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# Young composers to debut works at NMH

For the Recorder

Wednesday, January 16, 2019

Da Camera Singers is bridging repertoire from the early Renaissance period to pieces composed in 2018 with two upcoming concerts, including one at Northfield Mount Hermon School.

The “Then and Now” concerts will be performed on Friday at 8 p.m. at Amherst College’s Buckley Recital Hall, and Sunday at 3 p.m. at NMH’s Raymond Concert Hall. A free will donation is appreciated at both events.

According to a Da Camera Singers (<http://dacamerasingers.org/>) press release, the repertoire from 2018 includes the three winners of the newly established Young Composers Competition, launched last spring by the Amherst-based chorus.

Da Camera invited student and young professional composers from New England to submit pieces to be performed, and then held a workshop for the three winning composers in October, the press release states. The group was awarded a grant from Choral Arts New England Foundation as well as from the Mass Cultural Council to support the project.

The winning composers were each paired with a past Da Camera commission composer, and had the opportunity to hear their works performed and to get feedback.

“We are committed to providing choral works for the next generation of singers as well as keeping alive the classical choral repertoire,” noted Da Camera President Frank Couvares.

The revised compositions will be premiered at the “Then and Now” concerts. The Renaissance repertoire of the “Then” portion of the concert includes Le Chant Des Oiseaux by Clement Janequin and other Renaissance masterworks by Claude le Jeune, Orlando de Lassus, Pierre de la Rue and John Dowland.

The winning composers are Kelvyn Koning, a graduate student in composition at Boston Conservatory of Music; Kunal Gala, a sophomore at Berklee College of Music; and Katianna Nardone, a senior music major at Amherst College. The composers who mentored the winners are Lewis Spratlan, professor emeritus at Amherst College; Ronald Perera, professor emeritus at Smith College; and Craig Sandford, a music faculty member at Northfield Mount Hermon School.



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