

For the convenience of concertgoers
the Garden Café remains open until 6:00 pm.

The use of cameras or recording equipment during the
performance is not allowed. Please be sure that cell phones,
pagers, and other electronic devices are turned off.

Please note that late entry or reentry of
the West Building after 6:30 pm is not permitted.

Music Department
National Gallery of Art
Sixth Street and Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, DC

Mailing address
2000B South Club Drive
Landover, MD 20785

www.nga.gov

COVER: J. M. W. Turner. *Mortlake Terrace, the Seat of William Moffatt, Esq.; Summer's Evening* (detail), 1827,
oil on canvas. National Gallery of Art, Washington, Andrew W. Mellon Collection



The Sixty-sixth Season of
The William Nelson Cromwell and F. Lamot Belin
Concerts

National Gallery of Art
2,642nd Concert

Amanda Pitt, *soprano*
David Owen Norris, *pianist*

Presented in honor of *J. M. W. Turner*

October 21, 2007
Sunday Evening, 6:30 pm
West Building Lecture Hall

Admission free

J. M. W. Turner is sponsored by The Exhibition Circle of the National Gallery of Art. Bank of America is proud to be the national sponsor. The exhibition is made possible in part through the generous support of Access Industries. It remains on view in the West Building until January 6, 2008.

Program

“Burning Gold — Songs for Turner”

Franz Joseph Haydn (1732–1809)

The Sailor's Song

The Battle of the Nile

John Braham (1774–1856)

The Death of Nelson

Arthur Sullivan (1842–1900)

The Sailor's Grave

Sad Memories

Sigh No More, Ladies

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872–1958)

The Splendour Falls

Roger Quilter (1877–1953)

Now Sleeps the Crimson Petal

Music, When Soft Voices Die

Love's Philosophy

INTERMISSION

Edward Elgar (1857–1934)

Dream Children

Sea Pictures

Sea Slumber Song

In Haven (Capri)

Sabbath Morning at Sea

Where Corals Lie

The Swimmer

The Musicians

The duo of Amanda Pitt and David Owen Norris are dedicated to the art of song. *MusicWeb* praised their recording of Roger Quilter premieres for Naxos as “an important disc,” while the *Sunday Times* called their Elgar premieres on the Avie label “a treasure house.” In 2008 Pitt, Norris, and baritone David Wilson-Johnson will release a disc of first-time recordings of song cycles by Trevor Hold.

Last year Pitt and Norris began a series of recitals under the general heading “Songs and Pictures,” with concerts the National Gallery in Washington, DC, and the Djanogly Art Gallery and Concert Hall in Nottingham, England. The series has grown to include performances throughout England, and negotiations are under way to expand the series into other galleries in Europe and the United States.

Amanda Pitt and David Owen Norris are founding members of The Works, which gave the first performance of a new translation of Arnold Schoenberg’s *Pierrot lunaire* in July. The production employed specially-commissioned animated images, and made innovative use of both a male and female voice to emphasize the music’s inner drama. In addition to the Schoenberg, The Works recently gave the modern premiere of Carl Friedrich Cramer’s (1752–1807) newly discovered arrangement of Mozart’s *C Major Piano Concerto*; a sequence of comic operas, *Two Murders and a Marriage*, presented at the Buxton International Opera Festival and the Oslo Festival; and the world premiere of Robert Walker’s *Second String Quartet*. In tonight’s concert they are performing the North American premiere of the original version of Edward Elgar’s *Sea Pictures* for soprano and piano.

Amanda Pitt recently performed in major London venues and European festivals. Her solo recordings include music by Lili Boulanger, Leoš Janáček, and Ruth Crawford Seeger, as well as British composers Roger Quilter and Edward Elgar. A review in the *Times* of a recital with David Owen Norris stated: “Pitt put this [Schumann’s *Frauenliebe und leben*] across with simplicity and conviction, her husky vibrato a natural throb of passion.”

Since his last appearance at the National Gallery in 2006, Norris has appeared for the fourth time in the BBC Proms; performed concertos on the fortepiano in Toronto and at Yale University; given premiere broadcasts of songs by Stravinsky, Elgar, and Mendelssohn; and performed Elgar’s *Piano Concerto*. This year his CD releases include Richard Arnell’s *Piano Concerto* and Joseph Horowitz’ *Jazz Concerto*.

In 2006 two large-scale compositions by David Owen Norris received world premieres: *Prayerbook*, an oratorio, and *Tomorrow nor Yesterday*, a cycle of songs based on the poems of John Donne. Norris recently completed his second radio opera, *The Jolly Roger*, and is working on a piano concerto. He is a newly appointed professor at the University of Southampton and a visiting professor at the Royal College of Music in London.

Program notes

Amanda Pitt and David Owen Norris have selected British music from various periods in honor of the exhibition *J. M. W. Turner*, the largest and most comprehensive retrospective of Turner's work ever presented in the United States. One of the greatest landscape painters in the history of art, Joseph Mallord William Turner (1775–1851) assayed a wide range of subjects in his art, including seascapes, topographical views, historical events, mythology, modern life, and views from his imagination in paintings and watercolors that are among the best-known and most admired works of the nineteenth century. Turner's works helped define the artistic movement known as romanticism, and his renderings of subtle effects of light and atmosphere in limitless spaces epitomized contemporary notions of the sublime. Celebrated for his prodigious talent and his technical innovations, Turner's achievement was crucial not only to the romantic movement, but also to impressionism.

Turner's sketchbooks reveal that he loved music. In the *Tabley Sketchbook no. 3*, part of Turner's bequest to the Tate Gallery, there are snatches of music notation, including a melody to be sung to the lyric "Drink to Me Only with Thine Eyes" by Ben Jonson (1572–1637). Among Turner's close friends in the 1790s was the composer John Danby (1757–1798). When Danby died, his widow, Sarah, went to live with Turner. There is no record of their having married, but a daughter was born to them in 1801. Turner biographer James Hamilton mentions the artist's enjoyment of Danby's glees and catches, which were published in 1798 in three volumes as a memorial tribute to the composer.

David Owen Norris will explore in detail the relationship between the music and Turner's art in oral program notes.

Next Week at the National Gallery of Art

Jon Manasse, *clarinetist*

Jon Nakamatsu, *pianist*

Music by Brahms, Kovács, Mendelssohn,
Novacek, Ravel, and Weber

October 28, 2007

Sunday Evening, 6:30 pm

West Building, West Garden Court