

About the Performers

Tess Light came to Los Alamos to work at LANL 12 years ago, and has therefore lived here longer than anywhere else. She began studying voice with Alicia Solomon two years ago. **Max Light** is a native of Albuquerque, and began playing cello at age 8 because that instrument allowed him to remain seated during the national anthem. He studied cello at University of New Mexico while an undergraduate, where he played for the University Symphony. He works at LANL.

Susan Mendel grew up in Albuquerque and returned to New Mexico six years ago after a long hiatus to the Washington, D.C. area where she worked as a hardware systems engineer and started a family with her husband James Cooley. Since moving to Los Alamos, she has enjoyed staying home with her three children and playing the piano a lot more. Susan's teachers include Arlette Felberg and Mary Beth Gunning of Albuquerque, and Laurence Davis at Northwestern University.

During her three and a half years in Los Alamos, **Jess Cullinan** has enjoyed many duets with the incomparable Alicia Solomon. She played the Mother Abbess in the Light Opera's *The Sound of Music*, and has appeared at the Little Theatre as Percy Talbott in the *The Spitfire Grill* and as the inquisitive lizard Sarah in Edward Albee's *Seascape*. Prior to moving to New Mexico, she earned a degree in Theatre Arts at Marquette University, and sang with the Milwaukee Symphony Chorus and Chicago Chorale.

Alicia Solomon has appeared repeatedly over the past 25 years with premier local arts organizations such as the Santa Fe Opera, Santa Fe Symphony, Santa Fe Concert Association, Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival, and the Desert Chorale. She has been Music Director for the Unitarian Church of Los Alamos since 2008.

Twilight, Moonlight, and Starlight

Music of the Evening

Friday, January 7, 2011 Unitarian Church of Los Alamos

€ **Abendlied (Evening song)** by Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

*When I lie on the bed, shrouded in night and cushions, so floats before me a sweet, lovely dear image.
When silent slumber has barely closed my eyes, so creeps the image quietly into my dream.
And in the morning it never fades away with the dream: then I carry it about with me in my heart the whole day.*

€ **Die Lotosblume (The Lotus flower)** by Robert Schumann (1810-1856)

*The lotus flower suffers in the Sun's radiance, and with hanging head waits, dreaming, for Night.
The moon, who is her lover, awakens her with his light, and for him she smilingly unveils her innocent flower-face.
She blooms and glows and gleams, and gazes silently upwards;
She sends forth fragrance, and weeps and trembles, with love and love's pain.*

€ **“Connais-tu le pays”(Do you know the land...)** from MIGNON by Ambroise Thomas (1811-1896)

*Do you know the land where the orange blossoms, the land of golden fruit and vermillion roses?
... It is there, it is there I would live, love and die! ... yes, it is there!*

€ **“Nuit d'ivresse”(Night of embrace)** from LES TROYENS by Hector Berlioz (1803-1869)

Night of embrace and ecstasy infinite! ... Flowers of heaven smile on immortal love!

Tess Light, mezzo soprano • Max Light, cello • Alicia Solomon, piano

€ **Nocturne** by Edvard Grieg (1843-1907)

Susan Mendel, piano

€ **Bacarolle “Belle nuit, o nuit d’amour” (Beautiful night, o night of love)** from TALES OF HOFFMAN by Jacques Offenbach (1819-1880)

Beautiful night, o night of love, smile on our embraces! Night sweeter than the day, o beautiful night of love!

Jess Cullinan, soprano • Alicia Solomon, mezzo soprano • Susan Mendel, piano

€ **Hymn** from ELIZABETHAN SONGS (1970) by Dominick Argento, poem by Ben Johnson

€ **An den Mond (To the moon)** by Franz Schubert (1797-1828), poem by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

Once more you quietly fill bush and valley with a misty glow, and at last you completely unbind my soul as well ... Babble, river, down the valley without pause or letup, babble, whisper melodies for my song. When in winter nights you rage and overflow your banks ... Happy is the person who ... enjoys that which, unknown or disregarded by others, walks in the night through the labyrinth of the heart.

€ **Clair de Lune (Moonlight)** by Camille Saint-Saens (1835-1921), words by Catulle Mendes

In the forest a dream is created, I go tonight into the forest. Your frail image appears to me and walks without truce. Is it not the end of your veil, or a slight mist in dark night? Or is it not the moonlight that travels through the shadow of the fir? And these tears, they are mine, that I hear flowing softly. Or is it really that you come to me in tears?

€ **Clair de Lune** by Gabriel Faure (1845-1924), words by Paul Verlaine

Your soul is like a landscape of charming masquerades and country dances, playing the lute and dancing, almost sad in their fantastic disguises. While singing in a minor key of triumphant love and timely life, they do not seem to believe in their happiness, and their song mingles with the moonlight. The calm moonlight, sad and beautiful, which makes the birds dreaming in the trees sob in fountains of extasy, great fountains in the slender marble.

Jess Cullinan, soprano • Susan Mendel, piano

€ **Clair de Lune** (1890) by Claude Debussy

Alicia Solomon, piano

€ **Chanson Triste (Sad Song)** by Henri Duparc (1848-1933), words by Jean Lahor

*In your heart sleeps a moonlight, a sweet moonlight of summer,
And to escape this troublesome life I shall drown myself in your light.
I shall forget past sorrows, my love, when you cradle my sad heart and my thoughts
In the loving calm of your arms.*

*You will rest my poor head, oh! sometimes on your knees, and tell it a ballad that seems to speak of us;
And from your eyes, full of sorrows, from your eyes I shall then drink
So many kisses and so much tenderness that, perhaps, I shall heal.*

€ **Stardust** (1929) by Hoagy Carmichael, words by Mitchell Parish

€ **It Never Was You** (1938) by Kurt Weill, words by Maxwell Anderson

Alicia Solomon, mezzo soprano • Susan Mendel, piano

€ **Opening scene from AMAHL & THE NIGHT VISITORS** (1951) by Gian Carlo Menotti

Alicia Solomon • Jess Cullinan • Susan Mendel

The first and last pieces of tonight’s program were from the Marsha Emry Memorial Music Library.