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Recital: Honoring the Retirement of Angus Godwin

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Pablo Cohen

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ITHACA COLLEGE

SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Recital

**Honoring the Retirement of
Angus Godwin**

**Megan Palange '08, soprano
John Rozzoni '06, baritone
Cory Walker '00, tenor
Nazomi Ando, soprano
Jennifer Wells Button '94, soprano
Matthew Bennett '86, baritone
Jeannie Clark Fisher '75, soprano**

**Assisted by faculty members:
Andrea Merrill, piano
Pablo Cohen, guitar**

**Hockett Family Recital Hall
Saturday, March 31, 2007
4:00 p.m.**

ITHACA

PROGRAM

Welcome — Dean Arthur Ostrander

Ah! Je veux vivre
from *Roméo et Juliette*

Charles F. Gounod
(1818-1893)

Megan Palange

Va! Je t'ai pardonne ... Nuit d'hyménée
from *Roméo et Juliette*

Charles F. Gounod

Megan Palange
Cory Walker

Aria: "Where'er you walk"
from *Semele*
Recitative: "I rage, I melt, I burn!"
Aria: "O ruddier than the cherry"
from *Acis and Galatea*

George Frederic Handel
(1685-1759)

I've Got You Under My Skin
So in Love
from *Kiss Me, Kate*

Cole Porter
(1891-1964)

John Rozzoni

Elijah Rock
His Eye Is on the Sparrow
Didn't It Rain

Traditional Spirituals

Cory Walker

Mesícku na nebi hlubokém
from *Rusalka*, B. 203 (op. 114)

Antonin Dvorák
(1841-1904)

Nazomi Ando

Offrande
Si mes vers avaient des ailes

Reynaldo Hahn
(1874-1947)

Liebe und Frühling I
Liebe und Frühling II

Johannes Brahms
(1833-1897)

Vissi d'arte
from *Tosca*

Giacomo Puccini
(1858-1924)

Jennifer Wells Button

A Selection of Songs You Likely Know

Matt Bennett

Exsultate, Jubilate
I.

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
(1756-1791)

Caro nome
from *Rigoletto*

Giuseppe Verdi
(1813-1901)

Bachianas Brasileiras, No. 5

Heitor Villa-Lobos
(1887-1959)

Jeannie Clark Fisher

Alumni Performers

Nozomi Ando is a graduate student in physics at Cornell University. She was a physics major and music performance minor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology where she received music scholarships to aid her studies in voice. At Ithaca she had the unique opportunity of studying voice with Angus Godwin under the Ithaca College-Cornell University Exchange Program. She has participated in choral groups at Cornell and enjoys performing at every opportunity.

Upon graduating from Ithaca College, **Matthew Bennett** immediately began his career as a singer and actor by joining the National Tour of *Jesus Christ Superstar*. From there, he joined the Off Broadway company of *The Fantasticks*, where he eventually played a record five roles in the longest running musical in history. Matt continued to draw on Angus Godwin's firmly embedded tutelage as he went on to a successful performing career, appearing in numerous high profile Broadway and Off-Broadway plays and musicals, national tours, concerts, movies and television shows. In 1999, Matt's play, *Ten Years Apart*, established his presence as a playwright, so for the last several years, he has been writing, directing and producing for stage and screen. He is presently directing a movie entitled, *Particle Fever*, while simultaneously producing a new series for Discovery, *Tales From Shore*. This is the first time he has sung in public in five years.

A native of Rochester, New York, **Jennifer Wells Button** BM '94, MM '96 has been teaching vocal music since her graduation from Ithaca College in 1996. For almost 15 years, Jennifer has maintained a private studio of voice students. She is currently teaching middle school vocal/general music in East Rochester, New York. Prior to her current position, Jennifer taught K-8 vocal/general and instrumental music in the Greece and Hilton school districts. She also served as choir director and cantor at Our Mother of Sorrows Church in Greece for five years. Jennifer actively performs as a church soloist and adjudicates for National Federation of Music Clubs (NFMC). She also teaches voice, recorder and keyboard classes during the summers in East Rochester. She and her husband, Brian, live in Greece with their two daughters Alexa, 7, and Hailey, 12.

Jeannie Clark Fisher received her degree in voice performance from Ithaca College in 1975 and has had a broad and varied musical performing experience. She has performed with the Dallas Symphony Chorus, as a guest artist with Musica Nova directed by

Robert Rodriguez (University of Texas at Dallas), as a soloist with many local orchestras and bands, and currently sings with the Dallas Opera Chorus. She performs popular music as well and has sung and played the piano and guitar for hotels, restaurants, country clubs, coffeehouses, college campuses, bookstores, weddings and retirement communities and has CD recordings of folk and original music. She teaches voice and guitar in her home studio and has taught in the private lesson programs for two school districts in Texas for eight years. She is also a piano accompanist for voice and band student contests and recitals. She has continued her education at the University of North Texas and has participated in many workshops applying The Alexander Technique to voice performance. Jeannie and her husband, Wayne, live in the Dallas area and have two daughters, Ann and Sarah, who are also musicians.

Megan Palange is a junior vocal performance and music education major. She studied with Mr. Godwin for six semesters and looks forward to further studies with him this summer. Under his guidance, Megan has enjoyed a variety of performance opportunities including two recitals, as a member of the Ithaca College Choir, and appearances in master classes with Phyllis Curtin and Sharon Sweet. Mr. Godwin – Thank you for all your guidance, support and enthusiasm. You will be missed.

John Rozzoni graduated from Ithaca College this spring. After completing his senior recital earlier this month; he will be moving to Italy in April to study the Italian language in preparation for a career in opera. He also hopes to participate in a young artists program in the coming years. John is very thankful for the guidance and encouragement Professor Godwin has given him throughout his years at Ithaca College.

Cory Walker, originally from Auburn, New York, studied with Angus Godwin during his undergraduate years at Ithaca College, and graduated in 2000 with a B.M. in Voice Performance. After graduating, he moved to Boston where he performed with numerous regional New England theaters in shows such as *H.M.S Pinafore*, *Chicago*, *A Chorus Line*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *West Side Story*, *Sweet Charity*, *Gypsy*, *Side Show*, and *Songs for a New World*. He also sang the role of General Bagdanovitch with New England Light opera, and served as a chorus member for Opera Boston in their productions of *South Pacific* and *Candide*. In 2005, Cory returned to Ithaca College to continue studies with Angus Godwin, and is currently a candidate for the M.M. in Voice Performance.

Angus Godwin

A native of Robeson County, North Carolina, **Angus Godwin**, graduated from Pembroke High School (Pembroke, North Carolina,) in 1947. In 1951 he received a Bachelor of Church Music from Capital University, (Columbus, Ohio). Shortly after graduation from Capital University he was inducted into the United States Army, where he served from 1951 until 1953, spending thirteen months at Camp Gifu, Gifu, Japan, as an assistant to the Protestant Chaplain, as well as conducting the Protestant and Catholic Choirs. He also sang with a Japanese dance band, and taught a course in English Conversation for the Japanese Government. In collaboration with James Lehman, an army friend, he wrote and performed in a show, "Restricted Activities", which toured to perform at various army posts in Japan.

Shortly after his discharge from the army he went to New York City to continue his musical studies. After studying privately for two years he was encouraged to audition for the Juilliard School to study for a Masters Degree in Voice. At his audition, Frederic Cohen, Director of the Juilliard Opera Theater, asked him to join the Opera Theater, rather than pursue a masters degree. He was given a full scholarship and became a member of the Opera Theater, performing leading roles during his five years at the school. He completed his requirement for a Professional Diploma in Voice after four years, but was asked to remain another year with the Opera Theater.

Near the end of his studies at Juilliard he realized that he had developed some serious vocal problems, which resulted in nodules on his vocal folds. He began to work on rehabilitating and reclaiming his natural voice, starting by using some of the Appalachian folk songs he learned in North Carolina, accompanying himself on guitar. He later formed a group, "One and Two Thirds", performing at the "Bitter End" and 35 weeks at the Hotel Plaza in New York. While performing at the Plaza a representative from the "Today Show" came to hear them, after reading reviews of their performance in the New York Times and the New Yorker. Barbara Walters and Hugh Downs were the host, and the group performed four songs on the show.

In the fall of 1968 he entered Teachers College at Columbia University to study for a Masters of Art degree, which he completed in the spring of 1969. Shortly after graduation from Columbia he received a letter from Dr. Craig McHenry, who was Dean of the School of Music, stating that the School of Music had a position for a baritone voice teacher. He met with Dean McHenry the next time he came to New York. The Dean informed him that Gideon Waldrop, the Dean of the Juilliard

School, had recommended him for the job. At the end the meeting Dr. McHenry invited him to visit Ithaca College to meet the faculty. In the fall of 1969 he was appointed to teach in the School of Music as an assistant professor.

In 1971 he signed a contract with Columbia Artists Management, Inc., to perform solo recitals of international folksongs. For the next nine years he performed more than 300 programs in 47 of the contiguous United States and Canada. He has also appeared as soloist in Town Hall and Carnegie Hall in New York City.

At the end of this academic year Angus will have been a member of the faculty of the School of Music for 38 years. Because of his love of teaching he did not retire at the usual retirement age. Teaching has been the most important and most rewarding aspect of his professional career.