

A WALK WITH NATURE

A Community Recital



Michael Pistorio

- baritone -

The journey is the destination in this musical hike through the highs, lows, and in-betweens of life.

FOR BOOKINGS
michaelpistorio89@gmail.com

FOR MORE
beatnikbaritone.com

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About the Recital

A Walk With Nature, the debut recital initiative by baritone Michael Pistorio, is a community-oriented performance experience. Perfectly balancing intimate nostalgia with deep introspection, its a wonderful program for small or medium sized venues, lunchtime concert series, assisted living communities, and private events.

Nature is the perfect teacher for humanity, and music adds multiple dimensions to our learnings from hers. For some, the baroque arias of Händel allow us to stay present in the cycles of nature and life. Others, reflect fondly on their place in the world in selections from Mahler's Rückert-Lieder. For myself, Ralph Vaughan Williams' Songs of Travel allows me to reflect on my own experiences in life while looking forward to what is ahead of me. And along this winding road, are some of Broadway's greatest love songs.

Whether through memory, imagination, or emotion, A Walk With Nature offers a shared space to breathe, reflect, and simply be.

This recital program was originally commissioned for the Lutheran Village at Miller's Grant in Ellicott City, MD. It was premiered in August 2025 with collaborative pianist, Benjamin Touzeau and is currently available for future bookings.

-Michael Pistorio, baritone

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A Message From Michael

A Walk With Nature was born last summer while I was creating a program for an assisted living community. I was deeply moved by the idea of accessibility—not only music that is welcoming and immediately expressive, but also an experience that offers escape for those whose access to the natural world may be limited by mobility or circumstance. I wanted to create a recital that opens a door: into fresh air, open landscapes, memory, and reflection.



This program invites listeners on a gentle journey through nature as both a physical place and an inner landscape. Along the way, the music lingers on quiet introspection, life's passage, and the tender nostalgia of love remembered. From the lyric clarity and warmth of Handel's arias, to the intimate emotional world of Mahler's Rückert-Lieder, each piece is chosen for its ability to speak directly and honestly to the listener.

The journey culminates in Ralph Vaughan Williams's Songs of Travel, a cycle that embodies wandering, wonder, and the human search for meaning. Together, these works form a musical walk—unhurried, reflective, and deeply human.

My hope is that audiences feel calm and comforted, and that for a moment in time, they are transported into the beauty of nature. Whether through memory, imagination, or emotion, A Walk With Nature offers a shared space to breathe, reflect, and simply be.

A Walk With Nature is currently available for booking to assisted living residences, community concert series, and private events.

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About Michael Pistorio, baritone

Michael Pistorio is a lyric baritone whose mission is to bring modern finesse to classical singing. As an artist he blends his commanding voice with intimate drama, making him an audience favorite. Michael has performed as a professional chorister, concert soloist, and opera principal in the Mid-Atlantic region for over a decade. Of note was his recent debut as Joseph De Rocher in Jake Heggie's celebrated opera *Dead Man Walking* which was described as "vocally and dramatically stirring", "fully portraying the character"; DC Theatre Arts noted "the defiance and fear in his portrayal."

Michael made his international solo debut in 2015 as an invited artist of the Assisi Performing Arts Festival, performing the concert roles of Dancaire (*Carmen*), Masetto (*Don Giovanni*), and Marcello (*La Bohème*), additionally soloing in Faure's *Requiem*, Mozart's *Mass in C*, and Schubert's *Mass in G*. Further principal opera and concert repertoire includes *The Tender Land* (Copland), *The Consul* (Menotti), *Die Zauberflöte*, *Don Giovanni*, *Le Nozze di Figaro* (Mozart), *Tosca* (Puccini), *Der Corregidor* (Wolf); *Messe solennelle en l'honneur de Sainte-Cécile* (Gounod), *Messiah* (Händel), *Son of Man* (Hall Johnson); *Fantasia on Christmas Carols and Songs of Travel* (Vaughan Williams). Michael's performance as Adam in Haydn's *The Creation* with Easton Choral Arts Society was lauded by George Davis of *The Star Democrat* saying, "his magnificent voice echoed with conviction and power."

In the 2024-2025 season, Michael made multiple role and company debuts including the Maryland premiere of *The Gift of the Magi*, a Christmas chamber opera by Eric Whitacre; *Broadway Legends!* with the Naptown Philharmonic Orchestra under Dr. Anna Binneweg; Joseph De Rocher in *Dead Man Walking* by Jake Heggie and *The Fence/Cantor* in *Considering Matthew Shepherd* by Craig Hella Johnson with OperaAACC; as Jesus of Nazareth in JS Bach's *Johannes-Passion* with Bach in Baltimore, among others. Michael was also a Guest Artist with the Heritage Signature Chorale (Washington, DC) performing Beethoven's *Symphony No. 9* at Washington National Cathedral under Mairin Alsop and *Christmas Pops* with the National Symphony Orchestra at the Kennedy Center. He was also a Paul M. Angell Foundation Emerging Artist with Bach in Baltimore.

Recent performances in the 2025-2026 season have included a return to Bach in Baltimore for *Himmelskönig, sei willkommen* by J.S. Bach (BWV 182); *Seven Songs of the Rubaiyat* with The Heritage Signature Chorale Chamber Singers; *Messiah* with conductor Ed Polochick of Baltimore Concert Artists. He also made his ensemble debuts with Maryland Opera, Opera Baltimore, and Opera Delaware.

Michael currently serves as music director of the historic St. Joseph's Monastery. He is also co-founder of Charm City Opera Retreat and a passionate Teaching Artist. He maintains a private voice studio in Baltimore, MD.

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~ RECITAL PROGRAM ~
Approx. 1hr | 1 hr 30 min version* available

Some Enchanted Evening

South Pacific, Rogers & Hammerstein

Verdi Prati
Ombrá mai fu

Alcina, Händel
Serse, Händel

Il Won't Send Roses

Mack & Mabel, J. Herman

Ich atmet einen Lindenduft*
Um Mitternacht*
Ich bin der Welt abhanden Gekommen

Rückert-Lieder, G. Mahler

If Ever I Would Leave You

Camelot, Lerner & Loewe

INTERMISSION

Songs of Travel

Ralph Vaughan Williams

The Vagabond
Let Beauty Awake
The Roadside Fire
Youth & Love
In Dreams
The Infinite Shining Heavens
Whither Must I Wander
Bright is the Ring of Words
I Have Trod the Upward and the Downward Slope

No One Is Alone

Into the Woods, S. Stondheim

The Impossible Dream*

The Man of La Mancha, Lee & Darion

Encore

He's Got the Whole World In His Hands*

arr. Margaret Bonds

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Final Booking Details

Musicians

1x Vocalist

1x Collaborative Pianist

Production* Requirements (provided by the venue)

*60- or 90-minute program for solo vocalist and collaborative pianist

1x Acoustic piano (upright or grand)

- A digital piano is acceptable but vocal amplification may also be needed (microphone, monitor, & speakers)

1x Music stand

1x Artist-only private room/area for pre-show & intermission

If your venue is interested in booking A Walk With Nature but cannot support certain production elements listed above, please communicate them on your inquiry.

Accommodations will be assessed on a situational basis.

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