

PROGRAM: DEBORAH VOIGT

FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 2014 / 7:30 PM / BING CONCERT HALL



PROGRAM

Amy Beach
(1867–1944)

The Year's at the Spring, op. 44, no. 1
Ah, Love, But a Day, op. 44, no. 2
I Send My Heart Up to Thee, op. 44, no. 3

Pyotr Ilich Tchaikovsky
(1840–1893)

Ya li v pole da ne travushka byla, op. 47, no. 7
Den' li tsarit? op. 47, no. 6

Richard Strauss
(1864–1949)

Ich trage meine minne, op. 32, no. 1
Schlechtes wetter
Lob des leidens, op. 15, no. 3
Ach, lieb, ich muss nun scheiden, op. 21, no. 3
Zueignung

INTERMISSION

Ben Moore
(b. 1960)

I Am in Need of Music
This Heart That Flutters
To the Virgins, to Make Much of Time
Bright Cap and Streamers

Leonard Bernstein
(1918–1990)

Piccola Serenata
So Pretty
Greeting
Another Love
It's Gotta Be Bad to Be Good
Somewhere

William Bolcom
(b. 1938)

Toothbrush Time
At the Last Lousy Moments of Love
George

ARTISTS

Deborah Voigt, *Soprano*
Brian Zeger, *Piano*

A program insert will be provided at
the performance.

Columbia Artists Management, Inc.
Personal Direction: Tim Fox
1790 Broadway, New York, NY 10019
www.cami.com

PROGRAM SUBJECT TO CHANGE. Please be considerate of others and
turn off all phones, pagers, and watch alarms, and unwrap all lozenges prior to the
performance. Photography and recording of any kind are not permitted. Thank you.

DEBORAH VOIGT

Deborah Voigt is increasingly recognized as one of the world's most versatile singers and one of music's most endearing personalities. Through her performances and television appearances, she has distinguished herself through the singular power and beauty of her voice as well as for her captivating stage presence. A leading dramatic soprano, internationally revered for her performances in the operas of Wagner and Richard Strauss, she is also celebrated for her portrayals of some of the greatest heroines of Italian opera. An active recitalist and performer of Broadway standards and popular songs, Ms. Voigt has an extensive discography and has given many enthusiastically received master classes. She also appears regularly, as both performer and host, in the Metropolitan Opera's *The Met: Live in HD* series, which is transmitted live to movie theaters across the United States and overseas.

Ms. Voigt launched 2013–14 as host of a star-studded Sing with Haiti benefit concert at San Francisco's Grace Cathedral to aid in the rebuilding of the Holy Trinity Music School in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, which was destroyed in the earthquake of 2010. In the opera house, she makes her role debut as Marie in Berg's *Wozzeck* at the Metropolitan Opera, with Thomas Hampson in the title role and James Levine conducting, while recitals take her to numerous cities nationwide, including Miami, Fort Worth, Kansas City, Sonoma, Palm Desert, Stanford, and Boston. It was also in Boston that the soprano performed *Voigt Lessons*, the one-woman show she developed with award-winning playwright Terrence McNally and director Francesca Zambello, which debuted to acclaim at the Glimmerglass Festival in 2011; as *Examiner.com* observed, "The piece breathed spontaneity, wit, and

vulnerability that moved and engaged the audience." In concert, she appeared with the Orchestre de la Suisse Romande and Zurich's Tonhalle Orchester, in addition to taking part in Christmas concerts with the Mormon Tabernacle Choir. Throughout the season, Ms. Voigt serves as the first artist-in-residence in the Washington National Opera's Domingo-Cafritz Young Artist Program.

It was on television that Ms. Voigt made her first appearances of the 2012–13 season, when she hosted a special five-night presentation of Wagner's complete *Ring* cycle on the PBS series *Great Performances at the Met*. Robert Lepage's visionary new staging, which starred Ms. Voigt as Brünnhilde, was also released as a Blu-ray DVD set that won the Grammy Award for Best Opera Recording of 2013. The production was revived at the Metropolitan Opera in the spring, showcasing Ms. Voigt in the role that she made "exciting and expressive" (*New York Times*) with a voice that "blazed with passion" (*New York Daily News*). Also last season, Ms. Voigt hosted multiple transmissions—including the season-opening event—of the Met's popular Live in HD series. Performance highlights included starring as Cassandre in Zambello's revival of Berlioz's *Les Troyens* at the Met; reprising her hit portrayal of Minnie in Puccini's *La fanciulla del West* at Belgium's Opéra Royal de Wallonie; and giving concert performances in Beijing and Shanghai, China.

Throughout her career, Ms. Voigt has given definitive performances of iconic roles in German opera, from Strauss's Ariadne, Salome, Kaiserin (*Die frau ohne schatten*), and Chrysothemis (*Elektra*) to Wagner's Sieglinde (*Die walküre*), Elizabeth (*Tannhäuser*), and Isolde. She is also noted for her portrayals of such popular Italian operatic roles as Tosca, Aida, Amelia (*Un ballo in maschera*),

Leonora (*La forza del destino*), and La Gioconda. Ms. Voigt's wide-ranging repertoire also includes starring roles in Strauss's *Egyptian Helen*, *Der rosenkavalier*, and *Friedenstag*; Wagner's *Lohengrin*; and Berlioz's *Les Troyens*.

Ms. Voigt's discography includes two popular solo recordings for EMI Classics, both of which were critical successes. The *Washington Post* praised the "discerning eye" behind the adventurous choice of repertoire for *All My Heart* with pianist Brian Zeger and noted that it was "performed by a voice outstanding not only for tone and power but for interpretive subtlety and emotional nuance." Voigt's earlier disc, *Obsessions*, presents scenes and arias from operas by Wagner and Strauss. *Gramophone's* review of the *Billboard* top-five best seller states, "The arias highlight Voigt's extraordinary ability to soar effortlessly and luminously above the orchestra with her trademark rich, lustrous, never hard or brittle voice." Her recording of Strauss's *Egyptian Helen* was also a *Billboard* best seller and was named one of the best CDs of that year by *Opera News*. A live recording of the 2003 Vienna State Opera *Tristan und Isolde*, in which Voigt made her headlining-role debut, was released by Deutsche Grammophon.

A devotee of Broadway and American song, Ms. Voigt has given acclaimed performances of popular fare, including benefit concerts for Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS and New York Theatre Workshop. "Voigt...comes to pop singing naturally...If this were 1970, she would probably be given her own network variety show," raved *Opera News*. She has sung concerts with Barbara Cook and Dianne Reeves at the Hollywood Bowl and given performances in Lincoln Center's long-running American Songbook series, singing Broadway and popular standards.

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In the summer of 2011, Voigt won praise as Annie Oakley at the Glimmerglass Festival in Cooperstown, New York, headlining in Irving Berlin's beloved *Annie Get Your Gun* as well as in *Voigt Lessons*. *Variety* reported, "Deborah Voigt, perhaps the foremost dramatic operatic soprano of the day...[is] profoundly aware that each song has a story to tell; her delivery is expressively honest and her voice lustrous and creamy...Voigt crosses the opera-Broadway boundary with grace and elegance, harboring a strength reserved for special moments. She is also in the possession of a devilish sense of humor, which was delightfully used to frame a lyric with a naughty smile." Millions of viewers heard Ms. Voigt sing "America the Beautiful" on NBC's nationwide broadcast of Macy's Independence Day fireworks show in 2004, and later that year, they witnessed her majestic ride down Broadway in Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. She has been profiled by many important national media outlets, such as CBS's *60 Minutes*, *Good Morning America*, and *Vanity Fair*.

Ms. Voigt studied at California State University at Fullerton. She was a member of the San Francisco Opera's Merola Opera Program and won both the gold medal in Moscow's International Tchaikovsky Competition and first prize at Philadelphia's Luciano Pavarotti International Vocal Competition. Ms. Voigt is a Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres and was *Musical America's* Vocalist of the Year in 2003. In 2007, she won an Opera News Award for distinguished achievement, and in 2009, she received an honorary doctorate from the University of South Carolina. Known to Twitter fans as a "dramatic soprano and down-to-earth diva," Ms. Voigt was named by the *Los Angeles Times* as one of the top 25 cultural tweeters to follow. She is currently writing a memoir scheduled for publication by HarperCollins later this year.

BRIAN ZEGER

Pianist Brian Zeger has built an important career not only as a pianist, appearing in distinguished concert venues throughout the United States and Europe, but also as an ensemble performer par excellence, radio broadcaster, artistic administrator, and educator.

During his extensive concert career, Mr. Zeger has collaborated with many of the world's top singers, including Marilyn Horne, Deborah Voigt, Anna Netrebko, Susan Graham, René Pape, Dame Kiri Te Kanawa, Piotr Beczala, Bryn Terfel, Joyce DiDonato, Denyce Graves, and Adrienne Pieczonka. Recent and upcoming engagements include recitals with Ms. Voigt, Ms. Netrebko, Ms. Graham, Ms. Pieczonka, and Mr. Beczala.

In addition to his distinguished concert career, he also serves as artistic director of vocal arts at the Juilliard School and the executive director of the Metropolitan Opera Lindemann Young Artist Development Program, and until recently he served as the director of the vocal program at the Steans Music Institute at the Ravinia Festival. He has been on the faculties of the Music Academy of the West in Santa Barbara, the Chautauqua Institute, the Mannes College of Music, and the Peabody Conservatory and has given master classes for numerous institutions, including the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London, Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, Tanglewood Music Center, and the Marilyn Horne Foundation.

Mr. Zeger also enjoys an active career as a chamber musician. From 1993–2000, he was artistic director of the Cape and Islands Chamber Music Festival, headquartered on Cape Cod and now in its 34th season, where his

performances included collaborations with the Borromeo String Quartet and Brentano Quartet as well as with Bernard Greenhouse, Glenn Dicterow, Eugene Drucker, and Paula Robison. A regular guest at many summer festivals, including Aspen, Ravinia, Caramoor, Aldeburgh, and Santa Fe, he has also collaborated regularly with An die Musik and the New York Philharmonic Ensembles and made concerto appearances with the Boston Pops.

Some of his critical essays and other writings have appeared in *Opera News*, the *Yale Review*, and *Chamber Music* magazine. He has appeared frequently on the Metropolitan Opera radio broadcasts both on the opera quiz and as an intermission host and a performer. He has the distinction of creating, narrating, and performing in five intermission features devoted to art song, a first in the long history of the Met broadcasts. He has adjudicated the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, the Concert Artists Guild auditions, and the Walter W. Naumburg Vocal Competition. His recordings may be heard on the EMI Classics, New World, Naxos, and Koch Entertainment record labels, his most recent being a recital disc with tenor Paul Appleby as part of the Juilliard Sessions debut series.

Born in upstate New York, Mr. Zeger is now a resident of Manhattan. He holds a bachelor's degree in English literature from Harvard College, a master's degree from the Juilliard School, and a doctorate from the Manhattan School of Music. His important teachers have included Morris Borenstein, Sascha Gorodnitzki, and Nina Svetlanova.

For more information about Mr. Zeger's activities, please visit his website, www.brianzeger.com. ❁