



in the
Atrium

ArSong

June 7, 2021

Greg Barry, Tenor Julia Brown, Piano

Après un Rêve *After a Dream*

Romain Bussine (1830-1899)

Gabriel Fauré (1845-1924)

In sleep made sweet by a vision of you
I dreamed of happiness, fervent illusion,
Your eyes were softer, your voice pure and ringing,
You shone like a sky that was lit by the dawn;
You called me and I departed the earth
To flee with you toward the light,
The heavens parted their clouds for us,
We glimpsed unknown splendours, celestial fires.
Alas, alas, sad awakening from dreams!
I summon you, O night, give me back your delusions;
Return, return in radiance,
Return, O mysterious night!

Everyone has had wonderful dreams that they are torn away from upon waking. Perhaps even dreams that have been powerful enough that they leave us with a longing for the dream to become reality. Here in addition to the words of the poem, the intervals of Fauré's melody create pleading tones, imploring the night and the land of dreams to come back.



There is sustaining power in dreams (especially in the face of difficult realities) and subsequently our lives are diminished when dreams are thwarted or abandoned. In Langston Hugh's two short stanzas, he delivers an urgent warning to never let dreams die.

Hold Fast to Dreams

Langston Hughes (1902-1967)

Hold fast to dreams
For if dreams die
Life is a broken-winged bird
That cannot fly.

Hold fast to dreams
For when dreams go
Life is a barren field
Frozen with snow.



Still I Rise

(Abbreviated)

Maya Angelou (1928-2014)

You may shoot me with your words,
You may cut me with your eyes,
You may kill me with your hatefulness,
But still, like air, I'll rise.

Out of the huts of history's shame...I rise
Up from a past that's rooted in pain...I rise
I'm a black ocean, leaping and wide,
Welling and swelling I bear in the tide.

Leaving behind nights of terror and fear...I rise
Into a daybreak that's wondrously clear...I rise
Bringing the gifts that my ancestors gave,
I am the dream and the hope of the slave.
I rise
I rise
I rise.



"I have a Dream..."

Martin Luther King Jr.



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

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