bay  
    disappears.  
And the moon above the sea—a glimpse of Naples, lets them see.  
Santa Lucia!—far away from you what  
    melancholy.  
We circle the whole world, we go to seek our  
    fortunes—but when the moon rises, far away  
    from Naples you cannot stay away.

### Torna a Surriento

See the see, how beautiful it is.  
It inspires all kinds of sentiments, like when you are with  
    people who care—you make them daydream.  
Look, look at this garden; smell these orange buds.  
There isn't a perfume more fine—going straight into  
    to your heart?  
And you say: "I'm leaving, goodbye!"  
You're walking away from this heart, from this land of  
    love—do you have the heart not to return?  
But don't leave me, don't give me this torment.  
Come back to Surriento, make me live!

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