



Thursdays at Noon

Winners' Recital with baritone Korin Thomas-Smith and pianist Joy Lee

Jim and Charlotte Norcop Prize in Song
and Gwendolyn Williams Koldofsky Prize in Accompanying

Thursday, March 28, 2019 at 12:10 pm, Walter Hall, 80 Queen's Park

PROGRAM

The Confession Stone

Robert Fleming (1921-1976)
text: Owen Dodson (1914-1983)

Oh my boy, Jesus
Don't pay attention to the old men in the temple
Jesus, did you know?
There's a supper in Jerusalem tonight
Cold and icy in my bed
Bring me those needles, Martha
Everything is black
Oh my boy, Jesus

3 Songs for Baritone and Piano

Robert Owens (1925-2017)
text: Claude McKay (1890-1948)

The Lynching
If We Must Die
To The White Fiends

The Long Walk Home

Peter Tiefenbach (b. 1960)
James Ostime (b. 1983)

1. Prologue
2. Too Good...
3. ...To Be True
4. Outta There
5. Message Received
6. The Hunger
7. Nearly Home
8. The Busker
9. Epilogue

I've long been interested how the aspects of our identities shape how we experience, how we perform, and how we receive. When you see me on stage, in photos, or on the street, what exactly do you see? The id, the ego, the quid, the pro or the quo? As humans, we have the ability to impart our own experiences through art, seemingly without exception – but how far does that extend? The three stories performed today embody drastically different takes on the common human experience of “loss,” and the stages of experiencing loss. Each character loses something; their family, their humanity, and their view of the world. Does my being a woman, or black, or any other intersection of identity change how we can relate to these ourselves?

It's been a pleasure and a dream to prepare this recital with Joy as we stand in the footsteps of giants. We hope you enjoy hearing a little piece of us!

Korin Thomas-Smith

JIM AND CHARLOTTE NORCOP PRIZE IN SONG

The annual prize was established in 2009 and is awarded to the singer at the Faculty of Music showing the most promise in performance of the song literature. Past winners have been Leslie Ann Bradley, Geoffrey Sirett, Aviva Fortunata Wilks, Andrew Haji, Charles Sy, Jennifer Krabbe, Emily D'Angelo, Joel Allison and Simona Genga.

GWENDOLYN WILLIAMS KOLDOFSKY PRIZE IN ACCOMPANYING

The annual prize was established in 2011 and is awarded to the collaborative pianist at the Faculty of Music showing the most promise in performance of the song literature. Past winners include Susan Black, Narmina Afandiyeva, Ivan Jovanovic, Lara Dodds-Eden, Sonya Sim, Mélisande Sinsoulie and Jialiang Zhu.

Gwendolyn Williams was born November 1, 1906 in Bowmanville, Ontario. She studied piano in Toronto with Viggo Kihl. At 17, she went to London where she studied piano with Tobias Matthay and ensemble playing and accompanying with Harold Craxton. Later, she spent several months in Paris studying French repertoire with Marguerite Hasselmans. When she was 20, she returned to Canada and was plunged almost immediately into an accompanying career when the great Canadian soprano, Jeanne Dusseau asked Mrs. Koldofsky to play for her. One musical engagement led to another at an exhilarating pace. A year after her return to Canada, she met and married the violinist Adolph Koldofsky. For the next quarter century, she accompanied all of her husband's solo recitals and played every form of chamber music with him on concert stages around the world. In 1945, the couple moved to Los Angeles, where Mrs. Koldofsky was engaged to teach accompanying at the School of Music of the University of Southern California. She taught accompanying, song literature and chamber music at USC from 1947 to 1988. She was also a longtime member of the faculty of the Santa Barbara Music Academy of the West, where she served as director of vocal accompanying from 1951 to 1989. She judged competitions, lectured and taught master classes for accompanists, singers and ensembles throughout the United States and Canada. Among her many students were mezzo-soprano Marilyn Horne, pianist Martin Katz and soprano Carol Neblett. For more than 40 years, Koldofsky appeared as an accompanist throughout the world, working with such distinguished artists as Rose Bampton, Suzanne Danco, Herta Glaz, Mack Harrell, Marilyn Horne, Jan Peerce, Hermann Prey, Peter Schreier, Martial Singher and Eleanor Steber. She assisted Lotte Lehmann on many tours during the latter's last eight years of performing and for 11 years was Lehmann's accompanist and coach-assistant at the Music Academy of the West. Gwendolyn Williams Koldofsky died November 12, 1998 in Santa Barbara at the age of 92.

Please note that photography and recording are strictly prohibited during the performance. Kindly turn off all electronic devices as a courtesy to the performers and your fellow patrons.

BIOGRAPHIES



Baritone **Korin Thomas-Smith** studies at the University of Toronto in the Master of Opera Performance program studying under tutelage of Wendy Nielsen. He holds his BMus in Voice Performance from the same institution.

Performances in 2018-2019 include: Harry Easter in Kurt Weill's *Street Scene* and Nardo in Mozart's *La Finta Giardiniera*. Previous roles include Schaunard in *La Bohème*, Don Alfonso in *Così fan tutte*, and Conte Almaviva in *Le Nozze di Figaro* which he will reprise this summer as he covers the role with the Aspen Summer Music Festival. Upcoming engagements include a production of James Rolfe's *Against Nature* with Citadel and Compagnie as well as the Sorceress in *Dido and Belinda*, a rethinking of Purcell's beloved opera by Toronto's OperaQ.

In art-song, Korin premiered the orchestral arrangement of *light fragments* by Canadian composer Liam Ritz. In 2018, Korin won the First Prize, and the Operatic Aria award at the George Shirley Vocal Competition. Having dreamt of this very moment since his second year, Korin thanks the Voice Area, Steven Philcox and Wendy Nielsen for their generosity and artistry, and the amazing Joy Lee for everything that she is.



Canadian pianist **Joy Lee** enjoys a multi-faceted career as a collaborative pianist, teacher, soloist, and scholar. She is a passionate advocate of music and has performed at events and venues ranging from the Canadian Embassy in Washington D.C. (as part of the celebration of the Inauguration of US President Barack Obama) to the Banff Centre for the Arts, to performance spaces in Inuvik and Yellowknife in Canada's Northwest Territories with Toronto's own Nathaniel Dett Chorale.

Joy holds a MMus (University of Toronto) in solo piano and has worked with many leading pianists, but her love of the voice and its literature led her to collaborative piano studies at the University of Michigan with Martin Katz (MMus). She is currently in the DMA program in Collaborative Piano at the University of Toronto studying with Steven Philcox.

On piano faculty at Tyndale University College and Claude Watson School for the Arts, Joy also performs with the Toronto Children's Chorus and Tyndale Community Choir. Soprano Maeve Palmer and Joy Lee, voice-piano duo earned second-prize in the 2017 Eckhardt-Gramatté National Music Competition and, under its auspices, were invited to tour four Canadian cities sharing their passion for contemporary music.

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Photo: C. Musgrave

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