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Vocal Arts DC

presents

New York Festival of Song

*with Steven Blier & Michael Barrett, co-artistic directors & pianists
and featuring Antonina Chehovska, soprano & Alexey Lavrov, baritone*

Sunday, January 22 in the Theatre of the Arts at UDC

Washington, DC – Vocal Arts DC welcomes back to DC the New York Festival of Song, headed by co-artistic directors and pianists Steven Blier and Michael Barrett. They present a program entitled **Pyotr the Great: The songs of Tchaikovsky and his Circle**. Blier and Barrett are joined by two outstanding emerging artists: Ukrainian soprano Antonina Chehovska, Grand Winner of the 2016 George London Foundation Competition and Russian baritone Alexey Lavrov, who riveted Vocal Arts DC audiences on his last appearance in DC. The unique format of lecture and demonstration that Messieurs Blier and Barrett employ breaks down the barriers between performer and audience in an engaging and informative presentation.

WHO: Vocal Arts DC

WHAT: Concert of New York Festival of Song

WHERE: Theatre of the Arts on the Van Ness campus of the
University of the District of Columbia,
4200 Connecticut Ave NW, Washington DC 20008

WHEN: Sun JAN 22 at 3pm

TICKETS: **Single Tickets:** \$50 each, through the Washington Performing Arts Box Office
Charge by phone at 202-785-9727, or online at
www.VocalArtsDC.org

Subscriptions: Vocal Arts DC 2016-2017 26th Season mini-series subscriptions
are still available (savings of 10% less per recital over the cost of
single tickets).
Visit www.VocalArtsDC.org, or phone 202-669-1463.
All recitals are held at the Theatre of the Arts, UDC.

INFORMATION: For press ticket requests or information please contact
Peter Russell or Gregory Stuart at the coordinates listed above.
Visit Vocal Arts DC online at www.VocalArtsDC.org

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

New York Festival of Song Deemed “everything that a song recital can achieve, in terms of musical revelation, vocal excellence and audience engagement” by *The Washington Post*, NYFOS started in 1988 to present original ensemble song programs consisting almost exclusively of rarely-heard songs of all kinds, "from Debussy to doo-wop, lieder to latin jazz, Josquin to just-written." Each show is unified by a theme, constructed with a dramatic arc, and cast with superb vocal artists whose committed performances bring the songs to vivid life, with the directors as accompanists and animated narrators. In every NYFOS program, the songs and their interpreters bring poetry, passion, history and humor to the proceedings, transporting listeners to many regions of the globe, and into the personal, creative worlds of song composers and lyricists. *New York Magazine* gave NYFOS its award for Best Classical Programming.

Steven Blier (pianist) enjoys an eminent career as an accompanist and vocal coach. His recital partners have included Renée Fleming, Cecilia Bartoli, Samuel Ramey, Lorraine Hunt Lieberson, Susan Graham, Jessye Norman, and José van Dam, in venues ranging from Carnegie Hall to La Scala. He is also on the faculty of The Juilliard School and has been active in encouraging young recitalists at summer programs, including the Wolf Trap Opera Company, Santa Fe Opera, and the San Francisco Opera Center. Many of his former students, including Stephanie Blythe, Joseph Kaiser, Sasha Cooke, Paul Appleby, Dina Kuznetsova, Corinne Winters, and Kate Lindsey, have gone on to be valued recital colleagues and sought-after stars on the opera and concert stage. Mr. Blier's extensive discography includes the premiere recording of Leonard Bernstein's *Arias and Barcarolles* (Koch International), which won a Grammy Award and the world premiere recording of *Bastianello* (John Musto) and *Lucrezia* (William Bolcom), a double bill of one-act comic operas set to librettos by Mark Campbell.

Michael Barrett (pianist), a former protégé of Leonard Bernstein, has distinguished himself as a conductor with major orchestras here and abroad in the symphonic, operatic, and dance repertoire. In Mr. Barrett and his wife Leslie Tomkins founded The Moab Music Festival in Utah, for which he serves as music director. From 1994–1997 he was the director of the Tisch Center for the Arts at the 92nd Street Y in New York. A champion of new music, Mr. Barrett has conducted and played premieres by numerous composers and his extensive discography features several discs with works by Blitzstein, Wilder, Bolcom, Rorem and Kernis. He serves as music advisor to the Leonard Bernstein Estate.

Antonina Chehovska (soprano) captured top prizes in several prestigious competitions: the Gerda Lissner International Competition, the George London Foundation, the Cooper-Bing Competition and the Czech and Slovak International Voice Competition plus she garnered the Schuyler Foundation Career Bridges Grant, Bel Canto Vocal Scholarship. She made her New York City recital debut at Opera America's National Opera Center, and will appear in recital with pianist, Liza Stepanova at the Festival of the American Liszt Society in California. In concert she has performed with several US orchestras and the Slovak State Philharmonic singing works such as Barber's *Knoxville: Summer of 1915*, Ravel's *Shéhérazade*, Mahler's *Symphony No. 2 "Resurrection,"* Mozart's *Requiem*, Dvořák's *Stabat Mater*, Handel's *Messiah*, and Beethoven's *Symphony #9* with Kent Philharmonic Orchestra.

Alexey Lavrov (baritone), a recent graduate of the Metropolitan Opera Lindemann Young Artist Development Program, returns to the Metropolitan Opera as Schaunard in *La Bohème*, Silvio in *I Pagliacci* and Malatesta in *Don Pasquale*. He is establishing a reputation on the international opera scene, having performed leading roles in Cincinnati, Moscow, Rheinsberg, Toulouse and in Japan, Chile and Peru. This season, he makes his role debut as the title role in *Aleko* at Opera Carolina. A native of the Komi Republic, Russia, Mr. Lavrov's many awards include 1st Prize at the 2014 Gerda Lissner Foundation International Vocal Competition, the 2014 Hildegard Behrens Foundation Award, the 2014

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Musique et Vin Festival Prize, winner of the 2010 Hariclea Darclée International Voice Competition, second prize from the Byulbyul International Vocal Competition, third prize at the 2014 Loren L. Zachary National Vocal Competition, fourth-prize winner of the Concurso Internacional de Canto competition in Buenos Aires's Teatro Colón, and a diploma from the International Rachmaninov Competition.

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, which 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 students 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

Vocal Arts DC is the grateful recipient of major grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, The Morris & Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation and The Reva and David Logan Foundation, and appreciates generous support from the Howard and Sarah D. Solomon Foundation, The Dallas Morse Coors Foundation and The Nancy Peery Marriott Foundation.