

Wife, Children, and Friends

**Folk Songs, Duets, and more by Beethoven and Schumann
presented by Truman State University's Lyceum Series:
There's No Place Like Home**

Ich wiege dich in meinem Arm

**Ludwig von Beethoven
1770-1827**

Seven Schumann duets

**Robert Schumann
1810-1856**

**Tanzlied
Er und Sie
Ich denke dein
Wiegenlied
Liebhabers Ständchen
Unter'm Fenster
Die tausend Grüsse, die wir die senden**

**Ashley Emerson, soprano
Dominic Armstrong, tenor
Lynn Kompass, piano**

Folk Song Collection

Beethoven

**To the Aeolian Harp
He promised me at parting
Oh, Would I were but that sweet Linnet
Wife, Children, and Friends
Constancy
The Dream
Love Without Hope
Enchantress, Farewell
A Soldier in a foreign land
Good Night**

**Dominic Armstrong, tenor
Ashley Emerson, soprano
Lynn Kompass, piano
Ari Streisfeld, violin
Claire Bryant, cello**

Special Thanks to Jeff Francis and his staff, Shelby and Jessie, for engineering and recording this process from the University of South Carolina Recital Hall.

PERFORMANCE NOTES

About a year ago, I accepted a job to teach voice at The University of South Carolina. My wife, Ashley, and I had been interested in a change of location for a little while, as we love the city but we are both more attached to smaller locations. A colleague and friend of mine from Juilliard and many performances, Rachel Calloway, had recently informed me of a job opening up at the University, and we decided this might be an interesting change. They expressed their openness to my continuing my performance career while teaching, and I fell in love with the campus and the community as I interviewed.

Little did we know what was coming.

As 2020 progressed, Ashley and I were faced with a very different year than we had anticipated. The show I was involved with, Intimate Apparel, at Lincoln Center Theatre, was closed on March 13. Ashley's next gig was cancelled, and then the next and the next, and soon Ashley and I were faced with a year of no in person performing and a lot of questions as to how we would proceed. I continue to say this year I made the best career decision I ever have...as much as I miss performing, we have all the necessities, and more.

While preparing for the job, I kept imagining how much I would like to do something special for Beethoven's 250th birthday. I was particularly interested in his Folk Song settings, as I had gotten a chance to do some of them with colleagues from The Curtis Institute on a tour stop in Phoenix. I began to listen to a lot of the songs (there are MANY of them), and imagined trying to form something with my students...but thinking it may be difficult under the present circumstances.

Then I got a call from Truman, asking if I would be interested in producing an online presentation for their Lyceum Series, and suddenly everything came together. I began to brainstorm how I could incorporate these songs and my new community to share with my home. I inquired with our UofSC collaborative pianist, Lynn Kompass, if she would be interested; spoke with my friend Rachel's husband, Ari, our fine violin instructor here, and met Claire Bryant, a cellist that teaches here and that also shared my time at Juilliard (we graduated the same year). Finally, I asked my wife if she would be willing to join me, and include a set of Schumann duets that we first sang for her home community in a recital we curated for Belfast, Maine.

When Dawn Howd (a high school friend) contacted me and told me that the Lyceum Series would be calling this year's concerts, There's No Place Like Home, it all fit together. This recital is a culmination of all my experiences with regards to personnel, full of new colleagues, old acquaintances, and connections to my past, present, and future.

As you listen to these, I encourage you to think of all the connections you have made in your life, and how they all tie together to make one whole. While we conclude this challenging year, filled with loss and division, 'at the long string of ills, a kind Goddess relented, and slipped in three blessings, Wife, children, and friends!'