



***MTNA***  
***Distinguished Composer***  
***of the Year***

**Sunday, April 3 • 11:00 A.M.–12:00 NOON**  
**Room 006D**  
**Henry B. Gonzales Convention Center**  
**San Antonio, Texas**

*Music Teachers National Association  
Presents  
The 2015 MTNA Distinguished Composer of the Year*

*Under the Silver and Home Again*

*David von Kampen*

1. *The Old Stone House*
2. *The Buckle*
3. *The Ride-by-Nights*
4. *Bunches of Grapes*
5. *Mistletoe*

*Jointly Commissioned by Nebraska MTA and MTNA*

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*Program Notes*

*Under the Silver and Home Again*: Five Walter de la Mare Lyrics for Baritone and Piano was commissioned by the Nebraska Music Teachers Association and composed in the fall of 2014. De la Mare's vivid, clever and lyrical poetry lends itself to a variety of contrasting musical ideas, including jazz and folk-influenced harmony. This text-driven set leans heavily on intuitive, singable melodies that seek to deliver the poetry in creative and beautiful ways.

1. *The Old Stone House*

Nothing on the grey roof, nothing on the brown,  
Only a little greening where the rain drips down;  
Nobody at the window, nobody at the door,  
Only a little hollow which a foot once wore;  
But still I tread on tiptoe, still tiptoe on I go,  
Past nettles, porch, and weedy well, for oh, I know  
A friendless face is peering, and a still clear eye  
Peeps closely through the casement  
as my step goes by.

## 2. The Buckle

I had a silver buckle,  
I sewed it on my shoe,  
And 'neath a sprig of mistletoe  
I danced the evening through.

I had a bunch of cowslips,  
I hid them in a grot,  
In case the elves should come by night  
And me remember not.

I had a yellow riband,  
I tied it in my hair,  
That, walking in the garden,  
The birds might see it there.

I had a secret laughter,  
I laughed it near the wall:  
Only the ivy and the wind  
May tell of it at all.

## 3. The Ride-by-Nights

Up on their brooms the Witches stream,  
Crooked and black in the crescent's gleam;  
One foot high, and one foot low,  
Bearded, cloaked, and cowled, they go,  
'Neath Charlie's Wain they twitter and tweet,  
And away they swarm 'neath the Dragon's feet,  
With a whoop and a flutter they swing and sway,  
And surge pell-mell down the Milky Way.  
Betwixt the legs of the glittering Chair  
They hover and squeak in the empty air.  
Then round they swoop past the glimmering Lion  
To where Sirius barks behind huge Orion;  
Up, then, and over to wheel amain,  
Under the silver, and home again.

#### 4. Bunches of Grapes

“Bunches of grapes,” says Timothy;  
“Pomegranates pink,” says Elaine;  
“A junket of cream and a cranberry tart  
For me,” says Jane.

“Love-in-a-mist,” says Timothy;  
“Primroses pale,” says Elaine;  
“A nosegay of pinks and mignonette  
For me,” says Jane.

“Chariots of gold,” says Timothy;  
“Silvery wings,” says Elaine;  
“A bumpity ride in a waggon of hay  
For me,” says Jane.

#### 5. Mistletoe

Sitting under the mistletoe  
(Pale-green, fairy mistletoe),  
One last candle burning low,  
All the sleepy dancers gone,  
Just one candle burning on,  
Shadows lurking everywhere:  
Some one came, and kissed me there.

Tired I was; my head would go  
Nodding under the mistletoe  
(Pale-green, fairy mistletoe),  
No footsteps came, no voice, but only,  
Just as I sat there, sleepy, lonely,  
Stooped in the still and shadowy air  
Lips unseen—and kissed me there.

## Biographies



**David von Kampen** is a composer based in Lincoln, Nebraska. Von Kampen's creative work spans a wide variety of genres and styles, including jazz, choral music, hymnody and liturgy, solo voice, chamber music and musical theater. He holds a doctor of musical arts degree from the University of Kansas, and master's and bachelor's degrees from the

University of Nebraska.

Von Kampen is a six-time Downbeat Award winner in graduate-level jazz writing categories, winner of the 2014 San Francisco Choral Artists New Voices Project, winner of the National Band Association's Young Jazz Composers Competition, and he received Honorable Mention in the 2014 New York Youth Symphony First Music Commissions. He has more than 50 choral and instrumental compositions and arrangements published with G. Schirmer, Concordia Publishing House, UNC Jazz Press, MusicSpoke and others.

Von Kampen is a lecturer at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, where he teaches music theory and ear training, and directs the UNL Vocal Jazz Ensemble. He also teaches applied composition at Concordia University in Nebraska and serves as music coordinator for blended worship at Christ Lutheran Church in Lincoln. Von Kampen is a member of ASCAP, the Jazz Education Network and the American Choral Directors Association. For more information visit [www.DavidvonKampen.com](http://www.DavidvonKampen.com).



Baritone **Nathaniel Sullivan** is a New-York-based performer of vocal music and theater. Young, but already accomplished, Sullivan has received two recognitions from the Nebraska District Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, and has been the recipient of the Orpheus Vocal Competition's Bizet Award. His opera

roles have included Sid (*Albert Herring*), Papageno (*Magic Flute*), and the Count (*Marriage of Figaro*). Originally from Bettendorf, Iowa, he received a Bachelor of Music degree in vocal performance from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, where he graduated in 2014 as a Chancellor's Scholar. Sullivan is currently working with Sanford Sylvan at the Bard College Conservatory's Graduate Vocal Arts Program, led by Dawn Upshaw. For more information visit [www.nathanielsullivanbaritone.com](http://www.nathanielsullivanbaritone.com).

## *Honorable Mention*

**Takuma Itoh**

Hawaii MTA

*Iridescence*

**Pierre Jalbert**

Vermont MTA

*Preludes for Piano*

**Jerry Owen**

Iowa MTA

*Sonatina*

**Adam Silverman**

Pennsylvania MTA

*Over a windcloaked nightsoaked starpoked sea*