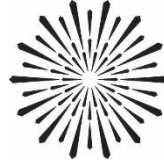




MEROLA
OPERA PROGRAM



SAN FRANCISCO
OPERA CENTER

Mezzo-Soprano Simona Genga and Pianist Hyemin Jeong's February 21 Program, *Two Laurels*, Opens 2024 Schwabacher Recital Series

Nicholas Phan Curates March 6 *The Secret Garden* Concert
Featuring San Francisco Opera Adler Fellows

Tickets available at sfopera.com/srs and (415) 864-3330

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (February 14, 2024) —The 2024 Schwabacher Recital Series, presented by Merola Opera Program and San Francisco Opera Center, opens on Wednesday, February 21 at the Dianne and Tad Taube Atrium Theater with a program featuring two recent Merola graduates: mezzo-soprano Simona Genga and pianist Hyemin Jeong. The series' second recital, curated by tenor Nicholas Phan and performed by a talented group of five second-year San Francisco Opera Adler Fellows, takes place two weeks later on Wednesday, March 6.

FEBRUARY 21

SIMONA GENGA AND HYEMIN JEONG



Simona Genga, Hyemin Jeong

This year's series begins on February 21 with 2023 Merola Opera Program participants Italian Canadian mezzo-soprano Simona Genga and Korean pianist Hyemin Jeong in a program called *Two Laurels*, featuring both traditional art songs and new compositions, bringing the audience on a journey through the intimate moments of a queer love story.

Simona Genga said: "The concept for this program grew out of my love for *I canti della sera* by Francesco Santoliquido. Composed in 1908, these songs are said to chronicle the composer's summer evenings within concealed gay enclaves in Tunisia. The text, detailing a passionate yet melancholic love affair, exudes an unmatched sense of poignancy. The narrative of the recital is rooted in these four songs. This recital also draws inspiration from visual poetry, evoking the sentiment articulated in Pierre Louÿs' *Chansons de Bilitis*, set to music by Claude Debussy: 'we were united thus forever by the same tresses, mouth on mouth, just as two laurels often share one root.' The sequencing of the songs on the program, initiated from opposing ends, symbolizes the convergence of two individuals, progressively intertwining as the narrative unfolds. In an intentional linguistic adaptation, certain grammatical aspects have been adjusted to imbue older texts with gendered flexibility, thereby serving the purpose of telling new stories."

MARCH 6

ARIANNA RODRIGUEZ, OLIVIA SMITH, NIKOLA PRINTZ, JONGWON HAN, YANG LIN
Curated by Nicholas Phan



Arianna Rodriguez, Olivia Smith, Nikola Printz, Jongwon Han, Yang Lin

On March 6 the series continues with five second-year San Francisco Opera Adler Fellows: sopranos Arianna Rodriguez and Olivia Smith, mezzo-soprano Nikola Printz, bass-baritone Jongwon Han and pianist Yang Lin. The artists will perform in a program curated by American tenor Nicholas Phan called *The Secret Garden*, comprising of songs in English, German, Russian, Spanish, French and Korean.

Phan said of the program: "Throughout the ages, poets and composers have been inspired by nature, finding meaning and metaphor for the human experience through our relationship with the flora and the fauna that surround us. In this spirit, *The Secret Garden* is a bouquet of song, featuring songs by beloved composers such as Margaret Bonds, Lili Boulanger, Henry Thacker Burleigh, Ernest Chausson, Aaron Copland, Edvard Grieg, Franz Schubert, Richard Strauss and Ralph Vaughan Williams."

The final concert of the season on April 3 will highlight the artistic collaboration between mezzo-soprano Samantha Hankey (Merola 2017) and San Francisco Opera Center and Merola Opera Program Artistic Director and pianist Carrie-Ann Matheson. Their program will feature songs by Claude Debussy, Manuel de Falla, Alexander Zemlinsky, Cole Porter and Kurt Weill.

TICKETS AND INFORMATION

Tickets (general seating) are \$30; a series package for all three recitals is \$75. Tickets can be purchased at the San Francisco Opera Box Office (301 Van Ness Avenue) in person, by phone at (415) 864-3330 and online at sfopera.com/srs.

Please note: The three-recital package is available only in-person or by phone. Student rush tickets, subject to availability, are available for \$15 at each venue 30 minutes prior to each recital. (Limit of two tickets per person; valid ID is required.) Artists, programs, schedules and ticket prices are subject to change.

The Dianne and Tad Taube Atrium Theater is a state-of-the-art performance venue utilizing the Constellation® acoustic system from Berkeley-based Meyer Sound. The Taube Atrium Theater is part of San Francisco Opera's Diane B. Wilsey Center for Opera, located on the fourth floor of the Veterans Building at 401 Van Ness Avenue in San Francisco.

To ensure flexibility for patrons, no-fee exchanges will be accepted up to two hours before performances. Patrons may donate tickets for a tax deduction until curtain time.

FOR CONCERT CALENDAR EDITORS:

2024 SCHWABACHER RECITAL SERIES

Presented by San Francisco Opera Center and Merola Opera Program

All performances take place at the Dianne and Tad Taube Atrium Theater (Veterans Building, fourth floor, 401 Van Ness Ave, San Francisco, CA 94102)

Artists and programs subject to change.

Wednesday, February 21, at 7:30 p.m.

Simona Genga, mezzo-soprano

Hyemin Jeong, piano

PROGRAM includes:

- "Der Knabe und das Immlein" from *Mörrike-Lieder* (Hugo Wolf)
- "Blicke mir nicht in die Lieder" from *Rückert Lieder* (Gustav Mahler)
- "Traum durch die Dämmerung" from *Drei Lieder*, Op. 29 (Richard Strauss)
- "Allá Arriba, En Aquella Montaña" from *Seis canciones castellanas* (Jesús Guridi)
- "Erwartung" from *Vier Lieder*, Op. 2 (Arnold Schönberg)

- "L'assiuolo canta" from *I canti della sera* (Francesco Santoliquido)
- "La chevelure" from *Chansons de Bilitis* (Claude Debussy)
- "Alba di luna sul bosco" from *I canti della sera* (Francesco Santoliquido)
- "Liebst du um Schönheit" from *Rückert Lieder* (Gustav Mahler)
- "Ne suis que grain de sable" from *Trois poèmes d'amour* (Erik Satie)
- "Schenk mir deinen goldenen Kamm" from *Vier Lieder, Op. 2* (Arnold Schönberg)
- "The Idlers" (Danika Lorèn)
- "Remember" from *When You Left* (Chelsea Pringle-Duchemin)
- "Dedicatoria" and "Nunca olvida" from *Poema en forma de canciones* (Joaquín Turina)
- "Absence" from *Les nuits d'été* (Hector Berlioz)
- "Tristezza crepuscolare" from *I canti della sera* (Francesco Santoliquido)
- "Sunshine" from *When You Left* (Chelsea Pringle-Duchemin)
- "L'incontro" from *I canti della sera* (Francesco Santoliquido)

Wednesday, March 6, at 7:30 p.m.

Arianna Rodriguez, soprano
 Olivia Smith, soprano
 Nikola Printz, mezzo-soprano
 Jongwon Han, bass-baritone
 Yang Lin, piano

Nicholas Phan, curator

PROGRAM includes:

- "Nature, the gentlest mother" from *Twelve Poems of Emily Dickinson* (Aaron Copland)
- "Silent Noon" from *The House of Life* (Ralph Vaughan Williams)
- "Sweeter than roses" (Henry Purcell)
- "Oh Roses for the Flush of Youth" from *Six Sorrow Songs* (Samuel Coleridge-Taylor)
- "Erste Begegnung" from *Spanisches Liederspiel* (Robert Schumann)
- "Smile O voluptuous cool-breathed earth" from *Terra Nostra* (Stacy Garrop)
- "Young Love in Spring" from *Songs of the Seasons* (Margaret Bonds)
- "Lilacs" from *12 Romances, Op. 21* (Sergei Rachmaninoff)
- "Le temps des lilas" (Ernest Chausson)
- "Les lilas qui avaient fleuri" from *Clairières dans le ciel* (Lili Boulanger)
- "Viola" (Franz Schubert)
- "Plenivshis rozoy, solovey" ("Captivated by the Rose") (Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov)
- "Nachtwanderer" Op. 7 from *Sechs Lieder* (Fanny Mendelssohn Hensel)
- "Die verschwiegene Nachtigall" (Edvard Grieg)
- "신고산타령" ("Shin Gosan Song" traditional Korean folk song) (arr. 장일남 Jang Il-Nam)
- "La rosa y el sauce" (Carlos Guastavino)
- "The Cherry Blossom Wand" (Rebecca Clarke)

- "Nachtstück," D.672 (Franz Schubert)
 - "Heimliche Aufforderung" (Richard Strauss)
 - "Among the Fuchsias" from *Five Songs of Laurence Hope* (Henry Thacker Burleigh)
 - "Botschaft" from *Spanisches Liederspiel* (Robert Schumann)
 - "Fleur jetée" (Gabriel Fauré)
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Wednesday, April 3, at 7:30 p.m.

Samantha Hankey, mezzo-soprano

Carrie-Ann Matheson, piano

PROGRAM includes:

- *Les trois chansons de Bilitis* (Claude Debussy)
 - Selections from *Siete Canciones* (Manuel de Falla)
 - *Sechs Lieder auf Gedichte von Maurice Maeterlinck*, Op. 13 (Alexander Zemlinsky)
 - "So in Love" from *Kiss Me, Kate* (Cole Porter)
 - "Youkali" (Kurt Weill)
 - "Speak Low" from *One Touch of Venus* (Kurt Weill)
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The Schwabacher Recital Series is endowed in perpetuity by the generosity of celebrated Bay Area singer, scholar and teacher James Schwabacher and sponsored by the Merola Opera Program.

Yamaha is the official piano of San Francisco Opera. Pianos are generously provided by Piedmont Piano Company.

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To obtain further press information, including artist headshots, please visit sfopera.com/press or contact:

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