

in the
Atrium

ArSong

MAY 31, 2021

Ben Clements, Bass Julia Brown, Piano

Mondnacht *Moonlit Night*

Joseph Freiherr von Eichendorff (1788-1857)
Robert Schumann (1810-1856)

It was as though Heaven had softly kissed the Earth,
So that she in a gleam of blossom had only to dream of him.

The breeze passed through the fields,
the corn swayed gently to and fro,
The forests murmured softly,
the night was so clear with stars.

And my soul spread her wings out wide,
Flew across the silent land as though flying home.

The two key words in Eichendorff's poem are "meine Seele" (my soul). The image of death is tenderly and touchingly portrayed as the soul is quietly returning home, and we experience death in this context as a liberation from earthly weight and bitterness.



White Night

Mary Oliver (1935-2019)

All night I float in the shallow ponds while the moon wanders,
burning, bone white, among the milky stems.

Once I saw her hand reach to touch the muskrat's small sleek head
and it was lovely, oh, I don't want to argue anymore
about all the things I thought I could not live without!

Soon the muskrat will glide with another into their castle of weeds,
Morning will rise from the east tangled and brazen,
and before that difficult and beautiful hurricane of light

I want to flow out across the mother of all waters,
I want to lose myself on the black and silky currents,
yawning, gathering the tall lilies of sleep.

In Medias Res

(Into the Midst of Things) Excerpt Adapted
Malcolm Guite (b. 1957)

And so you start again, here in the middle,
the middle of a life you scarcely know,
How many guesses left to get the riddle?
The woods are dark and darker shadows grow.

So begin again, you have the choice,
little by little, you can travel far.

To lose yourself and find again the voice
that called and drew you here.

Learn to lament before you can rejoice.
Sing to the shadows, sing and do not fear.

But sing them into love little by little.
Begin the song exactly where you are.





Psalm 126:5-6

*“Those who sow with tears
will reap with songs of joy.
Those who go out weeping,
carrying seed to sow, will
return with songs of joy,
carrying sheaves with them.”*



MAYFLOWER Congregational Church

ART SONG IN THE ATRIUM is a virtual series, designed to offer music and poetry, images and scripture readings as aids to personal devotions and a time of meditation.

The series features singers from Mayflower’s Chancel Choir and, beginning February 22, will also feature the beautiful Bösendorfer piano acquired in the fall of 2020, housed in the warm, vibrant acoustics of our Atrium.

We are grateful to the many generous donors who contributed to the purchase of our new piano, which allows for projects such as this one to come to life.

[MayflowerChurch.org](https://www.MayflowerChurch.org)

2345 Robinson Road, S.E. Grand Rapids, Michigan 49506
616-459-6255 office@mayflowerchurch.org