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## Guest Recital: Janet Hopkins, mezzo soprano

Janet Hopkins

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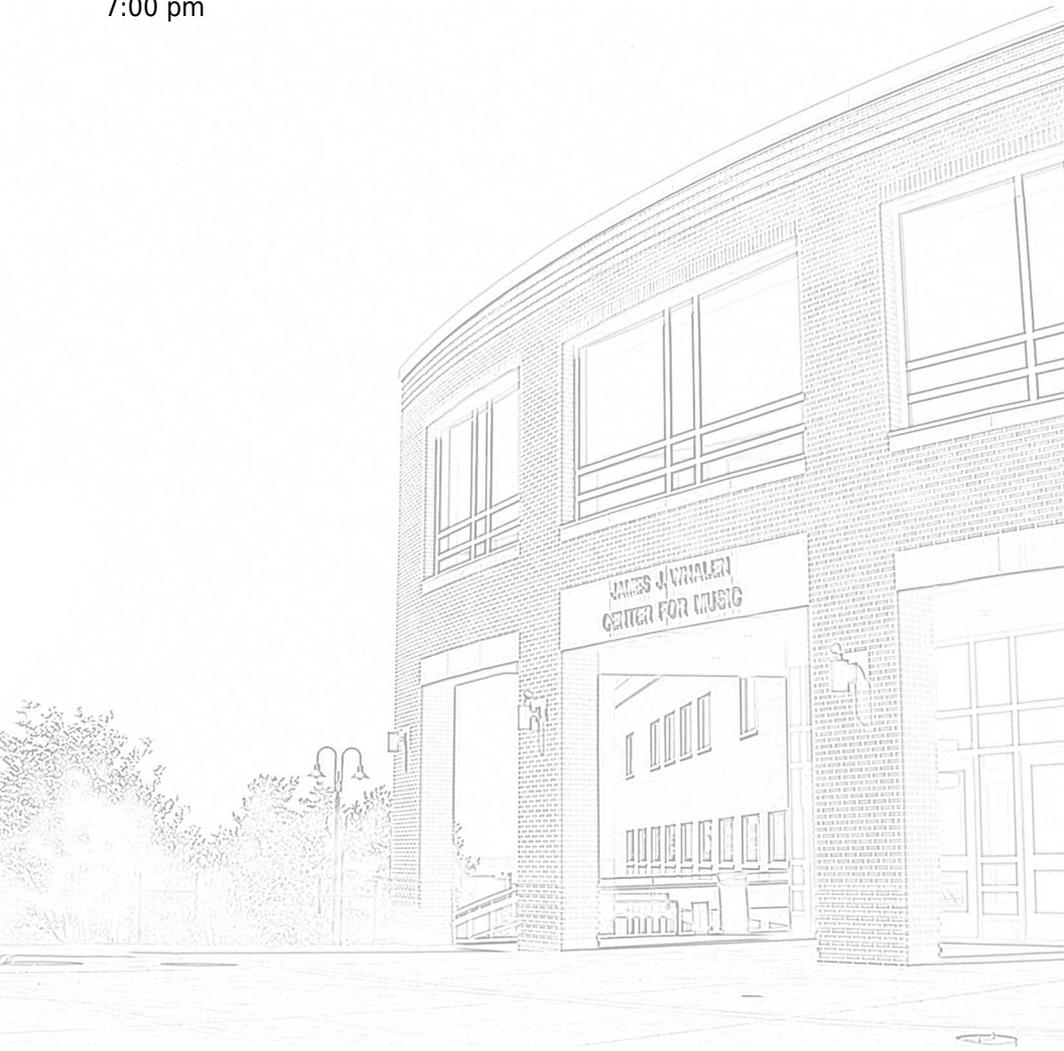
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**Guest Recital:**  
Janet Hopkins, mezzo soprano

Armen Shaomian, piano

Nabenhauer Recital Room  
Friday, October 9th, 2015  
7:00 pm



**ITHACA COLLEGE**

School of Music

# Program

## Cabaret Songs, Selections

Over the Piano

William Bolcom  
(b. 1938)

Amor

Angels Are the Highest Form of Virtue

Can't Sleep

At the Last Lousy Moment of Love

Lady Luck

Blue

Toothbrush Time

George

# Texts

## **Cabaret Songs** **Librettist: Arnold Weinstein** **(1927 - 2005)**

### ***Over the Piano***

He sang songs to her over the piano.  
Sang long songs to her over the piano.  
Low slow songs lusty songs of love.  
Loving songs of long lost lust just to her just for her over the piano.  
Until at last at half-past four  
Everybody out the door!  
She asked him please play me one more.  
Which he did and as he did  
Slid off the bench and said to her over the piano  
Goodbye.

### ***Amor***

It wasn't the policeman's fault in all the traffic roar  
instead of shouting halt when he saw me he shouted Amor Amor Amor Amor.

Even the ice cream man (free ice creams by the score)  
instead of shouting Butter Pecan one look at me he shouted Amor Amor Amor.

All over town it went that way  
Everybody took off the day  
Even philosophers understood how good was the good 'cuz I looked so good!

The poor stopped taking less the rich stopped needing more.  
Instead of shouting no and yes both looking at me shouted Amor

My stay in town was cut short I was dragged to court.  
The judge said I disturbed the peace and the jury gave him what for!

The judge raised his hand and instead of Desist and Cease  
Judge came to the stand took my hand and whispered Amor Amor Amor Amor

Night was turning into day I walked alone away. Never see that town again.  
But as I passed the church-house door  
instead of singing Amen the choir was singing Amor, Amor, Amor, Amor.

### ***Angels Are the Highest Form of Virtue***

Angels are the highest form of virtue  
Saints are the very best of men  
Heroes are so strong they wouldn't hurt you  
And martyrs gladly die and die again  
But the birds, the birds I love the most  
because they're teeny weeny

### ***Can't Sleep***

Can't sleep dreaming of you dreaming of me turning to you woken by me.  
Hush now, don't cry. All I was doing was dreaming.

### ***At the Last Lousy Moments of Love***

At the last lousy moments of love he wanted to tell me the truth.  
At the last writhing rotten moments of love he wanted to tell me the truth  
about me, of course.  
Thanks, I'll need this.

At the last lousy moments of love,  
He wanted to tell me that I wasn't doing too well.  
I was eating and drinking and talking too much.  
He wanted to tell me as a friend at the end  
Of those last lousy moments of love.

He wanted to tell me he was leaving, he'd waited too long  
To tell me that I was self-righteous even when I wasn't wrong,  
And I spoke about friendship,  
'till our friends gave me up as a friend for the season,  
For which reason he wanted to tell me this truth.

He wanted to tell me these things, as a friend,  
He wanted to tell me, but he didn't in the end.  
At those last lousy moments of love  
He said it all, with his body to my best friend.

### ***Lady Luck***

What do you like most about yourself?  
What do I like about myself most?  
Well, I hate to boast, but I must say I like my luck!  
Whenever they told me Scram!  
I'd never slink out slow like a hack to the back  
No! I'd let the door slam! And lo! And shazam!  
Friendship would suddenly show up, like a telegram.

### ***Blue***

This is what I want to do my heart is sit real still with you.  
After all that cruising in around and out of town, out them down who dared refuse me  
and the same old line I threw ah but up up up I grew and now all I want to do my heart  
is sit real still with you.  
After all that screeching talking fast and slowing down only now and then to reach you  
when you'd let me know I knew that what I preach is none too true that's why all I want  
to do my heart is sit real still with you. Cause I do know this about people and I DON'T  
mean some: awfully smart people are often awful dumb!

Aren't we? We just don't realize that behind the eyes, behind the mind, you find the  
sweetest brilliance and the stillness of such blue that that's, what's why all I want to do  
my soul is sit real still with you. Ah so sweetly down the hill

That is what I want to do sweet soul is sit real still with you.

## **Toothbrush Time**

It's toothbrush time, ten a.m. again and tooth brush time.  
Last night at half past nine it seemed O.K.  
But in the light of day not so fine at toothbrush time  
Now he's crashing round my bathroom now he's reading my degree, perusing all my pills, reviewing all my ills, and he comes in smelling like me.  
Now he advances on my kitchen, now he raids every shelf till from the pots and pans and puddles and debris emerges three eggs all for himself. Oh, how I'd be ahead if I'd stood out of bed;  
I wouldn't sit here grieving, waiting for the wonderful moment of his leaving at toothbrush time, toothbrush time, ten a.m. again and toothbrush time.  
I know it's sad to be alone, it's so bad to be alone, still I should've known that I'd be glad to be alone.  
I should've known, I should've known!  
Never should've picked up the phone and called him.  
Hey uh, listen, uhm, uh, I've got to, uh oh, you gotta go too?  
So glad you understand.  
And by the way, did you say nine tonight again? See you then.  
Toothbrush time!

## **George**

My friend George used to say  
"Oh, call me Georgia, hon,  
Get yourselves a drink," and sang the best soprano in our part of town.

In beads, brocade and pins, he sang if you happened in  
through the door he never locked and said,  
"Get yourselves a drink," and sang out loud till tears fell in the cognac and in the chocolate milk and gin and on the beads, brocade and pins.

When strangers happened through his open door  
George said, "Stay, but you gotta keep quiet while I sing and then a minute after.  
And call me Georgia."

One fine day a stranger in a suit of navy blue took George's life with a knife George had placed beside an apple pie he'd baked and stabbed him in the middle of *Un bel di vedremo*  
as he sang for this particular stranger who was in the United States Navy.

The funeral was at the cocktail hour.  
We knew George would like it like that.  
Tears fell on the beads, brocade and pins in the coffin which was white because George was a virgin.

Oh call him Georgia, hon, get yourself a drink.  
"You can call me Georgia, hon get yourself a drink!"

# Biographies

## Janet Hopkins

**Janet E Hopkins, mezzo-soprano** was a principal soloist at the Metropolitan opera for fifteen seasons. Ms. Hopkins was the mezzo soloist for the Verdi requiem at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., Tulsa and Minneapolis (2010/2011), the Berkshires and South Carolina (2012) and had national and international performances in 2013/4 including Spain, Boston, Charleston, New York, and St. Louis. Her upcoming performances include Tulsa, California, New York, and Italy.

Ms. Hopkins' recordings include *The Ghosts of Versailles* and *Elektra* DVD's along with a large collection of Texaco Broadcast "Live from the Met" recordings. She also has several solo recordings available, including Ulysses Kay: Works for Chamber Orchestra and Soprano and Ayala Asherov Kalus' *Cycles of the Moon* on Naxos. In 2007, Ms. Hopkins produced a unique music and wine project: she personally blended her own Cuvee red wine in conjunction with the award winning Tulip Hill Winery. This was accompanied by a collection of classical Neapolitan Italian songs, recorded at the historical Capitol Records in Hollywood. The wine and cd were called "Aria". *The New York Times* and *USA Today* gave it glowing reviews and it sold out in 2 months.

Ms. Hopkins is also founder and executive director of Opera-tunity Foundation for the Arts, an all-volunteer 501c3 non-profit for the education and appreciation of the arts. Their 2012 event, "Week of Remembrance, a Celebration of Jewish Artists" earned her and the Foundation a Resolution from the House of Representatives and the Senate. She also received an award from the Cultural Council of South Carolina for the event

Ms. Hopkins is passionate about animals and animal welfare and is vice-president of Nawty Dawg Big Heart, LLC, a Philanthropic Foundation. She is also a long standing volunteer at Pawmetto Lifeline, a local no-kill shelter and has co-written a children's opera and coloring book/libretto, *Ecco goes to the Opera*. This project combines Westminster show dog Ecco D'oro and Ms. Hopkins, teaching children about opera and animal rescue.

Ms. Hopkins holds a Bachelor of Music degree in Music Education, cum laude, and a Master's Degree in Vocal Performance, cum laude, from the State University of New York, Potsdam, NY. Ms. Hopkins joined the University of South Carolina School of Music in 2008 and is Associate Professor of Voice in the School of Music.

For more information: [www.janetehopkins.com](http://www.janetehopkins.com) or @TheMetDiva

## Armen Shaomian

**Armen Shaomian**, pianist and educator, has an extensive background in performing arts, education and arts management consulting. An active concert pianist, he was one of the youngest students at the Royal College of Music in Stockholm, Sweden, by the age of 7. He has performed concerts at venues in Europe and the United States, including the Royal Concert Hall and the Globe Arena in Stockholm, the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki, Finland, Hill Auditorium in Ann Arbor, MI, Orchestra Hall in Detroit, MI, and the Gusman Concert Hall in Miami, FL. His dissertation on Swedish National-Romantic Music has been published by VDM Verlag and his piano recordings of composer Hugo Alfvén are featured on Vax Records' *Vaxholm - Ett Dubbelnöje* and are available on Amazon.com.

Dr. Shaomian is the Founder and CEO of Armenize, Inc., an arts consulting agency specializing in non-profit arts management and foundational strategies. Prior work includes Programs Manager/Associate Producer for the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts (NFAA) and its signature YoungArts program. In his role as their Associate Producer, Dr. Shaomian oversaw live performance logistics as well as strategic relations with the Baryshnikov Arts Center in NYC, the Smithsonian American Art Museum, and the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC., as well as the United States Department of Education and the United States Presidential Scholars program.

He has also held the position of Musical Director of the critically acclaimed touring company of The Second City Theatre based in Chicago, IL. Other entertainment work includes several voice-overs for Disney and Warner Bros. feature animations.

Dr. Shaomian is currently the Vice President of Miami Civic Music Association and has also served as Chair on the board of the Green Room Society at the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County. He is a sought-after music and entrepreneurship adjudicator, most recently serving as a judge on University of South Carolina's School of Music event *The Savvy Musician in Action - Arts Entrepreneurship* and has also served several years as a music adjudicator for the Florida Federation of Music Clubs.

Dr. Shaomian holds Masters and Doctor of Musical Arts degrees in Accompanying and Chamber Music with cognates in Music Business and Entertainment Industries from the University of Miami, where he studied under Paul Posnak and Rosalina Sackstein. He also holds a Bachelor of Music degree in Piano Performance from Wayne State University. Prior to joining the Department of Sport and Entertainment Management at UofSC, he served as faculty at the University of Miami's Frost School of Music graduate program in Arts Presenting.

For more information, visit [www.armenize.com](http://www.armenize.com) or on Twitter: @armenize