

**Albany Records** presents *New York Pretending to be Paris*, a new album featuring contemporary poetry transformed into captivating art songs by New York City-based **composer Eric Schorr** out on **September 1, 2022**. **Mezzo-Soprano Eve Gigliotti** (Metropolitan Opera), **tenor Jesse Darden** (Boston Lyric Opera) and **baritone Michael Kelly** (Théâtre du Châtelet) give voice to thirteen musical settings of poems that are full of longing, desire and poignancy. They are accompanied by **pianists Cris Frisco, Eric Schorr, and Erika Switzer** as well as members of chamber-sized orchestra. The poets whose work is featured on the album are **Morri Creech, Richie Hofmann, Susan Kinsolving, Thomas March, Aaron Smith, and Cynthia Zarin**.

The songs are filled with images of great beauty, flashes of humor, and deeply moving characters and stories — of love offered only to be withdrawn; of mothers angry, happy, melancholy, brave and vengeful; of gay men searching for intimacy and a sense of belonging, sometimes successfully, sometimes not; of a small-town psychic, whose death has made an indelible imprint on her clients and leaves them wondering who, if anyone, might replace her as their guide to destiny. The songs flow from one to the next — listening to them is like reading a novel, or a set of interwoven short stories.

**Schorr**, a lover of poetry, sought out work that resonated with him emotionally and musically — words that when first read (in *The New Yorker* and various poetry collections), made him hear music, prompted by the rhythm of the language, the vividness of the imagery, and the intimacy, and intensity, of the subject matter.