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announces its
2017-2018 Season
of Classical Vocal Concerts:
Seven Superb Concerts
presented in the newly renovated
Terrace Theater *of the*
John F. Kennedy Center
for the Performing Arts

In this Edition:

[Season Announcement Press Release](#)

[Concert Details at a Glance](#)

[About the Concerts and the Artists](#)

[About Vocal Arts DC](#)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Washington, DC – Vocal Arts DC announces a stellar line-up of concerts featuring some exciting debuts and some very welcome returning artists, all presented in the newly renovated **Terrace Theater** of the **John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts**.

Committed to nurture and promote the classical voice recital, **Vocal Arts DC** presents an exceptional cadre of vocal artists:

- The always popular **New York Festival of Song** will offer a program that is part of the **“Leonard Bernstein at 100”** celebration. Featuring six singers and selections from a wide range of the maestro’s musical offerings: concert pieces, Broadway, the opera house, as well as some precious rarities from the trunk, this Bernstein extravaganza takes place on **Sunday, November 5, 2017 at 2:00pm**.
- Young Ukrainian baritone **Andrei Bondarenko**, cited for his “astonishingly beautiful voice,” and pianist **Gary Matthewman**, take the stage on **Tuesday, December 5, 2017 at 7:30pm**. Since winning the 2011 BBC Cardiff Singer of the World Competition Song Prize, he has gone on to a series of appearances at some of Europe’s most prestigious opera houses.
- On **Tuesday January 9, 2018 at 7:30pm**, Irish mezzo-soprano **Tara Erraught** returns to Washington after her acclaimed US debut in Washington National Opera’s production of Rossini’s *La Cenerentola*. Now performing at the Salzburg and Glyndebourne Festivals, she makes her Metropolitan Opera debut in the 2017-18 season. She performs with pianist **Michael Heaston**.
- Winner of two Grammy awards, German soprano **Dorothea Röschmann** graces the stage with the exceptional **Malcolm Martineau** at the keyboard on **Thursday, February 8, 2018 at 7:30pm**. Renowned both in opera and as a recitalist, Berlin’s Deutsche Staatsoper accorded her the title of “Kammersängerin” last year.
- German tenor **Christoph Prégardien**, whose many recordings of

German *Lieder* have received international awards, is renowned as a singer of consummate skill and insight. He sings on **Saturday, February 24, 2018** at **7:30pm** with pianist **Julius Drake** as his collaborator.

- The Gerald Perman Fund for Emerging Artists recital this season will be given by American baritone **Theo Hoffman** and pianist **Bradley Moore** on **Tuesday, March 20, 2018** at **7:30pm**. A 2016 Grand Finalist of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions this charismatic young singer is currently a member of the Domingo-Colburn-Stein Young Artist program at LA Opera.
- Closing the Vocal Arts DC 2017-2018 Season will be baritone **Brian Mulligan** and pianist **Timothy Long**. Mr. Mulligan's burnished baritone will be heard in a song cycle (recorded on the Naxos label for release in 2017) by Dominick Argento and in the world premiere of a newly commissioned work by American composer Gregory Spears on **Saturday, April 28, 2018** at **7:30pm**

Concert Details at a Glance

PRESENTER: **Vocal Arts DC**

WHO & WHEN: **2017-18 Season Concerts**

New York Festival of Song: Steven Blier & Michael Barrett,
pianists with six singers presenting a Bernstein extravaganza

Sun NOV 5 2017 @ 2pm

Andrei Bondarenko, baritone with **Gary Matthewman**, pianist:

Tue DEC 5 2017 @ 7:30pm

Tara Erraught, mezzo-soprano with **Michael Heaston**, pianist:

Tue JAN 9 2018 @ 7:30pm

Dorothea Röschmann, soprano with **Malcolm Martineau**,

pianist:

Thu FEB 8 2018 @ 7:30pm

Christoph Prégardien, tenor with **Julius Drake**, pianist:

Sat FEB 24 2018 @ 7:30pm

Theo Hoffman, baritone with **Bradley Moore**, pianist:

Tue MAR 20 2018 @ 7:30pm

Brian Mulligan, baritone with **Timothy Long**, pianist:

SAT APR 28 2018 @ 7:30pm

WHERE: All vocal recitals take place at:
John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts
Terrace Theater
2700 F Street NW
Washington DC 20566

TICKETS: **Subscriptions now available** for purchase or renewal online at www.vocalartsdc.org

Full subscriptions are available for \$287.00 each (at a cost of \$41 per ticket; savings of 18%)

Mini-subscriptions are available at a cost of \$45 per ticket (savings of 10%)

The deadline for subscription renewals is **Mon JUN 12 2017**.

Single tickets for non-subscribers will, as in recent past seasons, be priced at \$50.00 each, and will go on sale at a date to be announced mid-summer.

INFORMATION: For press ticket requests or information, please contact Peter Russell click [here](#).

About the Concerts and the Artists



Photo by Dario Acosta

Sunday, November 5, 2017 at 2:00pm

NEW YORK FESTIVAL OF SONG

STEVEN BLIER and MICHAEL BARRETT, directors and pianists

CHELSEA SHEPHARD, *soprano*

ANNIE ROSEN and AMANDA LYNN BOTTOMS, *mezzo-sopranos*

MILES MYKKANEN, *tenor*,

JUSTIN AUSTIN, *baritone*

TBA, *bass*

"TAKE CARE OF THIS HOUSE:

THE PASSION OF LEONARD BERNSTEIN"

As part of the worldwide “**Leonard Bernstein at 100**” celebration, **New York Festival of Song** offers a Leonard Bernstein extravaganza. The concert features selections from a wide range of the maestro’s musical offerings: concert pieces (excerpts from *Arias and Barcarolles*, *Mass*, and *Songfest*), Broadway (*On the Town*, *1600 Pennsylvania Avenue*), the opera house (*Trouble in Tahiti*), as well as some precious rarities from the trunk. Bernstein’s kaleidoscopic vision of the American experience remains a vital and passionate touchstone for today’s listeners.

“Everything that a song recital can achieve, in terms of musical revelation, vocal excellence and audience engagement.”

Tim Page, *The Washington Post*



Tuesday, December 5, 2017 at 7:30pm

ANDREI BONDARENKO, *baritone*
GARY MATTHEWMAN, *pianist*

Photo by Marco Borggreve

Since winning the 2011 BBC Cardiff Singer of the World Competition Song Prize, young Ukrainian baritone **Andrei Bondarenko** has gone on to a series of successful appearances with some of Europe’s most prestigious opera houses and orchestras. He has already made debuts at both the Glyndebourne and Salzburg Festivals, Deutsche Oper Berlin, Opernhaus Zürich, and Munich’s Bavarian State Opera. In 2017-2018, he will make his Royal Opera House Covent Garden debut, and sing his first solo recitals at London’s Wigmore Hall, Carnegie Hall’s Zankel Hall, and the Vienna Konzerthaus. He has recorded the Count in Mozart’s *Le nozze di Figaro* for Sony and Rachmaninov songs for Delphian, and anticipates a CD release of Tchaikovsky songs later this year for the Little Tribeca label.

Program to include selections by Tchaikovsky, Ravel, Massenet,

Fauré, Ibert, and Saint-Saëns.

“Bondarenko...has an astonishingly beautiful voice, and is on his way to greatness.”

Tim Ashley, *The Guardian* (London)

Tuesday, January 9, 2018 at 7:30pm

TARA ERRAUGHT, *mezzo-soprano*
MICHAEL HEASTON, *pianist*



Photo by Kristen Speed

Irish mezzo-soprano **Tara Erraught's** star is rapidly on the ascent. Launched through several years in residence with Munich's Bavarian State Opera, she is now performing principal roles at the Salzburg and Glyndebourne Festivals and has concertized at London's Wigmore Hall and with the Münchner Rundfunkorchester. She made an acclaimed US operatic debut in the spring of 2015 in the title role of Rossini's *La Cenerentola* with Washington National Opera, and makes her Metropolitan Opera debut during the 2017-2018 season, appearing in both *Les contes d'Hoffmann* and *Hänsel und Gretel*.

Program to include selections by Quilter, Liszt, Rossini, Wolf and Strauss

“She is a tremendously appealing and charismatic singer, with a warm voice and a bright future...she rose to some fireworks in the final aria that drew shouts of excitement from the audience.”

Anne Midgette, *The Washington Post*

Thursday, February 8, 2018 at 7:30pm

DOROTHEA RÖSCHMANN, *soprano*

MALCOLM MARTINEAU, *pianist*

Photo by Harald Hoffmann



Luminous German soprano **Dorothea Röschmann**, world renowned as a Bach and Mozart specialist and *Lieder* recitalist, has rarely performed in the US, and only once previously in Washington: a Vocal Arts DC appearance in 2006. Winner of two Grammy Awards—most recently in 2017 for an album of Schumann and Berg songs on the Decca label—she received the prestigious title of “Kammersängerin” from Berlin’s Deutsche Staatsoper in 2016.

*Program to include Wagner’s Wesendonck Lieder
and Mahler’s Rückert Lieder.*

“Ms. Röschmann’s seriousness is only a veil attractively covering and accentuating an underlying sensuality. Her silvery soprano, clear and ethereally pretty on top, has a startling quality of voluptuousness, going down to rich, warm, earthy low notes that sometimes erupted from a vocal line with disproportionate (you might say unladylike) power.”

Anne Midgette, *The New York Times*

Saturday, February 24, 2018 at 7:30pm

CHRISTOPH PRÉGARDIEN, *tenor*
JULIUS DRAKE, *pianist*

Photo by Marco Borggreve



One of the world's most revered lyric tenors, Christoph Prégardien is known for consummate technical control, superior musicality, and an innate ability to get to the emotional core of each song he interprets. Not heard in Washington since his last Vocal Arts DC recital in 1999, he received the coveted Preis der Deutschen Schallplattenkritik (German Record Critics' Prize) in 2016 for his CD on the Challenge label of the same program he will perform for our audiences: *Poetisches Tagebuch* (A Poetic Diary), an all-Schubert program of songs set to German poetry.

Program to include Poetisches Tagebuch (A Poetic Diary), musical settings by Franz Schubert of poems by Schulze and other German masters.

“His lyric tenor voice had a youthful glow, yet he sang with plaintive beauty and piercing insight.”

Anthony Tommasini, *The New York Times*

Tuesday, March 20, 2018 at 7:30pm

THE GERALD PERMAN FUND FOR
EMERGING ARTISTS RECITAL

THEO HOFFMAN, *baritone*
BRADLEY MOORE, *pianist*



A 2016 alumnus of The Juilliard School and 2016 Grand Finalist of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, the versatile and charismatic lyric baritone Theo Hoffman is currently a member of the Domingo-Colburn-Stein Young Artist Program at LA Opera. He has appeared as soloist in concert with New York Festival of Song at both Carnegie Hall and the Caramoor Music Center, and will do so in future at the Moab Music Festival. He made his Alice Tully Hall solo recital debut as winner of the 2015 Juilliard Vocal Arts Honors Recital, and sings Joseph K. in the US premiere of Philip Glass's *The Trial* in the spring of 2017 at Opera Theatre of Saint Louis before rejoining LA Opera for the 2017- 2018 season.

Program to include Abendphantasie (Evening Fantasy), consisting of selections by Schubert, Fauré, Mahler, Zemlinsky, Ullmann, Ives, Barber, Britten, and Dove.

“With easy control, Hoffman’s strong, warm voice filled the space . . . the entire room sat mesmerized . . . This was a performance so visceral, so equally raw and refined, it felt completely fresh.”

Catherine Womack, *LA Times*



Saturday, April 28, 2018 at 7:30pm

THE GERALD AND ANN K PERMAN
MEMORIAL RECITAL

BRIAN MULLIGAN, *baritone*
TIMOTHY LONG, *pianist*

Photo by Dario Acosta

Possessed of a burnished, ringing baritone, an intensely focused stage presence, and an omnivorous musical appetite, **Brian Mulligan** has sung Verdi, Berlioz, Britten, Gounod, and Sondheim roles at the metropolitan Opera, Vienna State

Opera, Opernhaus Zürich and San Francisco Opera, performed works by Mahler and John Adams with the San Francisco Symphony,

Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, and Atlanta Symphony and recorded two extraordinary song cycles by American composer Dominick Argento for release on the Naxos label in 2017. For his Vocal Arts DC recital debut, he offers one of those cycles – the 1974 Pulitzer Prize-winning *From the Diary of Virginia Woolf* – as well as the world premiere of a newly commissioned work by American composer Gregory Spears, whose operas *Paul's Case* and *Fellow Travelers* both received rave reviews at their premieres in Washington by Urban Arias in 2013 and by Cincinnati Opera in 2016, respectively.

Program to include a newly commissioned work by Gregory Spears, set to texts of Henry David Thoreau, and Dominick Argento's song cycle From the Diary of Virginia Woolf.

“A wonderful, rich voice and a fine stage presence.”

Joshua Rosenblum, *Opera News*

About Vocal Arts DC

The mission of **Vocal Arts DC** 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. Today, VADC stands as the leading organization 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 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

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