

For Immediate Release

March 26, 2009



***Lori Laitman's Dickinson Art Songs Featured
in New Theatre Piece***

American composer **Lori Laitman's** songs to the poetry of Emily Dickinson will be showcased in a new and exciting theatre and music production titled ***"This, and My Heart."*** A special recital version of the work will premiere at Trinity Lutheran Church in Manhattan Beach, CA on **April 4, 2009.**

"This, and My Heart" is the creation of actress Linda Kelsey, soprano Anne-Marie Ketchum, and pianist Victoria Kirsch. This celebration of Emily Dickinson's life features readings from her poetry and personal letters, and performances of her poetry set to music by four preeminent American composers: Aaron Copland, Tom Cipullo, Steve Heitzeg, and **Lori Laitman.**

Lori Laitman is one of America's most prolific and widely performed composers of art song. Her exceptional repertoire for voice includes almost 200 songs set to the poetry of classical and contemporary poets from Emily Dickinson to Dana Gioia. Her works have consistently received critical acclaim from leading industry publications (*Gramophone Magazine, Opera News, American Record Guide, The Journal of Singing*), and her latest CD of solo art songs, which includes new recordings of several Dickinson songs, is

scheduled for a May 2009 release on Albany Records. Laitman's art songs are widely performed at prestigious venues in the U.S., Canada and Europe, with recent performances in Austria by famed baritone *Wolfgang Holzmair* and in Vilnius, Lithuania by Norwegian baritone *Stein Skjervold*. Her new opera, **The Scarlet Letter**, premiered in Arkansas in November 2008 to rave reviews.

"This, and My Heart": 2:00 p.m, April 4th, 2009, Trinity Lutheran Church, 11340 Eleventh Street, Manhattan Beach, CA. Admission free. For more information call (310) 937-7275.

**What they say about composer
Lori Laitman..**

"It is difficult to think of anyone before the public today who equals her exceptional gifts for embracing a poetic text and giving it new and deeper life through music."

(Journal of Singing, 2007)

"The American song composer, Lori Laitman, has been lauded by reviewers as one of the most extraordinary song composers working today, likening her to Ned Rorem. She has an innate ability to capture the essence of textual meaning, a keen perception of vocal nuance, and a lavish intellectual and musical vocabulary that she uses with a facile ease....This cycle [*The Seed of Dream*] is indeed a masterpiece that should not be missed!"

(Journal of Singing)

"Composer Lori Laitman knows how to let the voice soar and explore, and recitalists looking to update their concert repertory would do well to pick up this disc for ideas."

(Opera News, 2000)

Source:

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