

Chester Biscardi, “Seven O’Clock at the Cedar (Ode to Kline/de Kooning)” from Sailors & Dreamers (2007-2010) | Text by Shirley Kaplan.

In 2007 notes in a bottle are figuratively exchanged between Bogliasco and Majorca where the composer and the lyricist are living. This third song in the cycle is a story in a bar from 1967 where fame is ordinary and women run after fragments. The Cedar Bar was a ‘60s gathering place in New York City for the Abstract Expressionist painters. The lyrics document an exchange between Willem de Kooning and two young women trying to connect to a famous artist. *Sailors & Dreamers* is a tribute to the tides and currents that carry us toward the new and the unexpected. The work was commissioned by The Serge Koussevitzky Music Foundation in the Library of Congress.

Shirley Kaplan (lyricist), playwright, director, and painter, has worked extensively in theatre within the United States and Europe. She has directed and collaborated with many companies developing original theatrical material and was commissioned to create a piece for Festival Sant’Arcangelo (Italy). Co-founder of the OBIE-Award winning Paper Bag Players she has devised numerous visual and music/theatre projects including *The Connecticut Cowboy* (music by Arthur Siegel, finalist for the Susan Smith Blackburn Prize). Commissions include interdisciplinary workshops for NYC museums and The Kitchen. She was the Director of the Theatre Program at Sarah Lawrence College and continues to teach there. She is currently writing lyrics for her new work *The Ongoing Life of Ernst Mann* and developing a series of paintings based on puppet imagery.

Composer **Chester Biscardi**’s music has been performed throughout Asia, Europe, and North and South America. His catalog includes *At the Still Point*, for orchestra, *Tight-Rope*, a chamber opera in nine uninterrupted scenes, *Trasumanar*, for twelve percussionists and piano, and works for piano, voice, chorus, and chamber ensembles, as well as incidental music for theater, dance, and television. Recordings appear on the Albany, Bridge, CRI (New World Records), and New Albion labels, among others, including a Naxos American Classics release entitled *Chester Biscardi: In Time’s Unfolding*. Biscardi is a recipient of the Rome Prize, a Guggenheim Fellowship, an Academy Award in Music from the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters, among numerous other awards and fellowships. Read more at chesterbiscardi.com.