

Flowing Water



New Music ≈ Great Falls

Wednesday 29 March 2023

12:05 pm

Cynthia C. Stevens

Contralto

New Hope Lutheran Church

3125 5th Avenue South

Great Falls, Montana

(406) 315-1203 • (406) 768-8023

Bring a Lunch • Beverage – Dessert Provided

Program

Five Cavafy Poems

James F. Rickley

Poems by Constantine P. Cavafy

Translations by Daniel Mendelsohn

For Contralto and Piano

1—Confusion

2—September

3—December

4—January

5—Song of the Heart

Commissioned by the Montana Arts Council

These concerts follow a protocol of new music

As put forth by the

Montana Composers' Alliance

where each original piece will be played twice

with a Q & A monitored discussion.

Monitored and Facilitated by Marjorie Kohler

Videographer—Alex Tooley

Cynthia C. Stevens relocated to Great Falls, Montana from Houston, Texas in the spring of 2013. She has earned two undergraduate music degrees from Maryville College and a Master of Music in Vocal Performance from the University of Tennessee. While a student at the University, she was chosen to participate in the Knoxville Opera Company Apprentice Program. In January 2014, Ms. Stevens assumed the responsibilities as Department Chair for Fine Arts and Education at Great Falls College, Montana State University. Cindy, in December 2018, completed her work on a second Master of Music degree from The University of Montana. She currently also serves as Choir Director for the Great Falls Symphony and the Chancel Choir at the First Congregational United Church of Christ.

Konstantinos Petrou Kavafis (April 29, 1863 - April 29, 1933), known, especially in English, as **Constantine P. Cavafy** and often published as C. P. Cavafy was a Greek poet, journalist, and civil servant from Alexandria. His work, as one translator put it, "holds the historical and the erotic in a single embrace." (2009 Maria Margaronis)

Cavafy's friend E. M. Forster, the novelist and literary critic, introduced his poems to the English-speaking world in 1923, famously describing him as "a Greek gentleman in a straw hat, standing absolutely motionless at a slight angle to the universe." Cavafy's consciously individual style earned him a place among the most important figures not only in Greek poetry, but in Western poetry as a whole.

Cavafy wrote 155 poems, while dozens more remained incomplete or in sketch form. During his lifetime, he consistently refused to formally publish his work and preferred to share it through local newspapers and magazines, or even print it out himself and give it away to anyone interested. His most important poems were written after his fortieth birthday, and officially published two years after his death. (Wikipedia)

Daniel Mendelsohn (translator) (born 1960) is an American author, essayist, critic, columnist, and translator. Best known for his internationally best-selling and award-winning Holocaust family memoir *The Lost: A Search for Six of Six Million*, he is currently the Charles Ranlett Flint Professor of Humanities at Bard College, the Editor at Large of the *New York Review of Books*, and the Director of the Robert B. Silvers Foundation, a charitable organization dedicated to supporting writers of nonfiction. (Wikipedia)

James F. Rickley is presently accompanist and organist at New Hope Lutheran Church. Originally from the Pennsylvania area, he chose to spend his retirement in Great Falls. His music composition training was through the University of Cincinnati and Temple University. He served as a music teacher and school administrator in Pennsylvania, Nevada, and Montana. He is the owner of the music publishing firm WayWordBound with compositional works available through the online operations of Hal Leonard Corporation.

Flowing Water | New Music

Series One

April 5, 2023

Dusty Molyneaux, Trumpet

Series Two

November 29, 2023

Cynthia Stevens, Contralto

December 6, 2023

Alan Johnson, Tenor Saxophone

December 13, 2023

Norman Menzales, Flute

December 20, 2023

Norman Menzales,
Tyler Menzales, Flute

Support Contributions to: New Hope - Concert Series

Confusion (1896)

My soul, in the middle of the night,
is confused and paralyzed. Outside:
 its life comes into being outside itself.

And it awaits the improbable dawn.
And I await, am worn down, and am bored,
 even I, who am in it or with it.

September of 1903 (1904)

At least let me be deceived by delusions, now,
so that I might not feel my empty life.

And I was so close so many times.
And how I froze, and how I was afraid;
why should I remain with lips shut tight;
while within me weeps my empty life,
and my longings wear their mourning black.

To be, so many times, so close
to the eyes, and to the sensual lips,
to the dreamed of, the beloved body.
To be, so many times, so close.

December 1903 (1904)

Even though I may not speak about my love—
I may not talk about your hair, or your lips, or your eyes;
still, your face, which I keep inside my soul;
the sound of your voice, which I keep inside my mind;
the September days that dawn within my dreams:
my words and phrases take their shape and color from these,
whatever subject I may touch upon, whatever idea I may be
speaking of

January of 1904 (1904)

Ah this January, this January's nights,
when I sit and refashion in my thoughts
those moments and I come upon you,
and I hear our final words, and hear the first.

This January's despairing nights,
when the vision goes and leaves me all alone.
How swiftly it departs and melts away—
the trees go, the streets go, the houses go, the lights go:
it fades and disappears, your erotic shape.

Song of the Heart (1886)

With you, I think, all that is pleasant smiles on me,
in the mirror of your eyes there is reflected joy.
Stay, my light, and still I have not told you even half
of all that presses down upon my heart so amorous,
that rushes to my lips with just a single look from you.
If you wish it, do not speak to me, or say enchanting
words of love and adoration. 'Tis enough that you're nearby,
that I tell you that I want you, that I'm near you, that the morn-
ing
dew that you breathe in, I breathe in, too; and if you
find that these too are excessive, 'tis enough I merely see you!

*Cavafy, C.P.. Complete Poems Knopf Doubleday Publishing
Group. Kindle Edition. 2012*

Flowing Water | New Music



Plans are underway for 2024

Series Three

February 14, 21, 28, March 6, 13, 20, 27

Series Four

November 27, December 4, 11, 18

Sunshine Productions, Ltd

Bruce J. Bull, President • Sunshine Productions, Ltd.
2015 6th Ave N • Great Falls, MT 59401
Phone: (406) 452-0307 • Fax: (406) 727-2235
www.sunshinetheatrical.com



WAYWORDBOUND
MUSIC PUBLISHING



JAMES F. RICKLEY
COMPOSER
1501 9TH STREET SOUTH
UNIT 322
GREAT FALLS
MONTANA 59405
406-768-8023



American Guild of
ORGANISTS



3125 5th Ave. S., Great Falls, MT
(406) 315-1203 www.newhopeglorg
Rev. Tammy Bull, Pastor

*Our mission: to share our faith in Christ by serving all with
respectful compassion.*



MONTANA
ARTS COUNCIL

*Supported in part by a grant
from the*

Montana Arts Council,

*an agency of the State
Government,
and the*

**National Endowment for
the Arts**

**NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
for the
ARTS**
 arts.gov