

First United Methodist Church of Santa Monica  
*presents*



# MID-WEEK RECITAL SERIES

SPECIAL ONLINE SERIES  
FEBRUARY

2021

Wednesday, February 10, 2021

12:10 p.m.

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**ARAM BARSAMIAN**, *baritone*;  
**MARK SALTERS**, *piano*

1. “Star vicino” (Composer unknown)  
*Close to my love it is pure delight! Far away – utter misery!*
2. “Le violette” (Alessandro Scarlatti)  
*Am I aiming too high? Should I be modest, like you, lovely violets?*
3. “Ah, mai non cessate” (Steano Donaudy)  
*I long to have sweet dreams lying on a pillow made out of your sweet words!*
4. “Quando ti riverdò” (Stefano Donaudy)  
*When will I see you again, faithless lover?*
5. “Spirate, pur spirate” (Stefano Donaudy)  
*Breezes, blow around my beloved and find out if she loves me!*
6. “El paño moruno” (Manuel de Falla)  
*When a piece of fine cloth has a stain on it, it loses its value – is that understood?*
7. “Asturiana” (Manuel de Falla)  
*Upon seeing me weep, the pine tree wept along with me.*
8. “Serenade” from Songs and Dances of Death (Moussorgsky)  
*Death beguiles a young maiden with an eerie serenade – until she dies.*
9. “Once upon a Time” from All American (Charles Strouse)
10. “C’est moi!” from Camelot (Frederick Lowe)  
*Meet Lancelot – the arrogant Knight of the Round Table!*
11. “Goober Peas” (arr. Mark Hayes)  
*A facetious Civil-War era song about the delights of eating peanuts every day!*

# Translations:

## 1. “Star vicino” (Composer unknown)

Being near my beloved is the greatest delight of love  
Being far away from my beloved is love’s greatest sorrow

## 2. “Le violette” (Alessandro Scarlatti)

*(Mario, a young man, is in love with a lady who is above his station)*

Dewy and fragrant, graceful violets,  
There you are, seemingly bashful, half-hidden amid the leaves.  
You seem to rebuke my desires, which are too ambitious.

## 3. “Ah, mai non cessate” (Stefano Donaudy)

Oh, lips, you that drive me mad with desire,  
Don’t ever stop talking!  
I want to make a pillow out of the honey of your words –  
What sweet dreams of love I will dream upon it!

## 4. “Quando ti rivedrò?” (Stefano Donaudy)

When will I see you again, faithless lover?  
I have wept so many tears! Now that we are separated,  
I fear all joy has left my life forever.  
The more I despair, the more I return to hope –  
The more I hate you, the more my soul returns to loving you!  
When will I see you again, faithless lover,  
who was once so dear to me?

## 5. “Spirate, our spirate: (Stefano Donaudy)

Breezes, blow around my beloved  
and find out if she holds me in her heart!

## 6. “El paño moruno” (Manuel de Falla)

The fine piece of fabric at the store got stained.  
Now it has to be sold at a lower price  
Because it lost its value. Ay!

## 7. “Asturiana” (Manuel de Falla)

I leaned against a green pine tree to see if it would console me.  
Upon seeing me weep, it wept too...

## 8. “Serenade” from Songs and Dances of Death (Modest Moussorgsky)

Languid enchantment, the blue of the night,  
The quivering half-light of spring.  
Ailing, her head hung low, the young woman  
Listens to the whisper of night's stillness.  
Sleep cannot close her shining eyes,  
Life's pleasures summon her still,  
But under her window, in the silence of midnight,  
Death sings this soft serenade:  
'In the gloom of confinement, severe and narrow,  
Your youth is fading;  
But I, a mysterious knight,  
Will free you with my wondrous power.  
Rise and look on yourself: your countenance  
Shines with limpid beauty,  
Your cheeks are flushed, and your rippling tresses  
Encircle your waist like clouds.  
The radiant blue of your eager eyes  
Is brighter than heaven or flame;  
Your breath is as the midday heat...  
You have bewitched me.  
Your hearing is captivated by my serenade,  
Your whispering summoned this knight,  
Who has come for his final reward:  
The hour of rapture is nigh.  
Your form is fair and your trembling – enchanting...  
Ah, I shall smother you in my strong embrace:  
Listen to my words of love!  
Be silent!... You are mine!'

# About The Artists...

## **Aram Barsamian, baritone**

Aram Barsamian, baritone, received his B. M. degree from CSU Fullerton and his M. M. degree from the University of Southern California, honored as the Outstanding Music Graduate. While still completing his master's degree, he made his professional opera debut as Schaunard in *La bohème*, with the New West Symphony. In 1996 he made his debut with Sacramento Opera, as Schaunard, which led to his re-engagement with the company for the productions of Gianni Schicchi, *Il barbiere di Siviglia*, *The Merry Widow*, *Tosca*, *Carmen*, *Rigoletto*, *Les cōtes d'Hoffmann*, *La traviata*, *Roméo et Juliette*, and *La Cenerentola*. In 1997, while a member of the prestigious Merola Opera Program, he sang the role of Dandini in *La Cenerentola*, co-starring Joyce di Donato. Immediately thereafter, he made his San Francisco Opera debut in Britten's last opera, *Death in Venice*. Favorite roles include Malatesta in *Don Pasquale* (Opera Santa Barbara), Belcore in *L'elisir d'amore* (Pacific Repertory Opera), Guglielmo in *Così fan tutte* (Pacific Repertory Opera), Belfiore in Verdi's *Un giorno di regno* (Lyric Opera of Los Angeles), and Papageno in *The Magic Flute* (Nevada Opera Studio). The baritone has sung the role of André in several concert performances of Jules Massenet's opera *Thérèse* and is a co-founder of The *Thérèse* Project. Mr. Barsamian is a two-time district winner of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions.

An active concert artist, Mr. Barsamian sang in "Debbie and Friends," the concert that inaugurated Meng Concert Hall in 2006, singing alongside distinguished CSUF alumna Deborah Voigt. As baritone he has performed the solos in numerous oratorios, among which are *Messiah*, *Judas Maccabaeus*, the requiems by Mozart, Fauré, Brahms and Duruflé, *St. John Passion*, *Ich habe genug*, *Dixit Dominus*, etc. In 2011-2014 he performed recital programs honoring the poetry of Francesco Petrararch and Heinrich Heine at La Sierra University, Pasadena City College, Mt. SAC, CSULA and the Intimate Opera Company. *(To read full bio: [www.santamonicaumc.org/mid-week-recital-series](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/mid-week-recital-series))*

## **Mark Salters, piano**

Mark Salters is opera co-director, vocal coach, and pianist at California State University, Fullerton. Originally from New York, Salters served on the coaching staff of the Opera Department at the University of Michigan under Gustav Meier. Prior to that, Mr. Salters was on the faculty of the Yale University graduate opera program headed by noted director Tito Capobianco. He has accompanied master classes by many well known singers and coaches including Frederica Von Stade, Roberta Alexander, Vladamir Chernov, Carlo Bergonzi, Sherill Milnes, Madame Régine Crespin, Richard Bonyngne, Rodney Gilfry, George Shirley, Carol Neblett, Horst Günther, Marni Nixon, Paul Sperry, Richard Pearlman, Lili Chookasian, as well as many others. In addition he has worked with conductors and directors from Los Angeles Opera, New York City Opera, Frankfurt Opera, St. Louis Opera, and the Metropolitan Opera. *(To read full bio: [www.santamonicaumc.org/mid-week-recital-series](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/mid-week-recital-series))*

Rev. Patricia Farris, Senior Minister  
Tricia Guerrero, Pastoral Associate for Family Ministries  
Dr. James Smith, Director of Music  
Ty Woodward, Organist

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## Next ONLINE Mid-Week Recital: Wednesday, March 10, 12:10 p.m.

David York, organ

A native of the Pacific Northwest, David York began piano studies at age 7, organ at age 12 and received his first job as a church organist at age 16. After graduating with honors from the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, Washington, David completed a Master's Degree in Organ Performance at the University of Southern California. His teachers have included Edward A. Hansen and Ladd Thomas. David has been Director of Music at several churches in Southern California including First Presbyterian, San Pedro, St. Luke's Episcopal, Long Beach and he's currently Minister of Music at Lutheran Church of the Master in Westwood. He is Music Director at Temple Israel in Long Beach.



*First United Methodist Church welcomes you to all of our events  
and invites you to join us for ONLINE worship on Sundays at 10 a.m.*

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To see full schedule of recitals,  
and watch past recitals, visit:  
[www.santamonicaumc.org/  
mid-week-recital-series](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/mid-week-recital-series)

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