ABSTRACT

CREATIVE PROJECT:
LIVING AMERICAN COMPOSERS: A PERFORMANCE APPROACH TO ANALYSIS AND
PEDAGOGICAL APPLICATION OF SELECTED 21ST-CENTURY AMERICAN SOLO
VOCAL MUSIC

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The purpose of this project is to present selected works of four living American composers whose
works are included for performance study and pedagogical application. The project was conceived as
part of an ASPIRE Creative Arts Grant; this research included a personal interview with each
composer. The composers included in this project are Joseph T. Spaniola, Jeremy Ribando, Jody
Nagel, and Gene Scheer. The study begins with a brief biographical introduction of each composer,
followed by a performance guideline based on a recital presentation on September 27, 2014, and
concluding with a pedagogical introduction for application in the vocal studio. This project starts at
the ground level developing an analytical and pedagogical foundation, and will aid vocal pedagogues
both today and in the future. The process of selecting vocal repertoire for performance, and more
specifically choosing contemporary vocal repertoire, is one of the more difficult tasks of a voice
professor. This project creates a well-informed foundation for study of these specific contemporary
vocal works and is a catalyst for vocal pedagogues and pupils to incorporate these works into their
repertoire.