

THE CONTINUO ARTS
FOUNDATION
PRESENTS

THE 3RD ANNUAL



JUNE 24TH, 26TH, 28TH, 2014
7:30 IN THE EVENING
CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SUMMIT, NJ

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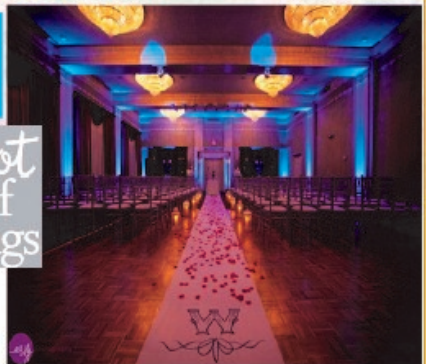


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Welcome to the 2nd Annual
Minuetto Music Festival
Presented by the Grand Summit Hotel

FESTIVAL OBJECTIVES

- ◆ Provide musicians with an opportunity to meet, perform, share their musical achievement and creativity, enhance their skills, learn new repertoire and collaborate with one another
- ◆ Offer a rich and diverse program of artists of the highest standard from seasoned professionals to new and emerging talent
- ◆ Evaluate and reflect on musical achievements and creativity in a constructive and educationally focused way
- ◆ Run rehearsals and master classes to pass on knowledge and skills
- ◆ Facilitate individual personal development through the emotionally enriching experience acquired through musical expression
- ◆ Charge a reasonable price for participation and concert attendance
- ◆ Provide a stimulating cultural experience to all participants and visitors
- ◆ Encourage the view that Central New Jersey is an interesting and culturally rewarding musical destination
- ◆ Engage Festival Committee members from many surrounding communities
- ◆ Hold additional events as determined by the Festival Committee

FESTIVAL VALUES

- ◆ A credo that exposure to the arts cannot be optional; it is a cultural right and heritage
- ◆ Production of a high quality musical event with cultural enrichment, educational advancement & community service
- ◆ Encouragement of enthusiasm and inspirational amongst participants
- ◆ Fostering a lifelong interest in music as a basic human experience
- ◆ A sense of community
- ◆ Enhance the cultural life of Central New Jersey and surrounding areas by hosting and promoting live and serious music
- ◆ A sense of connection; people with people, people with music, music with communities, communities with countries, countries to the world
- ◆ Diverse artistic expression
- ◆ Creative exchange
- ◆ Opportunity to participate and perform

FESTIVAL CONCERT SCHEDULE

The Milton Cross Young Artist Showcase Concert

Date: June 24, 2014

Location: Central Presbyterian Church, Summit, NJ

Time: 7:30pm

Alex Kariotis and the Rock Opera Orchestra CD

Release Concert

Date: June 26, 2014

Location: Central Presbyterian Church, Summit, NJ

Time: 7:30pm

Minuetto Music Festival Finale Concert

Date: June 28, 2014

Location: Central Presbyterian Church, Summit, NJ

Time: 7:30pm

ORGANIZATIONAL STAFF

Festival Co-Chairs:

Lyle Brehm

Janet Whitman

Festival Staff:

Beverly Coulter, *Artistic Director*

Candace Wicke, *Artistic Director*

Tom Colao, *Associate Conductor*

Jocelyn McGillian, *Executive Assistant/ Artist Liaison*

John Conte, *Accompanist*

Sean Guerrier, *Development Associate & Program Coordinator*

Martha Bartz, *Festival Faculty*

Corbin Abernathy, *Festival Faculty*

Terry Faldon, *Program Coordinator*

Emmy Abdill, *Administrative Intern/ Assistant Stage Manager*

Festival Advisory Committee:

Mia Andersen

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THE MINUETTO MUSIC FESTIVAL

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James & Diane Fuga Linda Melnick David & Cheryl Woolford
Christa Plantener

In Memoriam

In Memory of Bob Brehm
Ginger Knapp Ringdahl - In Memory of Robert Ringdahl
as of June 24, 2014....please notify Continuo Arts of any errors or omissions

**THE MILTON CROSS YOUNG ARTIST
SHOWCASE ~ JUNE 24, 2014**

Master of Ceremonies: Sean Guerrier, Director of the Lindemann Young
Artist Development Program at the Metropolitan Opera

Frère voyez...du gai soleil from *Werther*.....Massenet

Jessica Walch, soprano

O mio babbino caro from *Gianni Schicchi*.....Puccini

Laura Ann Heckmann, soprano

Meine Lippen sie küssen so heiss from *Giuditta*.....Lehár

Noelle Arteché, soprano

Come Down Angels.....arr. Smith Moore

Canassa Phillips, soprano

Vainement, ma bien-aimée from *Le roi d'Ys*.....Lalo

Craig Sanphy, tenor

Quia respexit from *Magnificat*.....Bach

Laura Winslow, soprano

Lily has a Rose from *Though Love Be a Day*.....Walker

Corinne Reece, soprano

Chi il bel sogno from *La Rondine*.....Puccini

Lyssandra Stephenson, soprano

Dove sono i bei momenti from *Le Nozze di Figaro*.....Mozart

Kathryn Whitaker, soprano

The Flower Duet from *Lakmé*.....Delibes

Olanna Goudeau, soprano & Milton Cross Emeritus

Jocelyn McGillian, mezzo-soprano

O luce di quest'anima from *Linda di Chambrun*.....Donizetti

Su fil d'un soffio etesio from *Falstaff*.....Verdi

Rebecca Shimer, soprano

Song to the Moon from *Rusalka*.....Dvořák

The Trees on the Mountains from *Susannah*.....Floyd

Lauren Athey-Janka, soprano

Emily's Aria from *Our Town*.....Rorem

Je veux vivre from *Roméo et Juliette*.....Gounod

Jami Leonard, soprano

THE MILTON CROSS YOUNG ARTIST SHOWCASE ~ JUNE 24, 2014

The Milton Cross Young Artist Showcase concert shines the spotlight on up-and-coming vocal artists. The Milton Cross Young Artist Award, the Rising Star Award, the Emerging Artist Award and Honorable Mention recipients that have been chosen from competitors across the United States and Canada. Named for the famous “voice of the Metropolitan Opera”, Milton Cross, this series is designed to expose and promote outstanding young artists.



MILTON CROSS (1897-1975)

Born in New York City, Cross started his career just as a network radio itself was in its earliest stages. He joined the New Jersey station WJZ in 1921, not just as an announcer but also as a singer, often engaging in recitals with the station’s staff pianist, Keith McLeod. By 1927, WJZ had moved to Manhattan and had become the flagship station of the Blue Network of NBC’s new national radio network. Cross’ voice became familiar as he not only delivered announcements for the Blue Network but also hosted a number of popular programs. Cross was the announcer for the quiz program *Information Please* and the musical humor show *The Chamber Music Society of Lower Basin Street*, among others.

It is as the host of the Metropolitan Opera’s broadcasts that Cross will be most remembered. His distinctive voice conveyed the excitement of live performances “from the stage of the Metropolitan Opera House in New York City” for generations of radio listeners. Initially, he broadcast from a seat in “Box 44” at the old Metropolitan Opera House at Broadway and 40th Street. In 1966, he introduced the radio audience to the Met’s new home at Lincoln Center as he hosted a special broadcast of the opening night performance from a modern radio booth in the new house.

In 43 seasons he missed only two broadcasts, due to the death of his wife. Cross never retired but died in New York from a heart attack during the Met season of 1974-75. He was succeeded by Peter Allen, who has been his standby announcer.

ALEX KARIOTIS AND THE ROCK OPERA ORCHESTRA ~ JUNE 26, 2014

- Nessun Dorma - No One Sleeps.....Puccini/Kariotis
- Lucky in Love.....Kariotis/Kariotis
- Pietà, Signore.....Stradella/Kariotis
- Lennon in Heaven.....Kariotis
- Home - Prelude XXI.....J.S. Bach/Kariotis
- Non t’amo più - I Don’t Love You Anymore.....Tosti/Kariotis
- Vesti la giubba - Hide the Tears.....Leoncavallo/Kariotis
- Ho bisogno di te - I Need You.....Kariotis/Conte
- Without Love.....Kariotis

Program is subject to change

MINUETTO FESTIVAL FINALE

I. Selections from:

Candide.....Leonard Bernstein

Chorus: *Best of All Possible Worlds*

The Minuetto Symphonic Chorus

Aria: *Glitter and Be Gay*

Jami Leonard, soprano

Soloist & Chorus: *It Must Be So*

Lyssandra Stephenson, soprano

Quartet: *The Venice Gavotte*

Noelle Arteché, soprano * Craig Sanphy, tenor

Rebecca Shimer, soprano * Sean Guerrier, baritone

Aria: *I Am Easily Assimilated*

Kathryn Whitaker, soprano

PJ Allen, Dylan Wicke, Carlos Garcia, Sean Guerrier, quartet

Chorus: *Make Our Garden Grow*

The Minuetto Symphonic Chorus

II. Selections from:

Die Zauberflöte.....Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Aria: *Dies Bildnis ist bezaubernd schön*

Craig Sanphy, tenor

Aria: *Der Hölle Rache kocht in meinem Herzen*

Rebecca Shimer, soprano

CONCERT ~ JUNE 29TH, 2013

Trio: *Here in Sarastro's Hallowed Border*

Laura Ann Heckmann, soprano * Laura Winslow, soprano
Kathryn Whitaker, soprano

Aria: *Ach ich Fühl's*

Lauren Athey-Janka, soprano

Trio: *Bald prangt, den Morgen zu verkünden*

Jessica Walch, soprano * Corinne Reece, soprano
Laura Winslow, soprano * Canassa Phillips, soprano

Chorus: *Hail Ye True and Faithful*

The Minuetto Symphonic Chorus

III. ***Choral Fantasy***.....Ludwig van Beethoven

John Conte, piano
Jami Leonard, soprano
Hope Osborn, soprano & Milton Cross Emeritus
Jocelyn McGillian, mezzo-soprano
Craig Sanphy, tenor
Tom Colao, tenor
Sean Guerrier, baritone

Program is subject to change

THE MINUETTO MUSIC FESTIVAL

Candide

In the country of Westphalia, Candide is about to be married to the lovely Cunegonde. Dr. Pangloss, Candide's teacher expounds his famous philosophy, to the effect that all is for the best in The Best of All Possible Worlds. The happy couple sing their marriage duet [Oh, Happy We], and the ceremony is about to take place when war breaks out between Westphalia and Hesse. Westphalia is destroyed, and Cunegonde is seemingly killed. Candide takes comfort in Panglossian doctrine [It Must Be So] and sets out on his journeys.

In the public square of Lisbon, the Infant Casmira, a deranged mystic in the caravan of an Arab conjuror, predicts dire happenings. [Lisbon Sequence] The Inquisition appears, in the persons of two ancient Inquisitors and their lawyer, and many citizens are tried and sentenced to hang, including Candide and Dr. Pangloss. Suddenly an earthquake occurs, killing Dr. Pangloss, and Candide barely escapes.

Candide, faced with the loss of both Cunegonde and Dr. Pangloss, starts out for Paris. He is unable to reconcile Dr. Pangloss's ideas with the bitter events that have occurred, but concludes that the fault must lie within himself, rather than in the philosophy of optimism. [It Must Be Me]

Cunegonde turns up alive in Paris, a demi-mondaine in a house shared by a Marquis and a Sultan. A party is in progress. Urged by the Old Lady, who serves as her duenna, Cunegonde arrays herself in her jewels. [Glitter and Be Gay] Candide stumbles into the scene and is amazed to find Cunegonde still alive. [You Were Dead, You Know] In a duel, he kills both the Marquis and the Sultan, and flees with Cunegonde, accompanied by the Old Lady.

They fall in with a band of devout Pilgrims on their way to the New World and sail with them. [Pilgrims' Procession] Arriving in Buenos Aires, the group is brought to the Governor's Palace, where all except Cunegonde and the Old Lady are immediately enslaved. A street cleaner appears in the person of the pessimistic Martin, warning Candide of the future. The Governor serenades Cunegonde [My Love] and she, abetted by the Old Lady, agrees to live in the palace [I Am Easily Assimilated], but Candide, fired by reports of Eldorado, escapes once more and sets off to seek his fortune, planning to return for Cunegonde later. [Quartet Finale]

In the heat of Buenos Aires, Cunegonde, the Old Lady and the Governor display their fraying nerves [Quiet], and the Governor resolves to get rid of the tiresome ladies. Candide returns from Eldorado, his pockets full of gold and searches for Cunegonde. The Governor, however, has had both Cunegonde and the Old Lady tied up in sacks and carried to a boat in the harbor. He tells Candide that the women have sailed for Europe, and Candide eagerly purchases a leaky ship from the Governor and dashes off. As the Governor and his suite watch from his terrace, the ship with Candide and Martin casts off and almost immediately sinks. [Bon Voyage]

Candide and Martin have been rescued from the ship, and are floating about the ocean on a raft. Martin is devoured by a shark, but Dr. Pangloss miraculously reappears. Candide is overjoyed to find his old teacher, and Pangloss sets about repairing the damage done his philosophy by Candide's experiences.

In a luxurious palazzo of Venice, Cunegonde turns up as a scrubwoman, the Old Lady as a woman of fashion [Madame Sofronia]. [What's the Use?] Candide and Dr. Pangloss appear and are caught up by the merriment, the wine and the gambling, and Candide is swindled out of his remaining gold by the avaricious crowd. [Gavotte] He is penniless, without friends and without hope.

Utterly disillusioned, he returns to the ruined Westphalia. Cunegonde, Pangloss, and the Old Lady appear and within them a spark of optimism still flickers. Candide, however, has had enough of the foolish Panglossian ideal and tells them all that the only way to live is to try and make some sense of life and to Make Our Garden Grow.

THE MINUETTO MUSIC FESTIVAL

Die Zauberflöte

Act I: In ancient times, in Egypt, this is an imaginary story. Prince Tamino is attacked by a big serpent. But, three ladies who are the servants of the Queen of the Night save him. Three ladies show him a portrait of the queen's daughter, Pamina, and Tamino falls in love with her even though he has not even met her. The Queen of the Night promises her daughter to him, if he can rescue Pamina who is enslaved by the evil Sarastro. Tamino decides to rescue her, and is given a magic flute by the three lady servants. There is a man, Papageno, who is a bird catcher. Incidentally, he follows Tamino, and is also given magic bells by the ladies. By the power of the magic flute and bells, Tamino finally gets to meet Pamina. They fall in love with each other immediately. In fact, Sarastro is not an evil man, but a high priest. He has protected Pamina from her mother who is filled with ambition to dominate the world.

Act II: Sarastro imposes three tests on Tamino to get his lover, Pamina. The first test is "Silence." When Tamino falls silent, Pamina who knows nothing feels sorrow, but they can endure this test. The second test is "Fire," and the third test is "Water." They can overcome these tests through the power of the magic flute. In addition, Papageno is also tested to get his unseen lover. Papageno is not able to endure the tests. He can't pass his tests. However, he can meet his lover, Papageno through the power of the magic bells. Papageno falls in love with Pamina. On the other hand, Pamina's mother, the Queen of the Night, is furious. She tries to break into the temple of Sarastro. But, she is hit by a thunderbolt, and goes to hell.

Choral Fantasy

Schmeichelnd hold und lieblich klingen
unsres Lebens Harmonien,
und dem Schönheitssinn entschwungen
Blumen sich, die ewig blühen.
Fried und Freude gleiten freundlich
wie der Wellen Wechselspiel.
Was sich drängte rauh und feindlich,
ordnet sich zu Hochgefühl.

Wenn der Töne Zauber walten
und des Wortes Weihe spricht,
muss sich Herrliches gestalten,
Nacht und Stürme werden Licht.
Äuss're Ruhe, inn're Wonne
herrschen für den Glücklichen.
Doch der Künste Frühlingssonne
lässt aus beiden Licht entstehn.

Großes, das ins Herz gedrungen,
blüht dann neu und schön empor.
Hat ein Geist sich aufgeschwungen,
hallt ihm stets ein Geisterchor.
Nehmt denn hin, ihr schönen Seelen,
froh die Gaben schöner Kunst:
Wenn sich Lieb und Kraft vermählen,
lohnt den Menschen Göttergunst.

With grace, charm and sweet sounds
The harmonies of our life,
And the sense of beauty engenders
The flowers which eternally bloom.
Peace and joy advancing in perfect accord,
Like the alternating play of the waves;
All harsh and hostile elements
Render to a sublime sentiment.

When the magic sounds reign
And the sacred word is spoken,
That strongly engender the wonderful,
The night and the tempest divert light,
Calm without, profound joy within,
Awaiting the great hour.
Meanwhile, the spring sun and art
Bathe in the light.

Something great, into the heart
Blooms anew when in all its beauty,
Which spirit taken flight,
And all a choir of spirits resounds in response.
Accept then, oh you beautiful spirits
Joyously of the gifts of art.
When love and strength are united,
The favour of God rewards Man.

MEET THE ARTISTS



CANDACE WICKE, CONDUCTOR

Conductor Candace Wicke made her Carnegie Hall debut in 2002. As a champion of new music, Dr. Wicke has premiered new works in many of her Carnegie Hall appearances including the World Premiere of Imant Raminsh's *Symphony of Psalms*, Gary Fry's *Sing A Song With Me*, and Stephen Edward's *A Carol Fantasy, Requiem for my Mother, Revelation*, and the New York Premiere of the *Ave Maria Mass*. Sharing the stage in 2008 with the likes of the Vienna Philharmonic, Christoph Eschenbach, and Helmuth Rilling, Wicke conducted the European premiere and world-wide

television broadcast of the Edwards *Requiem for my Mother* with the Continuo Arts Symphonic Chorus, Orchestra and the City of Prague Philharmonic at the prestigious Festival Internazionale pro Musica e Arte Sacre Series in Roma, Italy. Wicke conducted and produced the Carnegie Hall "Christmas Time in the City" concert series in 2009 and the Lee Kjelson Memorial "Sounds of Music Series" in 2010. In 2011, Dr. Wicke conducted the first Festival Internazionale Di Arte Per Giovani Musicisti in Rome, Italy. She also served as the principal conductor for the 2012 Inaugural season of the Minuetto Music Festival and returned for the second annual Giovani Musicisti Festival to conduct the world premiere of Stephen Edwards *Missa Brevis* in Rome, Vatican City, Assisi and Prague in 2012. In February of 2014 she conducted the first concert in history inside the Sistine Chapel by an American organization and conductor. Dr. Wicke's international experience also includes conducting the United States representative Wind Ensemble at the Taipei Presidential Inauguration, the Continuo Arts Symphonic Chorus at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, the City of Prague Philharmonic, in Prague and the Waratah Girls Choir in Australia. Ensembles under her baton have received National and International acclaim performing with Andre Rieu and the Johan Strauss Orchestra, the Turksoy Orchestra in Lincoln Center and the Music Center at Strathmore, the Global International Women's Summit, Musica Mundi International, Legatus International, and the Miami Civic Associations Young Artist Debut. She is a popular guest conductor, adjudicator and master class clinician across the United States. Wicke is the founder, president, and executive director for the Continuo Arts Foundation and conducts the Continuo Arts Intergenerational Choral Ensembles including; Children's Chorus, Chanticleers, Singers, Continuos!, Civic Chorale, Seniors Sing and Sonaré! These ensembles are featured in a variety of concert series and community outreach performances throughout the year. In these roles, she is committed to procreating the arts through performance, composition, education, and to fostering patronage for musical advancement and exposure. Wicke resides in Westfield, NJ with her husband and two teenage boys and is a graduate of the University of Miami and Evangel University, majoring in vocal and instrumental performance, music education, and conducting.



BEVERLY COULTER, CONDUCTOR

A native of Dallas, Texas, Beverly Coulter holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Miami in Coral Gables, Florida. In addition to her extensive work as a solo pianist and coach/accompanist, she maintains an active schedule as a singer, conductor, director, published author, and clinician in the area of vocal music and opera. Dr. Coulter's recent operatic performances include the role of Elvira in Bellini's *I Puritani*, the title role in Arrieta's opera *Marina*, Norina in *Don Pasquale*, Gilda in *Rigoletto*, Lucia in *Lucia di Lammermoor*, Musetta in *La Bohème*, Violetta in *La Traviata*, Susanna in *Le Nozze di*

Figaro, Pamina in *The Magic Flute*, and Lia in Debussy's *L'Enfant Prodigue*. Dr. Coulter has appeared in concert in Italy, Canada, South America, England, Poland, Mexico, Greece, and the Czech Republic. She performed in Carnegie Hall as soprano soloist with MidAmerica Productions. Her South Florida appearances have included performances with the New World Symphony, Treasure Coast Opera Society, Miami Lyric Opera, Riuniti Opera, Coral Gables Symphony and Opera, Círculo Lírico de la Opera, and the Civic Chorale of Greater Miami. She has recently conducted *Don Pasquale*, *L'Elisir D'Amore*, *La Rondine*, *La Traviata*, *Lucia di Lammermoor*, and *The Barber of Seville*. Her directing credits encompass a history of numerous opera, operetta, and musical theatre productions. She is the Artistic Director and founder of the *Riuniti Opera*, which was officially inaugurated in 2000 as an organization designed to help young singers bridge the gap between student and professional by being afforded performance opportunities in which they work alongside established professionals in the opera field. She launched the Riuniti Summer Educational Opera Series with the Alhambra Orchestra, and has presented *The Magic Flute*, *Die Fledermans*, *The Marriage of Figaro*, and *The Impresario* during recent seasons. As a staunch advocate of new music, Dr. Coulter has performed in premieres of many new works in the United States and abroad. These include works of Stephen James Edwards, Philip Glass, her husband Fred Coulter, and Canadian composer Imant Raminsch. She was a staff pianist for the 2012 John Duffy Composers Institute, which is part of the Virginia Arts Festival. She recently she appeared as soprano soloist in the world premiere of Edwards's *Mass For My Mother*, presented by the Continuo Arts Foundation as part of the Festival Internazionale di Musica e Arte Sacra in Rome, Italy. She was the artistic director of the 2012 Continuo Arts Foundation Minuetto Young Artist Festival. She performed the role of Mica in the South Florida premiere of Carly Simon's opera *Romulus Hunt*. Dr. Coulter is Director of Music Ministry at Central Presbyterian Church in Miami, Florida. She is Auditions Chairperson of the South Florida Chapter of the National Association of Teachers of Singing and is an active collaborator with the Miami Lyric Opera and the Alhambra Orchestra. Dr. Coulter is Director of Opera and Professor of Music at Barry University in Miami Shores, Florida.

THE MINUETTO MUSIC FESTIVAL

THE MINUETTO SYMPHONIC CHORUS

SOPRANO

Emma Peterson
Hope Osborn
Lyle Brehm
Terry Faldon
Jami Leonard
Jessica Walch
Dawn Buchan
Lauren Athey-Janka
Rebecca Shimer
Susan Peterson
Corinne Reece
Canassa Phillips
Laura Winslow
Lyssandra Stephenson
Noelle Arteché
Kathy Martin

ALTO

Janet Whitman
Millie Cooper
Susan Peterson
Mia Andersen
Jocelyn McGillian
Kathryn Whitaker
Drude Roessler
Daveda Browne

TENORS

Tom Colao
Craig Sanphy
Corbin Abernathy
Carlos Garcia
Dick Lunde
Peter Ncanywa
Betse Gump

BASS

Geoff Buchan
Bill Hammond
Craig Kovera
Steve Peterson
Dallas Wicke
Dylan Wicke
PJ Allen
Sean Guerrier
Nicolas Dosman
Glen Crane
Joe Ciresi

THE MINUETTO ORCHESTRA

VIOLIN I

Eliza Cho
Romulo Benavides

VIOLIN II

Gail Hernandez Rosa
Laura Earley

VIOLA

Marcia Bean
Renee Warnick

CELLO

Troy Chang
Elizabeth Thompson

BASS

Larry Goldman

FLUTE

Karen Bogardus

CLARINET

Nuno Antunes

OBOE

Marilyn Coyne

TRUMPET

Michael Gorham

FRENCH HORN

James Perry

TROMBONE

Amanda Blütner

BASSOON

Leann Currie

TIMPANI

Dan Granda

PERCUSSION

Pete Cruz
Adrienne Ostrander

ALEX KARIOTIS AND THE ROCK OPERA ORCHESTRA



Alex Kariotis, Breathing New Life into the Rock Opera Genre

NEW YORK – When people think of great rock voices, Steve Perry (Journey) and Freddie Mercury (Queen) are some of the names that come to mind. Take their vocal styles; add to them the sublime sounds of great operatic composers such as Puccini and Verdi, and “Voilà” you have Alexander Kariotis, breathing new life into the rock opera-genre.

“There’s room for both rock and opera, even in the same song.” Kariotis explains. And this phenomenal singer does just that throughout his debut album, Alexander Kariotis and the Rock Opera Orchestra (VMG – SONY/Red), released in June 2014, exclusively on Amazon.com

The iconic jazz saxophonist **David Sanborn** joins Alexander in a beautiful jazz/opera fusion song *Ho Bisogno Di Te*. **Darryl “DMC” McDaniels** of RUN DMC joins Kariotis in a hip hop/opera collaboration of a remix of Alexander’s original composition called *Vesti la Giubba – Hide the tears*.

Growing up in Chicago, he quickly found his escape through music and was inspired by his older brother, Tony, the front man of Gambler (EMI Records). Only 13 years old at the time, Kariotis thought he was meant to be a rocker, but his brother had another path in mind for him. Tony’s instincts were proven correct when he took Alexander to see opera star Luciano Pavarotti in concert, and saw how fascinated he became with Pavarotti’s voice.

Determined to excel in classical music, he began studying at the prestigious Mannes Conservatory of Music in New York with Metropolitan Opera tenor Dan Marek and also Pavarotti’s teacher Arrigo Pola in Italy.

He performed alongside Tony Award winning actress Elizabeth Ashley in the Broadway tour of Terrence McNally’s *Master Class*; had a starring role in the one-man Off-Broadway show, *Holdin’ On*, sang at New York’s Avery Fischer Hall, and at the Berlin Philharmonic.

Kariotis’ success was shattered when his brother Tony, the person who had brought music into his life, was diagnosed with Lou Gehrig’s disease (ALS). After his brother’s death, Alexander realized he needed to achieve both of their dreams by combining their passions and becoming a rock-opera artist.

“When I am singing in both genres, I feel my brother Tony there with me.”

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ALEX KARIOTIS AND THE ROCK OPERA ORCHESTRA

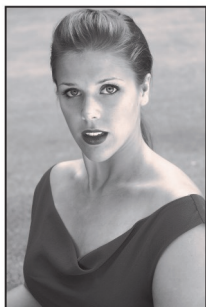


JOHN CONTE, PIANO

John Conte, pianist, composer, producer, orchestrator, educator, holds a B.M. and M.M. in piano performance from the Peabody Conservatory of Music in Baltimore, MD. Further education includes studies in Jazz Performance and Music Theory at the Manhattan School of Music, Chamber Music at The Banff Centre in Alberta, Canada, and Composition at Westminster Choir College. His teachers have included Leon Fleisher, Ann Schein, Karl Ulrich Schnabel, and Robert Weirich. He's written and recorded the scores for the award winning independent features "Black-Eyed Susan" and "Mass of Angels". He was the Assistant Conductor of the Lyric Theatre Orchestra of NYC and is an accompanist for

The Paper Mill Playhouse in Millburn, NJ as well as for The Continuo Arts Foundation in Summit, NJ. He is currently the pianist, orchestrator, producer, and musical director for Alexander Kariotis and the Rock Opera Orchestra.

THE MILTON CROSS AWARD WINNERS



Jami Leonard, soprano

JAMI LEONARD, SOPRANO

Jami made her Mississippi Debut this Spring in the role of Josephine in HMS Pinafore with the Natchez Festival of Music. In addition to Josephine, Jami toured Southern Mississippi Schools with the Bremen Town Musicians as Barcarolle. Jami attended Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music, completing her Bachelors and Masters of Music under Patricia Wise. Favorite roles with IU Opera include Clara Johnson in *The Light in the Piazza*, Maria in *West Side Story*, and originating the role of Marguerite Gashet in the World Premier of *Vincent*. With the IU Theater Department,

Jami was seen in *Nine* and *Oklahoma!*. She originated the role of Juliet in Dr. Don Freund's *Romeo and Juliet: A Musical Drama* at the Bloomington Playwrights Project. As a graduate student, she attended the Bay Area Summer Opera Theater Institute in San Francisco where she performed the role of Giunone in *La Calisto*, along with scene performances as Meg *Falstaff*, Euridice *Orfeo ed Euridice* and Manon *Manon*. While in San Francisco, Jami was honored to participate in a Master Class given by Patricia Racette. Jami has received awards from the Indianapolis Musicale Competition and Continuo Arts Foundation's Minuetto Music Festival Milton Cross Competition. Jami made her international debut in October of 2012 as the voice of Rufus in the award winning European Premier of William Mayer's *A Death in the Family* with CCO at the Arnel Festival in Szeged, Hungary. Jami reprised the role at the Theatre d'Avignon in the summer of 2013.

THE MINUETTO MUSIC FESTIVAL



LAUREN ATHEY-JANKA, SOPRANO

New Jersey native lyric soprano Lauren Athey-Janka was recently hailed as possessing a “stunningly beautiful voice with impeccable technique” with “talent of the highest caliber”. Lauren has portrayed many Mozart heroines, including Pamina, Contessa, and Susanna. Other recent performances include Floyd’s *Susannah* (Susannah), Charpentier’s *Louise* (Louise), Handel’s *Rinaldo* (Almirena) and Ravel’s *L’Enfant et les Sortilèges* (Une pastourelle) with Choral Arts of New Jersey, New York Opera Studio, CCM’s Rising Star Singers, Florence Voice Seminar, Westminster Opera Theatre, and Boston University.

Lauren has sung as a soprano soloist in Mozart’s *Vesperae*, Mozart’s *Requiem*, Handel’s *Messiah*, Ola Gjiela’s “Dark Night of the Soul”, Haydn’s *Harmoniemesse*, Vaughan Williams’ “Dona Nobis Pacem” and Vaughan Williams’ “Serenade to Music” with orchestra, including the Boston University, Choral Arts of New Jersey, Garden State Philharmonic, and Bay Atlantic Symphony. She will sing Dvořák’s “Song to the Moon” from *Rusalka* with Sinfonietta Nova in Princeton, NJ in May of 2014.

In 2013, Lauren won an Enrichment Grant with Music Teachers National Association Foundation Fund. She has placed in NJ and Boston NATS Classical and Musical Theatre Competitions in various divisions. Lauren won the Graduate Music Scholarship Competition in her class at Westminster Choir College, and was also given a graduate grant to attend. She attended Boston University with a full grant.

A foreign language enthusiast, Lauren has studied the Italian language and performed recitals in Italy, Albania and Romania. She holds a B.M. in voice performance from Boston University (vocal studies with Penelope Bitzas) and a M.M. in voice performance and vocal pedagogy from Westminster Choir College (vocal studies with Margaret Cusack). Lauren is a student of Dr. Christopher Arneson.



REBECCA SHIMER, SOPRANO

Rebecca Shimer, a soprano from Norristown, Pennsylvania, is a graduate of Westminster Choir College, with a Masters Degree in Voice Performance and Pedagogy. Recent roles include *Iolanta* (*Iolanta*), *Nella* (*Gianni Schicchi*), and *Fairy Godmother* (*The True Story of Cinderella*). She has performed as a soloist in the Westminster Symphonic Choir. Miss Shimer holds a Bachelors Degree in Music Education and Voice from West Chester University of Pennsylvania, and has studied German lieder in Vienna, Austria. She is a student of Harold Evans.

THE RISING STAR AWARD WINNERS



KATHRYN WHITAKER, SOPRANO

Kathryn Whitaker holds a Bachelor of Music in Music Education and a Master of Arts in Teaching from Westminster Choir College of Rider University. During her time at Westminster, she performed at venues such as Carnegie Hall and the Lincoln Center. As a freelance musician, Kathryn has appeared as a soloist for several ensembles in the tri-state area. She is also a member of the Kinnara Ensemble, based in Princeton, New Jersey. An active liturgical musician, she currently sings at The Cathedral of St. Patrick in New York City. Other posts include The Cathedral Basilica of Ss. Peter and Paul in Philadelphia, and

St. Peter's Cathedral in Scranton, PA. Kathryn studies with Neal Harrelson and recently participated in the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions. She also teaches piano and voice in Northern New Jersey.



CRAIG SANPHY, TENOR

Craig Sanphy, tenor, from Concord, New Hampshire, has seen his career begin in earnest these past few years. He has been a two time Rising Star Young Artist with the Minuetto Music Festival and recently finished a month in Houston at the Le Chiavi di Bel Canto Institute of the Texas Music Festival.

Mr. Sanphy has worked with numerous opera companies and organizations, including the Princeton Festival, Ridgewood G&S Opera Co., Opera MODO, Berkley Light Opera Co., St. Joseph's University Opera Dept., Westminster Choir College Opera Theatre, Delaware Valley

Opera Company, Continuo Arts Foundation and the NJ Intergenerational Orchestra. Recent roles include Don Ottavio (Don Giovanni), Don Curzio (Le Nozze di Figaro), Elder Hayes (Susannah), Nanki-Poo (The Mikdoo) and Marco Palmieri (The Gondoliers) and has been seen in scene work as Prunier (La Rodine), Fenton (Falstaff), Tamino (Die Zauberflote), and Chevalier des Grieux (Manon). Equally at home on the concert stage, his work as a soloist includes Schubert's Mass in G Major, Haydn's and Dubois' Seven Last Words of Christ, and Haydn's The Seasons.

Mr. Sanphy is currently in his second year as Artist-In-Residence with the Continuo Arts Foundation. With them, he has performed as a featured soloist in their "Sounds of Spring" concert, served as tenor soloist for the Beethoven Choral Fantasy Op.80, and is a founding member of Sonare, Continuo Art's all professional chamber choir. He is currently tenor soloist at the Presbyterian Church in Westfield and is a current student of Professor Eric Rieger.



LYSSANDRA STEPHENSON, SOPRANO

Lyssandra Stephenson has performed as a soloist in Manhattan, Brooklyn, Connecticut, and New Jersey in many historical churches such as the John Street Methodist Church, the Plymouth Church, and the Flatbush Reformed Dutch Church. This summer, Lyssandra will sing in the Manhattan Opera Studio Summer Festival, performing in *The Magic Flute* as First Lady, as well as in aria and art song concerts. This year, she sang with OperaOggiNY, where she created the role of Anat in the new opera *The Interview* by Thomas

Toscano in April and May of 2014. She has also participated with the New York Continuo Collective in concerts and staged productions. She has received honors from Central New York NATS and from the Mendelssohn Performing Arts Center, and has also participated in Masterclasses with Greg Buchalter at the Metropolitan Opera, Ellen Hargis, and Frederica Von Stade. Performances include Cornaccholioli's *Diana Schernita* (Ninfa), *The Merry Widow* (Sylviane), *The Mikado* (Yum-Yum) *Messiah*, Mozart's *Requiem*, Schubert's *Mass in G*, Bach's *St. John Passion*, and holds degrees from the University of Wisconsin at Madison and SUNY Potsdam's Crane School of Music. Lyssandra is the Orchestra Director at Rutgers Preparatory School in Somerset.



NOELLE ARTECHE, SOPRANO

Soprano Noelle Arteche is a native of New Jersey and has been commended for her sensitive interpretive abilities and skill in effective performance. She has enjoyed successful portrayals of Cherubino in *The Marriage of Figaro* (Mozart) with Stony Hill Players, Amore in *L'incoronazione di Poppea* (Monteverdi) with dell'Arte Opera Ensemble, Dew Fairy in *Hansel and Gretel* (Humperdinck) with New York Lyric Opera Theater, Un Pastore in *Tosca* (Puccini) with Amore Opera, Cis in *Albert Herring* (Britten) with Opera New Jersey, and scenes of Adele in *Die Fledermaus* (Strauss), Zerlina in *Don Giovanni* (Mozart), and Aretta in *L'Oca del Cairo* all

with Peabody Opera, and Gretel in *Hansel and Gretel* (Humperdinck). An avid recitalist, Noelle's performances include two solo recitals at Weill Recital Hall, Carnegie Hall (New York City, New York).

Equally at home in the genre of musical theater, Noelle has performed the roles of Maria in *West Side Story* (Bernstein), Kim MacAfee in *Bye, Bye Birdie!* (Strouse) and Fay Templeton in *George M!* (Cohen). She has also had the great privilege of appearing with the renowned Palisades Virtuosi in concert to benefit Habitat for Humanity. Noelle Arteche holds a Bachelor of Music degree in Vocal Performance from the Peabody Conservatory of the John Hopkins University. She is a student of Barbara Urbine-Reidy.

THE EMERGING ARTIST AWARD WINNERS



CORINNE REECE, SOPRANO

A native of Aberdeen, Mississippi, Corinne Reece is the daughter of two high school band directors. She began studying the saxophone at the age of 12 and did not begin singing seriously until she attended community college. Since then Cori has continued her studies with Dr. Tara Warfield at Mississippi State University where she sings in three choral ensembles and participates in both theatre and opera productions. In 2014 Cori was awarded 3rd Place in the Mississippi State University Concerto Competition and 2nd Place at the National Association of Teachers of Singers

Regional Competition. She is scheduled to receive her Bachelor of Arts degree in music in 2015.



CANASSA PHILLIPS, SOPRANO

Canassa Phillips is currently a senior at Mississippi State University where she studies voice with Dr. Tara Warfield. She will graduate in 2015 with both a Bachelor of Arts degree in Music and the Bachelor of Business Information Systems. A native of Houston, Texas, Canassa attended the High School for the Performing and Visual Arts, where she studied voice with Patricia Bonner, Rob Seible, and Carol Nelson. Since arriving at Mississippi State University, Canassa has placed in the top three of state divisions of the National Association of Teachers of Singers competition three times and has sung the role of Queen in Mozart's "The Magic Flute" and as the soprano soloist in Haydn's "Lord Nelson Mass."



LAURA WINSLOW, SOPRANO

Laura Winslow has been passionate about music since birth. She has performed with choirs in Boston Symphony Hall, Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center. Laura graduated with honors from Westminster Choir College, where she earned a Bachelor of Music degree in Education. A Massachusetts native, she has taught piano and voice lessons in New Jersey for seven years and has worked with singers aged 5 through 85 in church, school and community settings.

Laura has performed as a soloist with the NJ Masterwork Chorus, Choral Art Society of NJ and in the Princeton Pro Musica. She is a frequent soloist with Harmonium Choral Society, with whom she toured Greece and Turkey in 2013. Laura serves as the vocal music director at Marlboro Elementary School in Marlboro, NJ. She has a particular affinity for music of the Baroque era as well as a passion for premiering new works by composers of our time.

THE MINUETTO MUSIC FESTIVAL



JESSICA WALCH, SOPRANO

Soprano Jessica Walch is a versatile emerging young artist. She is a current student at Montclair State University where she is pursuing a master's degree in Vocal Performance. She was featured as an emerging artist at the 2013 Minuetto Music Festival. Recent performance credits include Josephine in *HMS Pinafore*, Lady Saphir in *Patience*, Nursing Sister & Alms Sister in *Suor Angelica*, Edith in *Pirates of Penzance*, and Violet Hilton in *Side Show*. She has worked with opera and theater companies such as Light Opera of New York, Ridgewood Gilbert & Sullivan Opera Co., Garden State Opera, New York Lyric Opera, and Stony Hill

Players. In 2010 she participated in the Manhattan School of Music Summer Voice Festival. Jessica received her bachelor's degree from Muhlenberg College with a double major in Vocal Performance and Communications.



LAURA ANN HECKMANN, SOPRANO

Laura Ann Heckmann (lyric coloratura) made her debut with the Northern Westchester Symphony in 2009. In January 2013, she performed for Seymour Barab at Theater for the New City as Kate in his production, *The Blind Date* with After Dinner Opera Theater. Past opera roles include Oscar in *Un Ballo in Maschera*, Olympia in *Les Contes d'Hoffmann*, Lauretta in *Gianni Schicchi*, and the *Queen of the Night* in *Die Zauberflote*. In April 2013, she was featured as a soloist in the benefit concert at Crystal Theater for the New York Musical Theater Festival

production, *Mother Jones and the Children's Crusade*. She has also appeared in regional productions as Cinderella in *Into the Woods*, The Plaintiff in *Trial By Jury*, and Diana in *Lend Me a Tenor*.

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MINUETTO FESTIVAL STAFF

JOCELYN MCGILLIAN, ARTIST LIAISON



Mezzo-Soprano, **Jocelyn McGillian**, is Executive Assistant for the Continuo Arts Foundation, and a graduate of Westminster Choir College in Princeton, NJ, where she earned a Bachelor's degree in Vocal Performance as a student of Sharon Sweet. While at Westminster, she sang roles such as Connie Sue in the musical *Smile*, and Soeur Antoine in Poulenc's *Dialogues des Carmélites*, in addition to performing in scenes from Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte*. In 2008, Ms. McGillian was selected to attend the Crittenden Opera Studio, where she performed in scenes from Strauss's *Der Rosenkavalier*, Delibes' *Lakme*, and Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro*. Ms. McGillian's solo professional debut was in May 2009 in the Spoleto Music Festival's production of Charpentier's *Louise*. At Westminster, Ms. McGillian appeared as a soloist with the Westminster Chapel Choir, Schola Cantorum, Williamson Voices, and the world-renowned Westminster Choir. Ms. McGillian is currently a member of the All Saints' Choir in Princeton, NJ, where she performed as a mezzo soloist in Mozart's *Requiem*. Additionally, she has made appearances with Princeton Society of Musical Amateurs as the mezzo soloist for the Bach *Christmas Oratorio*, and as Pitti-Sing in Gilbert & Sullivan's *The Mikado*, and this February will be appearing as Buttercup in *HMS Pinafore*. In 2010, Ms. McGillian was the mezzo soloist in Princeton Pro Musica's performance of the Schnittke Requiem. Ms. McGillian has been a featured soloist with the Continuo Arts Foundation, and is a seasoned recitalist, most recently performing in the recital series *When in Rome... Songs of Love, Beauty, & Tragedy* in Princeton and Long Branch, NJ. Ms. McGillian was most recently seen as the Mezzo soloist for Mozart's *Coronation Mass* with the Colby College Chorale.

TOM COLAO, ASSOCIATE CONDUCTOR



Tom Colao, Associate Conductor for the Continuo Arts Foundation, is pursuing a diverse musical career as a conductor, organist, and composer. He is currently Director of Music and Organist at All Saints' Church, Princeton, New Jersey, as well as Music Director for Princeton's Opera MODO. Born and raised in the northern suburbs of Chicago, Mr. Colao attended the Mannes College of Music in Manhattan, studying voice and choral conducting, before transferring to Westminster Choir College to pursue studies in organ with Dr. Matthew Lewis. While at Westminster, he sang as a member of the renowned Westminster Choir, under the direction of Dr. Joe Miller, in addition to performances with the Choir as both a tenor and organ soloist on two national tours and at the Spoleto Festival in Charleston, SC. For Opera MODO, he has led performances of Menotti's *The Medium*, Handel's *Giulio Cesare*, and this season returns to conduct Puccini's *Il Trittico*. Mr. Colao has had compositions and arrangements performed by the Westminster Choral Scholars, the Choir of All Saints' Church, and the chamber chorus Choral Chameleon. He maintains an active schedule as a recitalist, tenor soloist, and vocal coach.

THE MINUETTO MUSIC FESTIVAL
SEAN GUERRIER, DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE



Baritone **Sean Guerrier** commands a distinguished position among the world's foremost classical singers, excelling in dual career which includes stage performance outside of his administrative duties as the Artistic Associate for the Metropolitan Opera's Lindemann Young Artist Development Program (LYADP). He has performed leading roles in operas such as Escamillo in Bizet's *Carmen*, Friedrich Bhaer in Adamo's *Little Woman*, Sam in Bernstein's *Trouble in Tahiti*, Davenaut in Heine's *Der Vampyr* and The Duke in Gilbert and Sullivan's *Gondoliers*, among other. Mr. Guerrier began his

musical career as a chorister with the world renowned Boy's Choir of Harlem, touring the globe as their featured soloist. He later made his solo debut with the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra, performing an evening of American Songs. After receiving his bachelor's degree in Vocal Performance and Music Business from Westminster Choir College in Princeton, NJ. Mr. Guerrier served as Program Development Associate at MidAmerica Productions as well as The International Festival of the Aegean and The Greek Opera Studio in Syros, Greece. Mr. Guerrier is currently entering his fourth season with The Metropolitan Opera.



MARTHA BARTZ, TEACHING ARTIST

Martha Bartz is an accomplished and versatile vocalist performing regularly as a classical concert soloist, recitalist, contemporary cabaret performer, and opera principal. Martha returns to Opera Carolina in January of 2014 in the roles of Ciesia in *Gianni Schicchi* and the Monitor in *Suor Angelica*, part of the *Il Trittico* performance. Martha returned to the Metropolitan Room in New York City in May 2012 to debut her new show, *On The Way To You...a Journey through the American Songbook...* old and new with her partner and music director, Dr. Mory Ortman. Ms. Bartz will perform in 4 recitals, 2 oratorios and will be a featured guest

soloist in the 2000 seat Great Auditorium in Ocean Grove, NJ in the summer of 2013. Martha was selected as the 2010 Classical Singer Convention winner of the Musical Theater competition in New York City and is a recent past winner of the New York City NATS competition and finalist in the International Lotte Lehmann Cybersing competition. Ms. Bartz was also chosen, via national audition, to perform in the National Art Song Festival in Cleveland, Ohio. Ms. Bartz has performed as guest artist in many prestigious venues including Carnegie Hall, The Cathedral of St. John the Divine, New York City, The Great Auditorium in Ocean Grove, New Jersey, historic Gusman Hall in Miami, and many others throughout the eastern United States. She has headlined with many prominent orchestra's and organizations; The New York City Chamber Orchestra, The Pilsen Radio Symphony Orchestra of Czechoslovakia, The Charlotte Symphony, The Ethos Consortium Chamber Orchestra, The Miami Bach Society Chamber Orchestra, The Gay Mens Chorus of South Florida, and varied/countless church, synagogue, and civic organizations throughout the Southeast. In addition to her career as a performer, Martha is a member of the Catawba College music faculty teaching Class Voice and Private Voice. Martha currently studies voice with Dr. Mory S. Ortman, Dr. Emily Urbanek and the Composers of the music she performs.

THE MINUETTO MUSIC FESTIVAL



CORBIN ABERNATHY, TEACHING ARTIST

Corbin Abernathy, Teaching Artist for the Minuetto Music Festival, is an in-demand Actor/Singing Actor, Private Voice and Acting Teacher, Workshop/Masterclass Instructor and Clinician for Teacher Training seminars currently based out of Philadelphia, PA. As a performer, Corbin can currently be heard on the cast albums of the musicals *The Kids Left...The Dog Died...Now What?*, *3 Divas 3* and *TruckStop: The Musical/Tattooed Angel*. He will be performing the role of Falstaff this coming summer for the Revolution Shakespeare Company's production of *Five Kings* this summer season. Corbin also makes his film debut with the feature short film *Escalation* due for wide release this coming August. Some of Corbin's favorite past roles include Stuart Stopnick in *Caroline or Change* and Marcus Lycus in *A Funny Thing Happened...Forum* with the Arden Theatre, Mr. Bascombe in *Carousel* with the Walnut Street Theatre, Mr. Twimble/Mr. Womper in *How To Succeed in Business...with Oklahoma City Theatre*. As a Teaching Artist, Corbin has worked with clients such as the Walnut Street Theatre, Georgia Ensemble Theatre, Philly ASAP, and Philly Senior Stage teaching Voice, Stage Acting, Acting for TV/Film, Shakespeare and Musical Theatre. Also this season, Corbin will be presenting acting workshops for the National Conferences of Senior Theatre USA in Atlantic City and The Educational Theatre Association in Cincinnati, OH as well as Philly ASAP Teacher Training seminars. Corbin maintains a vibrant private voice, acting, and accent reduction studio in Philadelphia and online. Corbin holds a Bachelor of Music in Musical Theatre from the University of Miami and a Master of Performing Arts in Drama from Oklahoma City University and is a proud member of the Voice and Speech Trainers Association, the National Association for Teachers of Singing and the Actors' Equity Association.



HOPE OSBORN, MILTON CROSS EMERITUS

Hope Osborn, Soprano, has graduated with a Masters Degree in Vocal Performance and Vocal Pedagogy from Westminster Choir College of Rider University. Hope has been seen in roles and scenes such as Mimi in *La Boheme*, Arabella in *Arabella*, Marshalin in *Der Rosenkavalier*, Donna Elvira and Donna Anna in *Don Giovanni*, Suor Angelica in *Suor Angelica*, Tessa in *The Gondoliers*, Josephine in *H.M.S. Pinafore* and Sister Valentine in *Dialogues Des Carmelites*. Hope made her professional operatic debut with the Delaware Valley Opera Company singing the role of Donna Anna in *Don Giovanni*. Hope has sung in the Princeton Festival as a chorus member of Wagner's, "The Flying Dutchman". Hope has participated in the prestigious CoOperative Program for two years and participated in the Florence Voice Seminar in Florence, Italy. Hope has performed over 40 recitals throughout the United States. Some of Hope's solo concert experience includes Mahler's 2nd Symphony, Mozart's Requiem, Vivaldi's Gloria, The Rutter Requiem, Rachmaninoff's Vespers, Mozart's *Vesperae solennes de confessore*, Faure's Requiem, Mozart's Requiem, Ray's Gospel Mass, and the NJ/DE/ PA premier of the Jenkin's *Stabat Mater*. Hope has sung solo at Lincoln Center, New Jersey Performing Arts Center, and New Jersey State Theater. Among many prestigious awards, Hope has twice been awarded the Encouragement Award from the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions. Most recently, Hope has been awarded a grant from the Wagner Society of New York. Hope's discography includes being a featured soloist on *Angels and Architecture: The voices of Anam Cara* and *Teaching Music through Performance in Choir*. Hope has just completed her first year as an adjunct voice professor at Molloy College in NY. Hope also has a private studio and is a teacher of voice and piano at Dancestop Education in NJ.



OLANNA GOUDEAU, SPECIAL GUEST ARTIST

Olanna Goudeau continues to captivate audiences with her dazzling coloratura, rich lyricism, and crystalline upper range. The Port Arthur, TX native has most recently been seen on NBC's premiere episode of America's Got Talent with ACTE II, a classical singing duo, which is gaining acclaim in the US and abroad. Her performance credits include: Clorinda in La Cenerentola, Bess in Porgy & Bess, Donna Anna in Don Giovanni, Queen of the Night and Papagena in Die Zauberflöte, Adele in Die Fledermaus, Lakmé in Lakmé, Rosina in Il Barbiere di Siviglia, Rose Maybud in Ruddigore, Lauretta in Le Docteur Miracle, and Gretel in Hansel & Gretel. She has also had the distinct pleasure of premiering several new works including Michael Ching's acapella opera, A Midsummer's Night Dream (Hermia), at Princeton University's illustrious Berlind Theater and Waundell Saavedra's Sweet Dreams (Sparkle) at New York City's new National Opera Center. Olanna is happy to be invited to attend the esteemed Minuetto Festival as a Guest Artist after spending last summer as a Resident Artist and being awarded the Milton Cross Rising Star Award. She has earned a spot as a Regional Finalist at the prestigious Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, awarded 1st place by the National Association of Teachers of Singing and 2nd place at the Benton-Schmidt Opera Competition. Ms. Goudeau has been chosen as a young artist by Cincinnati Opera, Opera New Jersey, Taos Opera Institute, and Cimarron Opera. While Olanna enjoys an active opera career, she is equally in demand as a recitalist. She has been featured in recital by Brazil's renowned Teatro da Paz, Empire Opera in conjunction with Prosperity Arts Foundation and Black Liberated Arts Center, Inc. at the Oklahoma City Civic Center. Olanna is currently an Artist-in-Residence at First AME: Bethel in New York City. She is a proud graduate of Dillard University and the University of Oklahoma where she studied Vocal Performance. Olanna currently studies with Virginia Grasso and resides in New York City.

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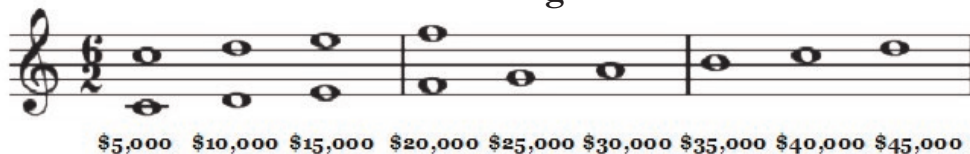
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