My thoughts upon expression, and thus throw
Soul--heart--mind--passions--feelings--strong or weak
All that I would have sought, and all I seek
Bear, know, feel--and yet breathe--into one word
And that one word were Lightning, I would speak;
But as it is, I live and die unheard,
With a most voiceless thought, sheathing it as a sword."

Frederick Rzewski is a contemporary American composer whose works are often inspired by secular and socio-historical themes, show a deep political conscience and feature improvisational elements. "Winnsboro Cotton Mill Blues" is part of four-piece set called North American Ballads. This piece is the most programmatic of the four, clearly articulating the noise of the machines in an industrial factory. Rzewski uniquely utilizes the sounds of the cotton mill by a nonstop rhythm that begins alternating between two notes, slowly adding more and more until eventually asking the pianist to play with their entire forearms. The machinery is abruptly interrupted by a blues song that portray the poor working conditions of laborers in a textile mill in Winnsboro, North Carolina in 1930.

Meghan Kent is a student of Amanda Halstead. This recital is presented in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Bachelor of Music Performance Degree.
Program

La Cathédrale Engloutie  
Claude Debussy  
(1896-1918)

Minstrels

Sonata in D Major, op. 28, “Pastorale”  
Ludwig van Beethoven  
(1770-1827)

Intermission

Vallee d’Obermann  
Franz Liszt  
(1811-1886)

Winnsboro Cotton Mill Blues  
Frederic Rzewski  
(b. 1938)

Program Notes

Today's recital is in lovingly memory of my grandfather, Donald Joe Kent. Music was his life and an inspiration to his family. We miss you, Granddaddy. I know you would have been proud of me

Byron's Childe Harold's Pilgrimage
"Could I embody and unbosom now
That which is most within me,--could I wrench