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*Winners announced of **Vocal Arts DC**
Art Song Discovery Competition*
Tenor John Matthew Myers and soprano Christine Lyons
to present recitals in Spring of 2018

Washington, DC – Vocal Arts DC announced two winners of the **2017 Art Song Discovery Competition**. The final round of the competition was held Saturday, May 13 at the Music Department of The George Washington University and were adjudicated by Lee Anne Myslewski, Director, Artistic Administration at Wolf Trap, Robert Ainsley, Program Director of Washington National Opera's Domingo-Cafritz Young Artists and Peter Russell, General Director of Vocal Arts DC.

Tenor John Matthew Myers, who garnered the first prize, will receive an award of \$7000 and Christine Lyons, who captured the 2nd prize, is accorded a prize of \$3000. Vocal Arts DC will present Mr. Myers and Ms. Lyons in a joint recital and will present Mr. Myers in a solo recital in spring 2018 in prominent DC venues, details for which will be announced at a later date.

ABOUT THE VOCAL ARTS DC ART SONG DISCOVERY COMPETITION

Part of the mission of Vocal Arts DC is to encourage young talent and to nurture the art of the vocal recital. The Art Song Discovery Competition is held annually as a means to fulfill that aspect of the mission. The competition is open to residents of the greater Washington, DC area and including Maryland, Delaware and Pennsylvania. Winners of the competition not only receive substantial monetary awards but are showcased in prominent Washington DC venues in art song recitals.

ABOUT THE WINNERS

John Matthew Myers, tenor, has garnered acclaim for his "smooth and rich" tenor and for giving "insightful and beautifully nuanced performances." Highlights from his 2016-17 season include a debut with the Los Angeles Philharmonic as Mao Tse-Tung in John Adams' *Nixon in China* conducted by the composer, role debuts of the Duke of Mantua in Verdi's *Rigoletto*, and Prince Sinodal in Rubinstein's *The Demon* with the Academy of Vocal Arts Opera Theater, tenor soloist in the Britten *War Requiem* at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine and tenor soloist in Mahler's 8th Symphony with the Berkshire Choral International conducted by Kent Tritle. Highlights from his recent seasons included Bellini's *Norma* with the Los Angeles Opera, Trin in Puccini's *La Fanciulla del West*, 6th Diener and 3rd Jew in Strauss' *Capriccio* and *Salome*, the world premiere of Higdon's *Cold Mountain*, and workshop of Mason Bates' *The (R)evolution of Steve Jobs* as Steve Wozniak with the Santa Fe Opera, Grivet in Tobias Picker's *Thérèse Raquin* with Long Beach Opera and Chicago Opera Theater, and his European debut with Wexford Festival Opera in Mercadante's *Virginia*.

Christine Lyons, soprano, has been praised as "especially moving" (Pittsburgh Post-Gazette) and as a "sparkling soprano" (Broad Street Review) who captivates with fearless presence. Upcoming engagements include Donna Anna in *Don Giovanni* with Hawaii Performing Arts Festival, Echo in *Ariadne auf Naxos* with Berkshire Opera Festival and Micaëla in *Carmen* with Opera Ithaca.

Highlights from previous seasons include Manon in Massenet's *Manon* at the Liederkrantz Foundation and Carnegie Hall, Konstanze in Mozart's *Die Entführung aus dem Serail* at Symphony Space and at the Modell Lyric Opera House, Fiordiligi in Mozart's *Così fan tutte* with the Charleston Symphony Orchestra, Pamina in *Die Zauberflöte* at Sant'Anna dei Lombardi in Italy and Susanna in *Le Nozze di Figaro* at Lincoln Center. She has also performed Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 under Marin Alsop and as *Carmen*'s Frasquita alongside Denyce Graves.

Ms. Lyons is a Second Prize Winner in the New York Lyric Opera Theater National Vocal Competition, an Award Winner in the Southeastern Metropolitan Opera Competitions and a Finalist in the Washington International Competition and Edward M. Murray Competition. She has also placed as a Semi-Finalist in the Alfredo Silipigni Competition, PARTNERS for the Arts Competition, and Opera Columbus Cooper-Bing International Competition. She is an alumna of Carnegie Mellon University and the Peabody Institute.

Vocal Arts DC

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ABOUT VOCAL ARTS DC

The mission of VADC is to nurture and promote the classical voice recital genre and to introduce new audiences to the richness and beauty of the classical art song literature. VADC is the only organization anywhere in North America, and one of the few in the world, that presents a full concert season solely devoted to classical voice recitals. As such, it has made Washington DC a magnet for the world's greatest stars of the opera and concert stage. VADC presents a season of six to eight recitals, usually in the Kennedy Center's Terrace Theater, occasionally in other venues. These generally feature world-renowned singers, although VADC also attempts to introduce to its audience emerging artists whom it considers to be on the threshold of international stardom.

In addition to its main stage performances, VADC operates an in-school educational program for secondary school in local schools. To foster the careers of young aspiring professional classical singers in the area, VADC holds an annual juried competition and, in addition to substantial prize money, provides significant performance opportunities to the winners. In recent years winners of the competition have performed at the Phillips Collection and as part of the Millennium Stage program of free concerts at the Kennedy Center. More at www.vocalartsdc.org

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