# GRAVE SONGS

A concert to Thin the Veil

March 28 (7:30pm) March 29 (2:00pm & 7:30pm) March 30 (2:00pm)

Co-produced by Productions Carolyn Fe Inc. & Eldritch Theatre

Red Sandcastle Theatre 922 Queen Street East Toronto, ON M4M 2J5

#### From Carolyn Fe:

Performing has always been woven into my soul; I feel it in my bones, hear it in my blood, and I thrive within its haunting embrace. From classical ballet to contemporary dance, from singing, composing to acting, I've always been spellbound by the electric surge of energy that floods my veins in the final moments before stepping onto the phantasmic magic of the stage. It is a sensation like no other.

Alas, the cruel silence of The Great Intermission (pandemic) ravaged my will to sing. What seemed like a quiet hesitation blossomed into an unforgiving stage fright. What came so naturally grew heavy and suffocating until the singer within me vanished. Despite a 10-year residency at the esteemed House of Jazz (Montreal) prior to the pause, singing on stage now terrifies me to my core.

With Grave Songs, I now return to this familiar realm that once knew my every breath, note and voice placement. Witness my resurrection as I face my demons, reclaiming what was stolen; allowing the music to rise from the grave to sing once more. This performance - my rebirth, my return to the world of song, is proof that even in the darkest moments, a voice can rise from the dead and eventually find its way home.

I bow with reverence to Juro Kim Feliz, Louisa Burgess-Corbett, Eldritch Theatre's Eric Woolfe, and the elusive Luc, who some claim is a figment of my imagination. Their patience and guidance exorcised the ghost of doubt within me, compelling me to reclaim what I thought had been lost forever.

This resurrection at an age when I should be preparing my grave, is a step back so I may once again leap forward. It is a testament to the power of resilience, self-belief, and the beauty of second (or third, or fourth) chances. Proof that it is never too late to awaken the parts of ourselves we believed were lost to the void.

Your presence is a part of my healing. Thank you for joining me on this journey to reclaim my voice. <u>www.carolynfe.bandcamp.com</u>

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#### **Pianist: Juro Kim Feliz**

His music bewitches audiences across Asia, the Americas, and Europe, weaving shadows with every note. Trained at the University of the Philippines and McGill University, his neo-classical compositions are a web of relentless tension and eerie energy (Musicworks, 2022). Haunted by the Goethe Southeast Asian Young Composer Award (2009) and many accolades at Ars Electronica Forum Wallis, Feliz's residencies at New Music Concerts (2022-2023), the century-old gothic MacDowell Residency (2025) and others, speak of his dark mastery. His works are conjured under Ravello Records, Ablaze Records, and MusiKolektibo, with scores rising from the depths via Babelscores. www.jurokimfeliz.com

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#### **Guest Performer: Louisa Burgess-Corbett**

She has haunted the stages and screens of Canada and New York, earning dark accolades for her captivating performances. Today, Louisa is a coveted voice mistress, specializing in Commercial Voice and Musical Theatre Performance. She teaches at elite arts colleges in Ontario, since 2007 returns as a spectral masterclass instructor at DuboForce Theatre Company in Mexico City and Monterey, and serves as the Musical Theatre Specialist at Big Voice Studio. Forever a lover of the craft, Louisa sharpens her craft through relentless study in acting and singing, ensuring her students are prepared for the torturous but glorious demands of both stage and studio. <u>www.louisaburgesscorbett.com</u>

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#### Honorable Guest: Lorelei Adama-Chung

Lorelei is a tenured public-school Mistress of Musical Lore, shaping the minds of the young and the restless. She descends from the nether realms of the north (Markham) to turn the pages of *The Arcane Tome of Grave Songs*, awakening the spectres that slumber within us all. A seasoned pianist with residencies at The Guild Inn and The Eglinton Grand, this marks her chilling debut into the cabaret of the dark.

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#### **Revenant Performers: The Eldritch Ensemble**

Ghouls, creatures and things that dwell in the venue's shadows watch you from the stage. They will haunt your nightmares until you return to face them at various Eldritch Theatre productions. <u>www.eldritchtheatre.ca</u>

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### Stage Manager: Annasofie 诗慧 Jakobsen (She/Her)

An emerging production and stage manager, she lurks in the darker parts of the theatre - behind the scenes and sometimes, behind you. Annasofie dares you to witness the unfolding of this ominous performance. Each project brings her step deeper into the abyss. Recent, chilling credits include Are You The One (xLq/Downstage), DSM The Musical (Sunflowers Collective), Jacqueline (Tapestry Opera), Interior Design (Tarragon Theatre), Dusk Dances 2024, and Insert Clown Here (Parlous Theatre).

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Eric Woolfe & Carolyn Fe: Set and Lights Mariana Sandoval-Angel: Carolyn Fe's costume designer

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### The Songs

**Brahms:** - Piano Sonata No. 2 in F sharp minor, Op. 2: Allegro non troppo, ma energico - Intermezzo Op 118 #2

**Voilà** (Album: On n'enferme pas les oiseaux) Words & Music: Barbara Pravi, Igit Poe, Lili Poe

**Poor Unfortunate Souls** (*The Little Mermaid*) Words & Music: Howard Ashman, Alan Menken

**The Vow** (*Album*: 100%) Words & Music: Carolyn Fe Trinidad, Alan Springer, Naveen Uttamchandani, Dan Legault

**Not While I'm Not Around** (*Sweeny Todd*) Words & Music: Stephen Sondheim

**All That Matters** (*Album: Sugat Ko*) Words & Music: Carolyn Fe Trinidad, Oisin Little, Jean-Francois Hamel, Ivan Garzon, Brandon Goodwin

Nocturne In E-Flat Minor Composer: Francisco Santiago

**Ne Me Quitte Pas** Words & Music: Jacques Brel

**Bring on the Men** (*Jekyll and Hyde*) Words & Music: Leslie Bricusse, Frank Wildhorn, Steve Cuden

I Remember (Evening Primrose) Words & Music: Stephen Sondheim

When You're Good to Mama (Chicago) Words & Music: Fred Ebb, John Kander

**Devil's Fool** (*Album: Original Sin*) Words & Music: Carolyn Fe Trinidad, George Papafilys, Timothy Alleyne, Oisin Little, Dan Legault

As Long as He Needs (Oliver) Words & Music: Lionel Bart

### Creep

Words and Music: Thom Yorke, Albert Hammond and Mike Hazlewood, Radiohead

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Voilà Barbara Pravi (2021)

Écoutez-moi, moi, la chanteuse à demi Parlez de moi, à vos amours, à vos amis Parlez-leur de cette fille aux yeux noirs et de son rêve fou Moi c'que j'veux, c'est écrire des histoires qui arrivent jusqu'à vous. C'est tout

Voilà, voilà, voilà, voilà qui je suis Me voilà, même si mise à nu, j'ai peur, oui Me voilà dans le bruit et dans le silence

Regardez-moi, ou du moins ce qu'il en reste Regardez-moi, avant que je me déteste Quoi vous dire, que les lèvres d'une autre ne vous diront pas

C'est peu de chose, mais moi tout ce que j'ai je le dépose là, voilà

Voilà, voilà, voilà, voilà qui je suis Me voilà, même si mise à nu, c'est fini C'est ma gueule, c'est mon cri, me voilà tant pis Voilà, voilà, voilà, voilà juste ici Moi, mon rêve, mon envie, comme j'en crève, comme j'en ris Me voilà dans le bruit et dans le silence

Ne partez pas, j'vous en supplie, restez longtemps Ça m'sauvera peut-être pas,

Mais faire sans vous j'sais pas comment

Aimez-moi comme on aime un ami qui s'en va pour toujours

J'veux qu'on m'aime parce que moi, je sais pas bien aimer mes contours

Voilà, voilà, voilà, voilà qui je suis Me voilà même si mise à nu, c'est fini Me voilà dans le bruit et dans la fureur aussi Regardez-moi enfin et mes yeux et mes mains Tout c'que j'ai est ici, c'est ma gueule, c'est mon cri Me voilà, me voilà, me voilà Voilà, voilà, voilà, voilà. Voilà! Voilà (a very rough English translation) Barbara Pravi (2021)

Listen to me, the half-sung singer that I am Speak of me to your lovers and friends Tell them about this dark-eyed girl and her crazy dream All I want is to write stories that reaches out to you That's all

That's it, right here, over there, that's all who I am Here I stand, bare, undone, and afraid This is me in the din and silence

Look at me, or at least what's left of me See me now, before I lose sight of my own worth What can I say that another's lips won't tell? It's not much, but all I've got I leave right here, there it is

That's it, right here, over there, that's all who I am Here I stand, bare, undone, and I've reached the end My mouth, my scream, never mind, I am here. I am here, I am here, here, I am right here Me, my dream, my desire, what I crave, what I'd die for Here I am in the din and silence

Please don't go, I implore you, stay a while longer It may not save me, but without you I don't know how, what to do

Love me as one loves a friend who is leaving forever I want to be loved because I don't know how to love my own fervor

That's it, that's all, there it is, that's all who I am Here I stand, bare, undone, and I've reached the end Here I am in din and the tempest At last, look at me, at my eyes and my hands All I have is right here, my face and my scream Here I am, here I am, here I am Voilà, voilà, voilà, voilà. Voilà!