

SUMMER 2023 @ LINCOLN COMMONS
The Evolution of French Art Song

with Ann Moss | Vocalist, Teaching Artist



Mondays from 2-3pm | June 19 - July 31 (no class on 7/3)

Beginning with early Art Songs by Hector Berlioz and Charles Gounod, and culminating in creative works by Francis Poulenc and his disciples, this six-session course traces the evolution of the vocal chamber music genre known as *Mélodie* from its early 19th century incarnations into the mid 20th century. Soprano and Teaching Artist Ann Moss leads participants on a listening journey that explores the beautiful marriage of poetry and music, referencing concurrent movements in French painting and sculpture along the way.

Come one, come all - no musical expertise is required to enjoy this material!

Each class meeting features roughly thirty minutes of guided listening, framed by contextual background on the composers, poets and musical material, with opportunities for questions and group discussion.

Participants are welcome to drop in to individual classes or join for all six.

JUNE 19: Introduction to the genre of Art Song; Hector Berlioz – *Les Nuits d'été*

In our first meeting, we'll first observe how composers over the centuries have interwoven poetry and music to create a genre of chamber music specifically designed for the intimate duo of voice and piano. Then we'll hear how French composer Hector Berlioz interpreted and elevated the genre in his pioneering song cycle *Les Nuits d'été*.

JUNE 26: *Mémoires* & *Chansons* by Gounod, Viardot, Chabrier & Chausson

In our second meeting, we'll reference earlier forms of French vocal music such as the Chanson, Ballad and Romance. Then we'll hear how 19th century composers applied elements of these old forms to the poetry of their day, ushering a new genre known as *Mélodie* into the homes and hearts of the French middle class.

JULY 10: *Mémoires* by Henri Duparc, Cécile Chaminade & Gabriel Fauré

In our third meeting, we'll hear how composers Duparc, Chaminade and Fauré advanced the French *Mélodie*, introducing elements of Impressionism, and bridging the stylistic gap between the Romantic and Modern eras.

JULY 17: *Mémoires* by Claude Debussy & Lili Boulanger

In our fourth meeting, we'll hear how Debussy and Boulanger expanded the tonality and emotional scope of the French *Mélodie* while embracing the writings of the Symbolist poets.

JULY 24: *Mémoires* by Reynaldo Hahn and Maurice Ravel

In our fifth meeting, we'll hear how music of other European and Global cultures influenced the evolution of French *Mélodie*, exploring beautiful works of vocal music by Venezuelan-born Reynaldo Hahn and Basque composer Maurice Ravel.

JULY 31: *Mémoires* by Francis Poulenc and his Disciples

In our final meeting, we'll hear how French composers of the early 20th century shifted decisively away from Romanticism and embraced influences of Modernist movements such as Jazz, Neo-Classicism and Surrealism.

**Classes meet on Mondays from 2-3pm in the Meditation Room at The Commons
1 Harvest Cir, Lincoln, MA 01773**