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4-22-2023

## Graci Kelley, Junior Euphonium Recital

Graci Kelley

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**THE CEDARVILLE UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF  
MUSIC AND WORSHIP**

**PRESENTS THE**

**JUNIOR EUPHONIUM RECITAL**

**OF**

**GRACI KELLEY**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 2023  
3 P.M.**

**RECITAL HALL  
BOLTHOUSE CENTER FOR MUSIC  
DIXON MINISTRY CENTER**

## PROGRAM

*Beautiful Colorado* ..... Joseph De Luca (1890–1935)  
Assisted by Emily Worner, piano

*Six Studies in English Folksong* ..... Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872–1958)  
arr. Paul Droste (b. 1936)

- I. Adagio
- II. Andante sostenuto
- III. Larghetto
- IV. Lento
- VI. Allegro vivace

Assisted by Esther Dixon, piano

*Ave Maria* ..... Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)  
arr. John Glenesk Mortimer (b. 1951)

Assisted by Esther Dixon and Abigail Nelson, tenor trombones;  
and Matthew Burgess, bass trombone

*A Caged Bird* ..... Barbara York (1949–2020)  
Assisted by Emily Worner, piano

Graci is a student of Tony Weikel.

This recital is presented in partial fulfillment  
of the Bachelor of Music in performance degree.

## Program Notes

### Beautiful Colorado

Joseph De Luca was a famous Italian-American conductor, composer, and soloist. De Luca was born in Rome and started studying music at age nine. He graduated from the Conservatory of Music at Perugia when he was seventeen. A few years later, he immigrated to the United States and worked with many American groups, including John Philips Sousa's band. *Beautiful Colorado* is his most famous work. I would like to dedicate this piece to my mother – she has thoroughly enjoyed hearing me perform this piece in high school and has been very encouraging of my musical pursuits.

### Six Studies in English Folksong

This piece was written for cellist May Mukle. Ralph Vaughan Williams wrote that his goal was for these songs to be "treated with love." Throughout his musical career, Vaughan Williams sought to find what makes British national music English. He came to the conclusion that the answer lies in folk music. He traveled through rural areas of England to record folk songs and later incorporated folk music into his works. I fell in love with this piece when I first heard it and bought a copy as soon as I could.

### Ave Maria

*Ave Maria* was originally composed by J. S. Bach as *Prelude No. 1 in C Major*. In 1853, Charles Gounod (a French opera composer during the Romantic period) republished this piece, *Méditation sur le premier prélude de piano de S. Bach*, with lyrics from the Latin prayer Ave Maria and a slightly changed melody. Abigail Nelson found this piece and we used this arrangement for trombone quartet by John Glenesk Mortimer for our small ensemble presentation in our introduction to music literature class.

### A Caged Bird

"Scored for trombone (or euphonium) and piano, this piece was not written specifically in response to either the poem by Maya Angelou or that by Paul Dunbar that both refer to 'the caged bird.' However, there is no doubt that both poems have inspired my own further exploration and now musical extrapolation on the subject of being 'caged' and of still 'singing' in spite of this. With all due respect and admiration for Ms. Angelou and Mr. Dunbar, I have attempted here in my own concept of 'cagedness' to include, beyond racial references, also those issues that include gender, sexuality, economic status, medical/physical problems and any number of other situation that create restrictive and even imprisoning boundaries from which we and all others struggle to break free and find fully human, creative and even

spiritual expression within ourselves. Even within the many bonds and restrictive boundaries that we often find ourselves, it still seems to be a fundamental part of our Nature as both human and Spiritual beings that we cannot help but 'sing' in both joy and praise both from ourselves and to our own Creator despite the sometimes, even apparently insurmountable obstacles we encounter. For me, this piece is not so much an exploration as to 'why the caged bird sings' as it is simply a commenting, even with some measure of wonderment, on its remarkable inevitability. "

~Barbara York, 2014

This piece was commissioned by the International Women's Brass Conference in 2014, so Barbara York most likely intended this to be about the limitations of gender. I initially did not have any special reasons behind playing this piece. Dr. Weikel suggested that I should pick a piece written by a minority, and gave me a list of names of women composers. I found "A Caged Bird" and thought the ending was neat. As I began to prepare this piece, I started to go through some difficult life issues. Throughout this semester, God has used many people around me to see the compassionate side of the Lord. I do not always understand why things happen, but I can confidently say that the Lord has been at work through this experience and that it has deepened my faith. Emily and I have enjoyed playing this piece – we love how the euphonium and piano parts echo off each other. We are very excited to perform this piece for you!

"Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers them out of them all." Psalm 34:19 (NKJV)