

**Georgian Music Review – Cabaret with Patricia O’Callaghan
Sunday October 14th, 2018 - 2:30 p.m.**



Submitted by Catherine Waffle

Cabaret with Patricia O’Callaghan, Andrew Downing and Robert Kortgaard

The Georgian Music Concert Series kicked off its 2018/2019 season with a delightful afternoon of music featuring a trio of talented, Canadian musicians. Patricia O’Callaghan, soprano, Andrew Downing, double bass, and Robert Kortgaard, piano, offered the audience a change of pace in terms of musical styles. Ms. O’Callaghan has conquered many genres but has focussed her talents on Cabaret. She moved effortlessly through the cabaret repertoire from Germany, France, Spain and South America. She also featured Canadian composers such as Joni Mitchell and Leonard Cohen. Her command of languages and her flawless articulation were evident throughout. She brought this music, less familiar to many, to life. She was ably matched and beautifully accompanied by the double bass and piano.

The concert began with a soft and subtle rendition of “The Mistress”. Andrew Downing employed the jazz, pizzicato styling on the double bass to accompany the singer in this evocative tune. Robert Kortgaard on piano joined the others to offer three distinct voices in the second selection. The interplay between the trio members was playful and supportive. This song by the German composer, Kurt Weill, (“I’m A Stranger Here Myself”) demonstrated Ms. O’Callaghan’s vocal range and her talent in interpreting the style of this composer whom she has favoured and mastered (although she chose to sing this in English).

The trio then featured a young, Canadian composer, Matthew Barber – “Where the River Bends”. This quiet, introspective and reflective song allowed the double bass player to sing a harmonic line to accompany the soprano melody. The group transitioned seamlessly through jazz repertoire, the 1940’s and Weill and the French songs of Edith Piaf from the mid-20th century. A sonorous, bass harmony accompanied the Piaf song as Andrew Downing picked up the bow for the first time in this concert. Ms.

O'Callaghan's vocal prowess was on display during a rendition of the beautiful song by Michel Legrand – "If It Takes Forever". The long phrases and range of this melody would challenge many a singer but she made it sound effortless.

The second half of the concert featured an eclectic mix of styles, composers and time periods. The musicians highlighted the poetry and music of Leonard Cohen, the poetry of Federico Garcia Lorca, the popular songs of Joni Mitchell and the tantalizing music of Astor Piazzolla from Buenos Aires. The staccato, syncopated rhythms of the Piazzolla tango would be more than most musicians could handle. This trio made it look easy! A rippling piano accompaniment to a sensuous, almost operatic Spanish love song appended a Cohen selection, "I Long to Hold Some Lady". Captivating!

They 'saved the best for last'! This lucky audience, who were transported from a Barrie church to a smoky nightclub in Paris or a cabaret bar in Manhattan, enjoyed an interactive and memorable experience with the encore – Cohen's "Hallelujah"!