

Bruce Trinkley, composer

It was a thrill to be able to return to Dorland in March of this year. I was last there in March of 2020 just when COVID was starting to shut down the country - prompting me to drive back to Pennsylvania while I could.

My project in March 2020 was setting five wonderful poems by Penn State poet - and my frequent collaborator - Julia Kasdorf. Julia had devised a project honoring the Garbrick Brothers of Central Pennsylvania, whose most prominent member was Vernon Garbrick, best-known as the inventor of the collapsible Ferris Wheel. After several delays due to the pandemic, the work was premiered in the Garbrick Workshop in Centre Hall, PA. It will be revived at the Grange Fair there on August 19, 2023. Quite an achievement for a team that has never had a Top Ten Country Hit and have never appeared at the Grand Ole Opry!

My project this past March was setting texts related to artists and their art works to celebrate the opening of the brand-new Palmer Museum at Penn State. Entitled *Palmer Songs: Art and Nature, Poetry and Music*, the song settings are for various solo voices and choruses, and includes texts (and paintings) by Robert Henri, Marsden Hartley, Thomas Hart Benton, James Weldon Johnson, and Georgia O'Keeffe.

My major project during the time while live performances were on hold because of COVID was creating a long-overdue website that includes all of the works I have composed at Dorland since my first residency in March of 1994 - some 29 years of songs, cantatas, operas and musicals, all inspired by the beauty of Dorland as well as that great Steinway in Ellen's Studio that Rachmaninoff was reputed to have played. Sadly it was destroyed in the tragic fire of 2005. But now composers are equally inspired by the wonderful new Steinway in Horton.

Thank you to the staff and board at Dorland for continuing to make this amazing place a home for working artists. Keep up the brilliant work.

Visit Bruce's website: brucetrinkley.com



[A show about the Vernon Garbrick and his family was performed last year at The Workshop in Centre Hall. The production returns Aug. 19 as "Bright Toys of Summer" at the Grange Fair.](#)

James Kalsbeek photographer