The Mahindra Humanities Center at Harvard presents
Tagore’s Nobel: A Centennial Celebration
Saturday, November 23, 2013, 4 pm
John Knowles Paine Concert Hall
Fanny Peabody Mason Music Building
1 Oxford Street, Cambridge, Harvard University

All song-poems by Rabindranath Tagore, with the exception of “En Mi Cielo Al Crepúsculo,” by Pablo Neruda. The Russian versions of four songs are by Aleksei Evgenievich Gruzinski and the French version “Lumiere Ma Lumiere” by Andre Gide.


SEQUENCE OF POEMS AND SONGS

“Tumi Sandhyar Meghmala”
“You are the Evening Cloud”
“En Mi Cielo Al Crepúsculo”
“Alo Amaar Alo”
“Light My Light”
“When and Why”
“The Source”
“I Am Like a Remnant”
“On the Seashore of Endless Worlds”
“On the Day When Death Will Knock”

INTERMISSION

“Vocation”
“Paper Boats”
“Sympathy”
“The Beginning”
“Mother I Shall Weave”
“Early in the Day”
“Yes I Know This is Nothing But Thy Love”
“Lumière Ma Lumière”
“E Monihar Amay Nahi Saje”
“This Jeweled Chain is Not for Me”

Participants
IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

Homi K. Bhabha is the Anne F. Rothenberg Professor of the Humanities, Director of the Mahindra Humanities Center, and Senior Advisor to the President and Provost at Harvard University. He is a leading cultural and literary theorist and the author of numerous works exploring postcolonial theory, cultural change and power, cosmopolitanism, human rights, and various other themes. His seminal work The Location of Culture presents a theory of cultural hybridity to understand the connections between colonialism and globalization. Bhabha is a Trustee of the UNESCO World Report on Cultural Diversity, a member of the Steering Committee of the Aga Khan Architectural Prize, and has served as Chair of the World Economic Forum’s Global Agenda Council on Human Rights. He has received honorary degrees from Université Paris 8, University College London, and Free University Berlin. In 2012 he was conferred the Government of India’s Padma Bhushan Presidential Award in the field of literature and education.

Sugata Bose is the Gardiner Professor of History at Harvard University. Bose has served as Director of Graduate Studies in History at Harvard and as the Founding Director of Harvard’s South Asia Institute. Bose was educated at Presidency College, Calcutta, and the University of Cambridge. His many books include A Hundred Horizons: The Indian Ocean in the Age of Global

Dipankar Deshmukh is a Boston-based entrepreneur and a software engineer by training. He has, since his youth, been passionately fond of Rabindranath Tagore’s music, and fascinated by the poet as a composer. He took up Tagore’s favorite instrument, the esraj, when he was in college, mainly because he did not have the gift of voice. He has received musical training in North Indian classical from the famous Sarodiya, Pandit Buddhadev Dasgupta, and continues to learn with Sitarist Pandit Sugato Nag. He has often been invited to accompany many renowned singers, both in classical (Indian) and in Rabindrasangit, Tagore’s songs.

Matthew Auerbach began studying piano with Era Lifschitz, mother and first piano teacher of the famous concert pianist, Konstantin Lifschitz. Under her tutelage, Auerbach won 1st Prize at the Thera Rabinowitch Piano Competition and 3rd Prize at the International Russian Music Piano Competition. At the University of California, he had the good fortune to study piano with Maria Ezerova, an accomplished pupil of the great pianist Mikhail Pletnev, and harpsichord with Linda Burman-Hall, a musicologist and student of the legendary harpsichordist Gustav Leonhardt. Auerbach’s piano and harpsichord performances of music by Prokofiev, Beethoven, Rachmaninoff, Scarlatti, and J.S. Bach led his music professors to describe his playing as “musically very mature, full of interesting interpretations, technically brilliant, among the most advanced in the department.” Since the beginning of his performing career, he has performed a substantial number of pieces for solo piano and has enjoyed playing a great variety of chamber music (duets, trios, and quartets with fellow violinists, cellists, and even the occasional piano concerto). Now an active member of the New York Piano Society, he won the privilege to perform at Carnegie Hall in March 2011.

Alesandra Szelag, mezzo-soprano, has appeared in concert series with the Janus Opera, as Bradamante (Alcina), Pauline (Queen of Spades), Grand Duchess of Gerolstein and Niklausse (Les Contes d’Hoffmann). She was also a member of ensemble in Commonwealth Lyric Theatre’s production of Aleko. Szelag is a student of Merrill Shea.

Jaya Lakshminarayanan, soprano, has appeared in concert series in Pennsylvania, Portugal, and throughout New England. She is a member of the medieval ensemble Meravelha, and has appeared as a soloist with the Andover Choral Society, the Philharmonic Society of Arlington, and Seven Times Salt. As a medieval harpist, she has performed with the Wellesley Collegium and the Boston Christmas Revels, and as a collector of obscure knowledge she appeared as a Jeopardy! contestant (and lost, but had a great time anyway.)

Made possible with the support of the Program in General Education and the Department of Music, Harvard University.

John Knowles Paine Concert Hall
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