Loyola art museum features musical performance
January 11, 2011

Inside Loyola has a nice story on an event Tuesday evening at the Loyola University Museum of Art (LUMA) featuring VOX3, a collection of singers and pianists performing song cycles based on the works of famous writers and poets.

Here is the Inside Loyola story:

At the Loyola University Museum of Art (LUMA), you can see more than just sculptures and paintings. On January 11, witness art in the form of music when the classical singers of VOX 3 perform New Song.

During the concert, the group of six singers and two pianists will perform a program of seven song cycles, six of which are world premieres. “This particular concert that we’re doing at LUMA is a concert in which all of the composers are living, active composers in Chicago who have written a series of songs specifically for this concert,” says Myron Silberstein. VOX 3 general manager.

Some of the composers for the concert include Chicago Opera Vanguard’s Eric Reda and Chicago-based composers Amos Gillespie and Randall West.

Silberstein is also included in this group of composers, having written a cycle to existing texts by E.E. Cummings. Many of the other songs that were written for this performance are based on writings by great poets and writers, such as Shakespeare, the New York-based poet Matthew Hittinger, the Chicago-based playwright Philip Dawkins, and poet Aaron DeLee.

This idea of placing great text to music is part of a musical style known as “art song” which is unique to VOX 3. According to their website, art songs are astonishingly compact marriages of music and text which express “worlds in their tone, color, inflection, and harmony.” Past concerts have included settings of Shakespeare, contemporary German compositions, Russian romances, and even musical interpretations of well-known fairy tales.

“Speaking as a composer that writes art songs, any time I’m working with a text by a poet, I’m trying to be sympathetic to the poet’s original intent... it’s more of an effort to be in accord with what’s happening emotionally within the text,” says Silberstein.

The performance will begin at 6 p.m. and is free to all who attend. LUMA asks that you RSVP by sending e-mail to luma@luc.edu or calling 312.915.7608.