The New Colossus was commissioned by bass-baritone Simon Chalifoux for a concert of words and music by women presented at the Société d'Art Vocal de Montréal (Montreal, Quebec, Canada) on March 10, 2019.

PROGRAM NOTES

The text of Juliana Hall's musical setting for baritone and piano is the famous sonnet *The New Colossus* by American poet Emma Lazarus, written in 1883, and now inscribed on a plaque on the inner wall of the pedestal of the Statue of Liberty. Lazarus's famous sonnet depicts the Statue as the "Mother of Exiles": a "symbol of immigration and opportunity—symbols associated with the Statue of Liberty today." The sonnet was originally written in aid of the Bartholdi Pedestal Fund (an art and literary auction to raise funds for the Statue's pedestal run by the American Committee for the Statue of Liberty). ¹

¹ See "Emma Lazarus" on the National Park Service's "Statue of Liberty National Monument" web page at https://www.nps.gov/stli/learn/historyculture/emma-lazarus.htm.

THE NEW COLOSSUS

Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame,
With conquering limbs astride from land to land;
Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand
A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame
Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name
Mother of Exiles. From her beacon-hand
Glows world-wide welcome; her mild eyes command
The air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame.
"Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp!" cries she
With silent lips. "Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

—Emma Lazarus (1849–1887)

Cover design by David Sims.

for Simon Chalifoux

The New Colossus

for Baritone and Piano



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