

PRESENTER: Dr. Katherine Petersen

SESSION TITLE: Cosmopolitanism, Continued

SESSION TYPE: Lecture/recital

SESSION DESCRIPTION

This lecture recital is the sequel to the 2020 presentation “Condemned Cosmopolitanism,” further investigating how nationalism affected the development of Russian art song. The aim of this project is to unearth and share beautiful, yet obscure song repertoire in the Russian Romance tradition. The anti-European sentiments sowed in the mid-nineteenth century initiated an irascible relationship between nationalist insiders and those considered foreign sympathizers. This acrimonious division intensified as the Soviet Union used the arts to ratify and demonstrate totalitarian ideology and policy over popular, dilettante, and bourgeoisie cultures. Unfortunately, many composers found themselves at odds with the Soviet government, censorship, and cultural doctrines like those established by Andrei Zhdanov. The lecture will feature art songs in Russian by Pauline Viardot, Sergei Prokofiev, Boris Prozorovskii, Boris Fomin, Lev Drizo, and Valery Volartinskii.

PRESENTER BIO

Soprano, Katherine Petersen specializes in the performance of 21st century music for voice/saxophone as well as Russian Art Song. Her doctoral dissertation “Russian Repertoire: Developmental Perspectives” investigates the paucity of Russian Song Repertoire in the American voice studio and recital hall. A Chicago based soprano, Katherine performs regularly with Folks Operetta, the Gilbert and Sullivan Opera Company, Chicago Opera Theater, and Transgressive Theatre-Opera. Roles from her 2018/2019 season include Bessie Throckmorton (*Merrie England*), Brigitta (*Iolanta*), Contessa (*Marriage of Figaro*), Counsel to the Plaintiff (*Trial by Jury*), Lady of the Lake (*Masque at Kenilworth*), and Sylva Varescu (*Csardas Princess*). Other favorite roles include Musetta (*La bohème*), Valencienne (*Merry Widow*), Francesca (*Francesca di Rimini-Rachmaninoff*), and Micaëla (*Carmen*). Katherine is the Director of Auditions for the Chicago Chapter of NATS and Assistant Professor of Voice at Northeastern Illinois University where she teaches Applied Voice, Diction, Voice Pedagogy, and Song Literature.