Cruda funesta smania
from Lucia di Lammermoor

Cruda ... funesta, smania	A cruel, deadly frenzy
Tu m' hai svegliato in petto!	you have roused in my heart!
E troppo, e troppo orribile	Too, too horrible
Questo fatal sospetto!	is this fatal suspicion!
Mi fa gelare e fremere!	I freeze and tremble,
Solleva in fronte il crin!	and my hair stands on end, ah!
Colma di tanto obbrobrio	That a girl so infamous for shame
Chi suora mia nascéa! -	Could be a born sister of mine
Pria che d' amor si perfido	Before revealing a love so wicked
A me svelarti rea	To me that you are guilty of
Se ti colpisse un fulmine;	If you were struck by lightening
I men rio dolor.	It would be less painful.
La pietade in suo favore	Pity in her favor
Miti sensi invan mi detta ...	Don't speak it to me, it is only in vain
Chi mi parla di vendetta	speak to me of vengeance
Solo intendere potrò.	and I will hear you.
Sciagurati! ... il mio furore	Wretched pair! The storm
Già su voi tremendo rugge ...	of my terrible fury is upon you,
L' empia fiamma che vi struggi	the unholy flame that consumes you,
Io col sangue spegnerò.	I shall quench with blood!

Vissi d'arte
from Tosca

Vissi d'arte, vissi d'amore	I lived for my art, I lived for love,
Non feci mai male ad anima viva	I never did harm to a living soul!
Con man furtiva	With a secret hand
Quante miserie conobbi, aiutai	I relieved as many misfortunes as I knew of.
Sempre con fe' sincera	Always with true faith
La mia preghiera	my prayer
Ai santi tabernacoli salì	rose to the holy shrines.
Sempre con fe' sincera	Always with true faith
Diedi fiori agli altar	I gave flowers to the altar.
Nell'ora del dolore	In the hour of grief
Perché, perché Signore	why, why, o Lord,
Perché me ne rimuneri così?	why do you reward me thus?
Diedi gioielli della Madonna al man	I gave jewels for the Madonna's mantle,
E diedi il canto agli astri, al ciel	and I gave my song to the stars, to heaven,
Che ne ridean più belli	which smiled with more beauty.
Nell'ora del dolore	In the hour of grief
Perché, perché Signore, ah	why, why, o Lord,
Perché me ne rimuneri così?	ah, why do you reward me thus?

Vision Fugitive

from Hérodiade

Ce breuvage pourrait me donner un tel rêve!	This potion could grant me such a dream!
Je pourrais la revoir...comtempler sa beauté!	I might see her again...gaze upon her beauty!
Divine volupté à mes regards promise!	Divine ecstasy promised to my eyes!
Espérance trop brève qui viens bercer mon cœur	A hope all too fleeting, come to soothe my heart
et troubler ma raison...	And unsettle my reason...
Ah! Ne t'enfuis pas douce illusion!	Ah! Do not flee, sweet illusion!
Vision fugitive et toujours poursuivie	Elusive vision, forever pursued,
Ange mystérieux qui prend toute ma vie...	Mysterious angel who takes all of me...
Ah! C'est toi! Que je veux voir	Ah! It is you I long to see—
Ô mon amour! Ô mon espoir!	Oh, my love! Oh, my hope!
Vision fugitive! C'est toi!	Elusive vision! It is you!
Qui prends toute ma vie!	Who claims my whole life!
Te presser dans mes bras!	To hold you close in my arms!
Sentir battre ton cœur	To feel your heart beat
D'une amoureuse ardeur!	With the ardor of love!
Puis mourir enlacés	Then to die in entwined in each other's embrace...
Dans une même ivresse...	In a shared drunken rapture...
Pour ces transports...pour cette flamme.	For such ecstasy... for this passionate flame.
Ah! Sans remords et sans plainte	Ah! Without remorse or complaint,
Je donnerais mon âme	I would give my soul
Pour toi mon amour! Mon espoir!	For you, my love! My hope!
Vision fugitive! C'est toi!	Elusive vision! It is you!
Qui prends toute ma vie!	Who claims all of me!
Oui! C'est toi! Mon amour!	Yes! It is you! My love!
Toi, mon seul amour! Mon espoir!	You my only love, my hope!

Mark Billy, baritone, clarinet, cedar flute **Kiegan Ryan, cello and composer** **Wyatt Parthun, piano**

Mark Billy is the leading Indigenous baritone of this generation. He enjoys a multi-faceted career as a soloist in opera, recitals with piano, concerts with orchestra, and Indigenous musical education. He is a Verdi baritone, clarinetist, and cedar and silver flutist of Indigenous (Choctaw) ancestry from **Finley, Oklahoma**.

In August Mark made his debut with **Painted Sky Opera** in the role of Giorgio Germont in La Traviata by Verdi a role he was the cover for Quinn Kelsey in **Hawaii Opera Theater's** production in 2019. This season he will be soloist in Fauré's Requiem with the **Oklahoma City Philharmonic Philharmonic** and the **East Oregon Symphony**. The baritone has performed with the OKC Phil in seven different engagements, the first being to mark the opening of the **First American's Museum**, singing in Choctaw and playing cedar flute. Mark has been engaged to perform with the **Minnesota Orchestra, St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, Rochester Symphony, Lubbock Symphony, Bach Society of Minnesota, Duluth Superior Symphony, Mesabi Symphony**, and members of the **Grand Rapids Symphony** as well as **Hawaii Opera Theater, Opera Montana, Madison Opera, Fargo Moorhead Opera,** and **Painted Sky Opera**.

Mark is 2025 winner of both the **McKnight Fellowship for Musicians** and **First Peoples' Fund Native American Performing arts fellowship.**

With his partner Kiegan Ryan, Cherokee classical composer and cellist they are at the forefront of creating a new genre of classical music that focuses on combining Indigenous musical instruments and languages and the classical concert stage. In February they premiered Ryan's new concerto for cedar flute and string orchestra with the **St. Paul Chamber Orchestra** and three sacred Cherokee songs performed by Mark as soloist and concert curator. Mark and Kiegan have also created and premiered the first ever art song in the Choctaw language with a secular text in Kiegan's song cycle Memories of Love premiered at the **Schubert Club** in St. Paul last year in a sold-out recital honoring Abe Hunter. Mark is a frequent recitalist at the Schubert Club, having won first place in their scholarship competition in 2018. As a cedar flute player Mark is working to combine the modern woodwind training of classical music with the traditional nuances of the sacred cedar flute. Mark was chosen to perform flute on a concert of **R. Carlos Nakai** in Oklahoma in the spring of 2027. Mark will make the Oklahoma premier of Kiegan Ryan's Cedar Flute Concerto. The concerto is the only piece in existence composed by an Indigenous composer for only cedar flute and orchestra.

Mark is sought after as an expert in singing Indigenous languages and is an author for **NPR** on the subject of Indigenous classical music. Mark created the lead baritone role in the first opera sung in an Indigenous language. Mark is a founding creator of **Opera Montana's Wheels of Harmony Tour** that brings opera and Indigenous classical music to school age children. Mark is the lead vocal instructor for the intermediate level students at the **Chickasaw Summer Arts Academy** and is actively working to create a new curriculum to foster the next generation of Indigenous opera singers and composers. In the spring of 2026 Mark performed as solo cedar flutist and hand drum player in CTG's reading of **WEST a new Broadway musical** by Seminole citizen Tara Moses in NYC. Mark is a former young artist with **Hawaii Opera Theater** and **Fargo Moorhead Opera** and was a national finalist for **Lyric Opera of Chicago's Ryan Opera Center**. Please follow Mark on Instagram: @markwobilly and his website: markbillybaritone.com

Kiegan Ryan is a citizen of the Cherokee nation, a cellist and a composer of contemporary classical music. He composes chamber music, art song, opera, orchestral music, and film scores.

Kiegan had his compositional debut with the **Oklahoma Virtuosi Chamber Orchestra** in 2022 with Kanohelvsgi, written for String Orchestra. Kiegan is sought after as a cello soloist with orchestras and chamber ensembles. Kiegan has recently joined the **Relatives Ensemble** a brand-new, all-Indigenous music ensemble led by Danielle Jagelski. He will make his Canadian debut in February 2027 with Relatives. In March he will join the **East Oregon Symphony** as principal cellist in a concert featuring Fauré's Requiem. This past spring Kiegan made his soloist and compositional debut with the **St. Paul Chamber Orchestra** in a concert featuring his Cherokee song cycle ᎤᏃᏈᏁᏍᎩ ᏧᏂᎶᎡᏭ Kanohelvsgi Tsunilosvhi (songs from where they journeyed from), and a newly written concerto for Cedar flute and orchestra performed by Mark Billy. Last fall Kiegan made his mainstage debut with the **Oklahoma City Philharmonic** performing his original composition Kiowa Six as the cello soloist. Kiegan is a commissioned composer for the **North American Indigenous Songbook** initiative. Kiegan recently composed a song cycle that premiered in March 2025 at the **Juilliard School**.

Kiegan is the lead cello instructor at **El Sistema Oklahoma**- a non-profit that provides free music instruction to students attending Oklahoma City Public Schools. Kiegan has had performances at **National Sawdust, Juilliard, Lincoln Center** and **Yellowstone's All Nations Teepee Village.** He has had works performed by **Opera Montana, Oklahoma City Philharmonic, 48 hour Film Festival, North American Indigenous Songbook, Schubert Club** and **Victory Players at MIFA Theatre**. He grew up in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, and is currently completing his graduate degree in composition and cello performance from Oklahoma City University, studying with Edward Knight and Emily Stoops. You may follow Kiegan on Instagram @kig.wizard_ and "Kiegan Ryan" on Facebook.

Wyatt Parthun grew up in Lake George MN and did various activities in both Park Rapids and Bemidji. His love for music started in high school through singing in choir and performing in theater. He started pursuing his musical development shortly after by taking singing lessons, and about a year after that, he began piano lessons. By the end of high school, pursuing music further was a natural choice. In May 2026, Wyatt completed a double major in Piano Performance and Pedagogy under Dr. Stephen Carlson and Vocal Performance under Dr. Cory Renbarger from Bemidji State University. As a vocalist, he has performed the role of Don Curzio in Mozart's "the Marriage of Figaro" and Mr. Erlandsson in Sondheim's "a Little Night Music," and won the Don and Ione DeKrey scholarship, among other accolades. As a pianist, he has collaborated with BSU's concert choir on Copland's "The Promise of Living" and two of Brahms" liebeslieder Waltzes. He currently continues to collaborate at BSU as one of their staff pianists and plans to pursue a Graduate degree in collaborative piano with an emphasis on vocal coaching.

Program:

C’est moi from **Camelot**	Frederick Loewe 1901-1988
Intermezzo from **Cavalleria Rusticana**	Pietro Mascagni 1863-1945
Cruda funesta smania…la pietade from **Lucia di Lammermoor**	Gaetano Donizetti 1797-1848
Mon cœur s'ouvre à ta voix from **Samson**	Camille Saint-Saëns 1835-1921
Vision fugitive from **Hérodiade**	Jules Massenet 1842-1912
Intermezzo from Act III of **Manon Lescaut**	Giacomo Puccini 1858-1924
Vissi d’arte from **Tosca**	Giacomo Puccini 1858-1924

Interlude from Act IV of **Don Quichotte**	Jules Massenet 1842-1912
The Impossible Dream from **Man of La Mancha**	Mitch Leigh 1928-2014
Three Preludes for piano III. Andante con moto e poco rubato	George Gershwin arr. Birtel 1898-1937
Blues from **An American in Paris**	George Gershwin arr. Mangani 1898-1937
Love theme from **Romeo and Juliet**	Nino Rota 1911-1979
Movement 2 from **Cedar Flute Concerto** “Romance”	Kiegan Ryan b. 2002
Selection of songs announced from the stage	Kiegan Ryan b. 2002