




LUDWIG
Readings

DEFECTIVE RECOLLECTION
CHRIS LUDWIG

Defective Recollection

Art Songs
by **Christopher Ludwig**

1. Adage 1	4:49	17. Still In You	2:41
2. Adage 2	6:05	18. Seven Days and Seven Pens	3:10
3. Table Grace	1:59	19. End of Land	3:27
4. Shopping	1:56		
5. Galleon	:57	Total Running Time:	65:46
6. Neighbourhood	2:17		
7. Promises	4:34	Cliff Ridley • Baritone	
8. Flight Plan	4:51	Alina Khvatova • Violin	
9. The Vessel	3:46	Christopher Ludwig • Flute	
10. The Largest of Women	6:04	Tatiana Khvatova • Piano (1 - 4)	
11. The Grave	3:59	Danielle Marcinek • Piano (5 - 17)	
12. The Yew Tree	3:45		
13. Of Mars and Venus	2:23		
14. Her Eyes	2:43		
15. The Garden	3:41		
16. Their Most Bitter of Wines	2:39		



Produced by Frank and Christopher Ludwig
Recorded at Quantum Sound, Delta, B.C., Canada

Artwork by Scott Hastings

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Adage 1 - Desiderius Erasmus

A mind too open may fall out

Sursum versus sacrorum fluminum feruntur fontes (the springs of the sacred rivers flow backwards)

Crow is best eaten warm [and]

People who live in glass houses should not throw stones

Omnem movere lapidem (to leave no stone unturned)

In aqua scribis (you write in water)

No point in saving the roses when the house is on fire

Old adages tend to fly out the window

Tempus omnia revelat (time reveals all things)

A mortuo tributum exigere (to exact tribute from the dead)

Malo accepto stultus sapit (trouble experienced makes a fool wise)

He who can keep his head, when all those about him are losing

probably hasn't grasped the seriousness of the situation

Sursum versus sacrorum fluminum feruntur fontes (the springs of the sacred rivers flow backwards)

To err is human but it takes a computer to really screw things up

What's done in the dark will come to the light

Fluminum

Adage 2 - Desiderius Erasmus

An empty wagon makes a lot of noise
Forget about the mules and load the wagon
'Till the cows come home

Quot homines, tot sententiae (so many men, so many opinions)
In arena aedificas (you are building on the sand)
Evitata Charybdi in Scyllam incidi (having escaped Charybdis I fell into Scylla)
Clavi findere ligna et securi fores aperire (to split logs with a key and open the door with an axe)

An unfed dog never be in a playful mood [and]
Every eye closed ain't sleep
Never build another man's empire
You'd complain even if they hung you with a new rope!

If your horse dies, I suggest you dismount
The potatoes are manipulating us!
Pigs get fed, while hogs get slaughtered!

What's down in the well comes up in the bucket.
The rooster rules the roost, but the hen rules the rooster
The willing horse carries the load.

Quot homines, tot sententiae (so many men, so many opinions)
In arena aedificas (you are building on the sand)
Evitata Charybdi in Scyllam incidi (having escaped Charybdis I fell into Scylla)
Clavi findere ligna et securi fores aperire (to split logs with a key and open the door with an axe)
In forbus urceum (the water-jar on the doorstep)
Homo bulla, homo bulla, homo bulla.... (Man is but a bubble)

If your horse dies, I suggest you dismount
The potatoes are manipulating us!

La, la, la, la, la....

Anglican Table Grace - Traditional

Bless O Lord this food to our use,
And us to thy service;
And may we ever be mindful of the needs of others,
Amen.

Shopping - Christopher Ludwig

Columbian rains
and the bean
will stand along side the liquor store

a hoarse cough

be a guest inside from the rains
in an empty pocket
in an empty room

no cotton
will ever wear dry
not in this economic environment
for it always rains
in this climate of ours

Galleon - Christopher Ludwig

the galleon
of men and gold
to hasty fathoms lie
of Spanish word
and iron silk
all pass history by
in bubbles
the murky depth
to sink
into depths of old
one great cause
and one great pen
can never put Humpty
back together again

Neighbourhood - Christopher Ludwig

I will give you land
with fertile soil
the sky
wind
dominion

that would be fine
you say
but one must live
next to me
to feel free

Promises - Christopher Ludwig

Heaven's rest in bells and whistles
blow the leaves and rings
take my hand and blow the night
of means and squandering

things I might would say to do
and times we could contend?

and I as child might pray to you
and all the favours seeming

blow the night and promise to intend
take my hand whose happening
as only can pretend

Promises continued...

Heaven's rest that knew it true
might search in leaves and rings
take the hands of witness past
in walk forever fancy

charted to action as hands may go
can speak however folded

cross a finger
or press the leaves
for all whose complex hearts

and when shall curse the deaf to speak
shall heaven ever sign?

then come to this
where love is never
in all the leaves and time

Flight Plan - Christopher Ludwig

She was the birds that I imagined
and loved
would I think about them
in my span
the world twisting and turning

aye
I would

the last chance
for a foregone conclusion
a flight plan

I might migrate
to skies and tears
or sleepy hollows
charted dimensions

it
might
flash before me
but I cannot see clearly

in my span
the world twisting and turning

because I cannot see clearly
in a chaotic spread

I am nothing
but the emptiness
of shattered songs
and promises

twisting, turning
last chance
skies and tears
shattered songs

flight plan
twisting tight
the shattered dreams
she was the birds....

would I think about them
a foregone conclusion

I am nothing
but the emptiness
of shattered songs

in my span
the world twisting and turning

the world twisting tight
around
all that I hoped to be

she was the birds that I imagined
and loved

The Vessel - Christopher Ludwig

The middle finger rides the temples
the road
saddled between ear and beard
jaw and bone

outline the main
circle its body
from pulse to pulse
mind and depression

I imagine the extent of it
wrapping the skull
round and round
branch to branch
the novelty of each tracing

prosper those pulses
torment to torment

The Largest of Women - Christopher Ludwig

Impressions can tell a boy a lot
about the grounds of universals
how else can one balance the rose garden
and the finger paintings on the walls?

there were the dubious matters
always
the wicked old priest
whose bread was too stale for its own good
worthiness of my design

yes, boys can be lofty in their fathoms
stained glass and crucifixes
they were all there

The Largest of Women continued...

but the lights
and carpeting
the closets and the coat hangers
dominate a house
I remember

I would play my music by myself
in the bible school
when the lights went dim

I was there
in the dividers
and the closets
alone

and there was the woman
of brilliant greens and pinks unspoken
dominating the picture
everything about her was large
she seemed so to me

I saw her scolding the other children
patrolling during the morning service
looking for the forsaken
and they were afraid

yet I would remain with the shadows
in the darkness of the church

she was afraid of me
they were all afraid of me

The Grave - Christopher Ludwig

I command the graveyard
to my beckon call
where voices
and spirits
lie flush
under my tread

crush 'em down
into the earth
where they roam
amongst earthworms
and slimy things
of the imagination

wiggle around
before my stride
envelope the world
of hearts and quizzlers
of dragons and little boys

I'll roam the grave
at midnight
reserve a place for myself
as small as light
for its attraction
has everything to do
with the thunder
of the living

The Yew Tree - Christopher Ludwig

daddy's yew tree
of a darkened sorts
grew behind the trailer
a cement square filled with dirt
so one could park it

let us fill the lot
now
it would be a shame
to lose the tree

It can cure cancer
he proclaimed
mwah
rip it from the ground
plant it by the driveway
give it something to do

it's not doing very well
he said
but as far as I'm concerned
it was destined
to be dead

Of Mars and Venus - Christopher Ludwig

I dreamt
of cosmic plains
and fountains adorned
with three headed lizards

Of skies of celestial reds and greens
And waters that flow
upside down

amongst the alien canopy
of the cactus rain forest

I'd swing amongst the trees
of purple apes
as a Tarzan
of a gas giant

Mars and Venus
Neptune and Epsilon Centauri

Scattered about
oh so un-scientifically
in my dreary bedroom

Her Eyes - Christopher Ludwig

Cast deep into the wave
would carry her
and all that enthusiasm would bring
in oysters and pearls

the days when even the most
modest of trinkets
cast joy and smiles
radiate throughout the room

shine and blue
the gaze of young
exuberance
those crystal doors
deep into the soul
would fade

ephemeral moments
pass so quickly
into the cold winds
of that terrible
deep
winter

The Garden - Christopher Ludwig

The Garden
of Eden is idle
wilted
with but the faint sound
of an old breeze

the purple orchid
whose bell hung low
shriveled and tired

no water
to drip off petal
or rose

and even the sun
weary in the far off grassy hill
holding on for just one more day

seven days
and night eternal

the cast off
the dying
of Eve's discarded ambitions

Their Most Bitter of Wines - Christopher Ludwig

In that dizzying madness
she would place herself
the world spinning
wild and free
on a twisted axis
fingers twirling
long hair and many years

the streaks of headlights
and the roar of nightclubs
cocktails and lineups
spewed out with a fervour
down the sidewalks
city after city

And in the end
they waited for that dawn
so trapped
deep below the ocean's horizon

Shadows and parched
youth buried
that which cannot be spoken of

the "shes" and their most bitter of wines

Still in You - Christopher Ludwig

The light is still in you
somehow
a peppering of tenderness
here or there

Though you breathe the stale air
of shadows and dampness
alone in your citadel
of bone
and reason

Your blood cools
slows
each heartbeat
tired and laboured

The cobwebs gather
The laughter of children
grows ever fainter

This motionless lake
where golden sunset
shimmers on water

Board this canoe
Take my hand

In our faces
and in our hair
We will meet the wind again
together

Seven Days and Seven Pens - Christopher Ludwig

He made a world of ink and phrase
sat on the grassy hill
as a warm summer breeze
raised up from the river
yellow grass and couples
walking by
dogs and holding hands
cast words all about
off to the mountains of the island
across the straight
and in the end
he would crack the Earth in two
for unlike Genesis
there would be no rest
upon this round and dry
hill of sand and grass

End of Land - Christopher Ludwig

End of dyke
end of land
overlooking the old one-story farmhouse
with the large stained pyramidal roof
up river
in the distance
the one lane Westham Island swing motor bridge
turns slowly
cars wait
for a small rundown pleasure boat to pass
I rest for a time
on a cement barrier
choked with blackberry bushes
across from the old green steel garbage can
and its crinkled black plastic garbage bag
the bumblebees are out
enticed by flowers of
purple, white and slightly pink
that boat passes now
weaving around and about
the shallows of the sandbars
disappearing with a fading low rumble of diesel
past the rotting ancient pilings
of a long-gone fish cannery



Defective Recollection is Canadian Composer Christopher Ludwig's 9th cd release and consists of his latest Art Songs for Baritone voice. This album features Baritone Cliff Ridley, Christopher Ludwig on Flute, Alina Khvatova on Violin, and Tatiana Khvatova and Danielle Marcinek on Piano.

This newly recorded cd contains settings of the composer's own poetry, as well as two settings of the Adages of Erasmus. The album is an artistic journey through the composer's childhood memories; a voyage attempting to make sense of the imperfect and confusing nature of the echos of past memory, image and emotions, as they ripple into the present and future.

The Musicians

Christopher Ludwig (composer, flute)

is a highly accomplished composer, producer, flutist and poet. He is also the creator and owner of Ludwig Recordings. Mr. Ludwig holds Bachelor degrees in Music and in Education, as well as a Master's degree in Composition from the University of British Columbia. He is currently an Associate composer of the Canadian Music Centre.

Since 1998, Christopher Ludwig has completed and impressive omnibus of over 200 works. Defective Recollection is Mr. Ludwig's 9th cd release of his compositions.

Cliff Ridley (baritone)

Defective Recollection is Cliff Ridley's 6th collaborative Art Song recording of the music of composer Christopher Ludwig.

Alina Khvatova (violin)

Russian-Canadian violinist Alina studied in Moscow until she was 12, and then at the Vancouver Academy of Music under Robert Rozek, serving as concertmaster in his ensembles.

Alina subsequently earned a Master's in Violin Performance from McGill and now teaches at the University of Lethbridge Conservatory of Music, and plays in the Lethbridge Symphony Orchestra. She also plays in the Wander West Ensemble.

Tatiana Khvatova (piano, harpsichord)

Tatiana was born in Russia and obtained her Master's Degree in both piano performance and pedagogy from the Russian Academy of Music in Moscow. Before immigrating to Canada she taught piano and worked as an accompanist at the Gnossins Music School, one of the most prestigious music schools in Russia. Tatiana now teaches piano at her private studio in the lower mainland, and serves as accompanist for various performers.

Danielle Marcinek (piano)

holds a Bachelor of Music with distinction and recently completed the Licentiate Diploma through the Royal Conservatory of Music. She has developed an international reputation as a pianist and accompanist for her performances with both Primario Trio and Erato Ensemble, and recordings with Redshift Records, Ludwig and Con Brio Recordings. She also has a busy teaching practice at Accent Music Studios and has recently been appointed piano adjudicator at the 2023 Vernon Music Festival.

Hammer With a Master was recorded at Quantum Sound Recording Studio in Delta, B.C.

Piano: Kawai 9 foot

Engineered and Produced by Frank and Christopher Ludwig

Artwork by Scott Hastings

Baritone:

Cliff Ridley (1 - 19)

Violin:

Alina Khvatova (1 - 3)

Flute:

Christopher Ludwig (18 - 19)

Piano:

Tatiana Khvatova (1 - 4)

Danielle Marcinek (5 - 17)

Lyrics:

Desiderius Erasmus (1 - 2)

Traditional Anglican (3)

Christopher Ludwig (4 - 19)

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Ludwig Recordings is a dynamic digital label which specializes in the music of composer and label-founder Christopher Ludwig as well as the music of its roster of artists. Its catalogue of recordings focuses particularly on contemporary art song and the label's aim is to present a mixture of music that is both approachable and forward-thinking.

Find more about Ludwig Recordings and its artists at:

www.ludwigrecordings.com or at

www.chrisludwig.com

The William Carlos Williams Art Song Series

