

# Dissertation Defense: Aubri McVey Leung

Thursday, June 13, 2013

1:30 pm

Ballantine Hall  
Room 144

## COMMITTEE

Margaret Gray , Chair  
French and Italian, Literature

Emanuel Mickel, Co-Chair  
French and Italian, Literature

Rosemary Lloyd ,  
French and Italian, Literature

Rosemarie McGerr,  
Comparative Literature

If you would like to attend, please  
contact Professor Gray at 812-855-  
7884 or megray@indiana.edu

INDIANA UNIVERSITY

**Au revoir à l'Aube?:** Vestiges and Transpositions of the medieval alba and aube from Thomas to Wagner, Alain-Fournier and Pablo Picasso

The medieval lyric genres of the alba and aube continued to contribute to and affect creativity in the arts into the twentieth century. My intention is to trace how specific literary, musical, visual masterpieces relate to the medieval genres of the alba and aube. Vestiges and transpositions of the *topoi* present within these genres exist in later works of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The identification of the components of the genre of the alba and aube, their beginnings in/dissemination through the works of the troubadours and the trouvères, and how they affect the medieval courtly love tradition is the basis for my research. I also trace the metamorphosis of Thomas's version of the Tristan and Yseult legend and how it influenced the Germanic version by Gottfried von Straßburg, which served as an inspiration for Richard Wagner. The magisterial opera *Tristan und Isolde* includes remnants of the aube, specifically in Act II during Tristan and Isolde's secret encounters. I also investigate the transposition and juxtaposition of the alba and aube as they pertain to *Le Grand Meaulnes* by Alain-Fournier. The novel contains various elements of the alba and aube in contrast to or as transpositions of the original conception of this medieval lyric genre. Finally, I discuss the alba and aube in the context of the 1942 and 1965 *L'aubade* by Pablo Picasso. Although the alba and aube no longer exist in their original forms, their influence upon musical works of the late nineteenth century and upon twentieth-century literature and visual art cannot be denied. Whether in the rich Romantic harmonies of Wagner or the charming narrative of Alain-Fournier's *Le Grand Meaulnes*, the effects of the alba and aube persist.

