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NEW YORK FESTIVAL OF SONG 2010-2011

Steven Blier, Artistic Director • Michael Barrett, Associate Artistic Director

23rd Season

“Reading a season flier for the New York Festival of Song is like examining the product of some mad mapmaker’s brain, where Spain lies right next to Harlem and borders on Norway.” — Newsday

NYFOS LAUNCHES NATIONALLY SYNDICATED RADIO SERIES

Produced by Chicago’s famed WFMT
13 programs hosted by Frederica von Stade

NYFOS NEXT—A NEW MINI-SERIES PRESENTED BY THE BARYSHNIKOV ARTS CENTER—SHOWCASES RECENT SONGS BY LIVING COMPOSERS

Gabriel Kahane co-hosts & curates opening concert
Phil Kline co-hosts & curates final concert

THE MERKIN SERIES RETURNS WITH FOUR PROGRAMS:

BEGINNER’S LUCK: The Passion and Promise of Youth

Two NYFOS favorites at the thresholds of exciting careers: mezzo Sasha Cooke & tenor Paul Appleby
Music by Britten, Blitzstein, Busoni, Fauré, Schubert, Wolf, Gershwin, and many others

MANNING THE CANON: Songs of Gay Life

Two centuries of songs by and about gay men
Poulenc, Tchaikovsky, Griffes, de Falla, Bernstein, Cole Porter, Blitzstein, Schubert, Saint-Saëns
Scott Murphree, tenor • Jesse Blumberg, Matthew Worth, baritones • Matt Boehler, bass

NIGHT & DAY/USA: Americans Working and Dreaming

The American dream, on and off the job
Music by Ned Rorem, Kurt Weill, Lee Hoiby, Leiber and Stoller, and many others
Sari Gruber, soprano • Liza Forrester, mezzo-soprano • James Martin, baritone

SPANISH GOLD: Songs of the Iberian Peninsula

Sung in Ladino, Catalan, Basque, Galician, and Spanish
Music by Sor, Toldrà, Montsalvatge, Mompou, Yradier, Moreno Torroba, Granados, and many others
Introducing members of Caramoor’s 2011 Vocal Rising Stars

CD RELEASE ON BRIDGE RECORDS: *BASTIANELLO / LUCREZIA*

World premiere recordings of comic operas by John Musto and William Bolcom
Librettos by Mark Campbell
Commissioned & performed by NYFOS

NYFOS RESIDENCIES AT CARAMOOR, GLIMMERGLASS, JULLIARD, SAN FRANCISCO OPERA

Blier and Barrett continue their work nurturing young singers

“I believe people have a primal need to be sung to and communicated with through song. The essential core of truth in each song—that part where you feel ‘that’s me, I’ve been there’—that’s what we’re always looking for.” — Steven Blier

NEW YORK FESTIVAL OF SONG (NYFOS) creates intimate concerts that breathe new life into an art form that’s rich and emotionally resonant, yet is too often treated as genteel, intellectual, and predictable. Led by founders **Steven Blier** and **Michael Barrett**, armed with just two pianos, gorgeous voices, a sense of humor, and a love of words and music—not to mention a deep knowledge of musical culture savvy enough to find the 18th-century gem that speaks to today’s sensibilities—NYFOS plunders music’s most remote precincts to create evenings of the deepest pleasure. In a given concert, Debussy speaks to doo-wop, *Lieder* to Latin jazz, Josquin to the just-written.

In addition to the much-loved Merkin Concert Hall series, NYFOS expands its reach in 2010-2011 with three exciting developments:

- *No Song is Safe From Us*, a nationally syndicated radio series produced by Chicago’s famed **WFMT** and hosted by **Frederica von Stade**, will air starting in **January 2011**. Drawing upon NYFOS’s extensive archives and recordings, the series includes two programs featuring the late **Lorraine Hunt Lieberson**.
- *NYFOS Next*, free one-hour concerts of contemporary songs curated and co-hosted this season by two of today’s most adventurous song composers, **Gabriel Kahane** and **Phil Kline**. The salon-style shows are presented by the Movado Hour at the **Baryshnikov Art Center** on **November 16, 2010** and **May 3, 2011**.
- *Bastianello / Lucrezia*, a 2-disc **CD release** on Bridge Records featuring the two operas NYFOS commissioned from **John Musto** and **William Bolcom**.

Steven Blier, legendary accompanist and teacher whom *The New York Times* calls “a national treasure,” says: “Like everyone, I worry about the depletion of the earth’s natural resources, but I don’t worry about the supply of fascinating songs and gifted vocalists—it seems those geysers never stop flowing. This season’s range of material—Busoni, Bernstein, Kálmán, Cole Porter, Rodrigo, Rorem, Kahane, Kline—is like a musical aphrodisiac, served up by some of the most charismatic singers in America.”

Michael Barrett, acclaimed programming innovator and conductor who is General Director of Caramoor and co-founder of the Moab Music Festival, adds: “We are also excited about *NYFOS Next*, our new contemporary music series, where we lavish time and attention on today’s most innovative songwriters, like the amazing Gabriel Kahane who curates the fall show. Not to mention our new national radio series—sort of a *NYFOS Home Companion*—which mines the NYFOS archives for treasures the whole world can hear. NYFOS has always been a musical party, and this year should be the wildest.”

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“NYFOS charms audiences with programs that combine meticulous research with an infectious strain of vocal hedonism.” — The New York Times

“New York Festival of Song reinvented the song recital.” — The New Yorker

“Evenings that can feel like dream dinner parties—the kind where a group of fascinating strangers come together to have wonderfully unexpected conversations.” — Opera America

“An entirely new recipe for the recital.” — Opera News

“NYFOS recitals are exactly what a musical evening should be—full of wonder, beauty and intense sense of discovery. And, equally important, a source of great hope for the future of classical music.” — NY Daily News

“Every detail was designed to give the evening seamless coherence, and you left the hall feeling enriched, enlightened, entertained and grateful for the experience.” — The Washington Post

THE 10 / 11 SEASON

NYFOS NEXT, a new mini-series

Presented by The Baryshnikov Arts Center as part of The Movado Hour series

Baryshnikov Arts Center's Howard Gilman Performance Space

450 West 37th Street betw 9th and 10th Avenues

Free admission • Reservations are required

www.smarttix.com • 212-868-4444

The Movado Hour is a series of free hour-long concerts presented in an intimate salon setting. With *NYFOS Next*, NYFOS looks to the future, offering a forum for the next generation of song composers and interpreters to give audiences an up-close encounter with the creative process, as freshly-minted songs are shared among creative companions—some for the first time. With an emphasis on spontaneity, novelty, and collaboration, *NYFOS Next* pioneers an experimental venue for song, paralleling New York Festival of Song's celebrated concert series in Merkin Concert Hall at Kaufman Center.

Tuesday, November 16, 2010, at 7:00PM

NYFOS Next: Gabriel Kahane & Friends

A program of new vocal music performed and co-curated by acclaimed singer/songwriter Gabriel Kahane (*Craigslitlieder*) with New York Festival of Song's Steven Blier, Michael Barrett and Benjamin Sosland.

"There is nobody else within the pop-music sphere making music even remotely as sophisticated as Gabriel Kahane. This is music for the ears, the intellect and the soul...he is one of the most prodigious talents we've got."—Etan Rosenbloom, *Prefix Magazine*

Tuesday, May 3, 2011, at 7:00PM

NYFOS Next: Phil Kline & Friends

A program of new vocal music performed and co-curated by composer Phil Kline (*Zippo Songs*), with NYFOS's Steven Blier, Michael Barrett and Benjamin Sosland.

"Phil Kline is one of America's most important compositional voices—thanks to his burning urge to communicate, and not things that can be reduced to a charismatic sentence. His pieces become part of your inner life no matter how little you understand them." — David Patrick Stearns, *Philadelphia Inquirer*

NO SONG IS SAFE FROM US, a new radio series

A 13-segment radio series beginning January 2011

Produced by Chicago's WFMT

Hosted by Frederica von Stade

NYFOS will take to the airwaves starting in January 2011 with *No Song Is Safe From Us*, a 13-hour series hosted by legendary mezzo-soprano Frederica Von Stade and produced by WFMT Radio in Chicago. WFMT is the sponsor of radio programs for the New York Philharmonic, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Wigmore Hall, and many others. Radio audiences will hear unique NYFOS concerts and recordings drawn from nearly a quarter century of recorded archives and

critically acclaimed recordings. All 13 programs will be distributed by the WFMT Radio Network throughout the U.S. and the world. The series will also be streamed live at www.wfmt.com, and related audio, video, program notes and interviews will be posted there, as well as on www.nyfos.org.

Singers featured in the radio segments include **Lorraine Hunt Lieberson, Stephanie Blythe, Joseph Kaiser, Judy Kaye, Dina Kuznetsova, and William Burden.**

Among the programs are:

- *Lorraine Hunt Lieberson* (highlights from this great artist's 13 performances with NYFOS between 1990 and her death in 2006)
- *Lost Tribes of Vaudeville* (a celebration of Black and Jewish vaudeville)
- *Latin Lovers* (art song and theater music from Argentina, Brazil, and Cuba)
- *Kurt Weill's Berlin* (including cabaret songs from 1920s Berlin)
- *Poets Without Heroes* (settings and readings of poetry by Soviet poet Anna Akhmatova and her circle)
- *Fugitives* (music by composers who fled Nazi Germany in the 1930s and '40s)

The NYFOS series at MERKIN CONCERT HALL

All concerts begin at 8:00PM

Four programs, Eight concerts

\$40–\$55 for single tickets; \$140–\$200 for 4-concert subscription

129 West 67th St. • 212-501-3330

BEGINNER'S LUCK: The Passion and Promise of Youth

Tuesday, October 19 and Thursday, October 21, 2010

Sasha Cooke, mezzo-soprano; Paul Appleby, tenor; Steven Blier, Michael Barrett, pianists

NYFOS is known for nurturing young singers and launching them on major careers. Two NYFOS favorites, mezzo-soprano Sasha Cooke and tenor Paul Appleby, are climbing the stairway to stardom, and the songs on this program, by such composers as Bernstein, Busoni, Schubert, and Strauss, capture the joys, fears, and wonders of new beginnings in life, love, and art.

Steven Blier talks about *Beginner's Luck*:

"I have several great jobs. One of them is sitting on my butt in a studio at the Juilliard school and coaching the singers who walk through the door. Two such were Paul Appleby and Sasha Cooke: Paul, one of the most naturally engaging and breathtakingly stylish balladeers I have ever heard, and Sasha, who seemed to be the love-child of Lorraine Hunt Lieberson and Janet Baker. It's been a privilege to be part of their vocal and artistic development, and I am so proud of the way the musical world has already embraced them. They did brilliant work together when NYFOS premiered *Bastianello* and *Lucrezia*, the operas we commissioned from John Musto and Bill Bolcom. We jumped at the chance to present them again, this time in a duo-concert. It seemed obvious that we should choose songs that celebrate their youth and tremendous promise. They are at a magical—and precarious—moment as they set out on their careers and young adulthood. We'll hear music written by composers at a similar stage of their lives, and explore the excitement and challenge of starting out in life."

MANNING THE CANON: Songs of Gay Life

Tuesday, November 30 and Thursday, December 2, 2010

Scott Murphree, tenor; Jesse Blumberg, Matthew Worth, baritones; Matt Boehler, bass; Steven Blier, pianist

NYFOS celebrates the lives and art of gay men with a program featuring works that reflect the heritage of gay composers in art song, and songs about the gay experience. Featured composers include Poulenc, Tchaikovsky, Griffes, Bernstein, Porter, Blitzstein, and others.

Steven Blier talks about *Manning the Canon*:

“This is a program I’ve been longing to do for about two decades. It explores two centuries of gay composers and gay-themed songs, and presents a wide variety of characters: experienced guys on the prowl for a good time; sensitive men grappling with their sexuality; hyper-males and drag queens; ecstatic lovers and those just awakening to their erotic nature. The composers come from seven countries and span 190 years, but they have one thing in common: they are all masters of words and music, and present a vital and engaging portrait of our gay heritage. The joys of gay brotherhood, the lacerating wit of our most brilliant writers, the subtle signals we’ve created to locate one another, and the crises we’ve faced and survived: these are the subjects of *Manning the Canon*.”

NIGHT & DAY/USA: Americans Working And Dreaming

Tuesday, February 15 and Thursday, February 17, 2011

**Sari Gruber, soprano; Liza Forrester, mezzo-soprano; James Martin, baritone
Steven Blier, Michael Barrett, pianists**

Americans are either hard at work or searching for work. This daring program presents songs that explore the contrasts between the reality of our daily labors and the inner life of our dreams and fantasies. It also looks at the great American Dream, with all its possibilities and promises. Songs by American composers Berlin, Blitzstein, Weill, Bowles, Rorem, Gordon, and others are featured.

Steven Blier talks about *Night & Day/USA*:

“Like many New Yorkers, I work pretty hard all day, and often well into the evening. I am also a passionate dreamer, and am fascinated with the narratives my unconscious mind coughs up once I achieve that state of blessed horizontality after my labors are over. Working and dreaming: this is the very stuff of our existence. How exciting to make a program that delves into the ways we earn our daily bread—and the powerful images our minds create when we’re asleep.”

SPANISH GOLD: Songs of the Iberian Peninsula

Sunday, March 13, 4:00PM (at Caramoor in Katonah, NY)

Tuesday, March 15 and Thursday, March 17, 2011

**Members of Caramoor’s 2011 Vocal Rising Stars program
Steven Blier, Michael Barrett, pianists**

The vibrant songs of the Iberian Peninsula are enriched by the fertile blend of traditions from Castile, Catalonia, Andalusia, Galicia, the Basque country, and Sephardic lands. Bright young singers from the Caramoor Vocal Rising Stars program sing songs by Granados, Sor, Montsalvage, Nin, Toldrà, Guridi, Mompou, and many others from this glorious tradition. These three concerts conclude NYFOS’s third annual NYFOS@Caramoor residency.

Steven Blier talks about *Spanish Gold*:

“The Iberian peninsula isn’t big by American standards—it’s smaller than Texas, just twice the size of Colorado. But it houses a dizzying array of cultures, languages, and musical traditions, all of them filled with a special allure. From the gypsy-like wailing of Andalusian song to the Gallic elegance of Catalan music, from the purity of Galicia to the earthiness of the Basque country—not to mention the unique grace of what most people think of as Spanish culture, Castile: *Spanish Gold* takes them all on. It will be a pleasure to introduce our Caramoor Vocal Rising Stars to the beauties of a repertoire that is largely unfamiliar to them, and I look forward to deepening my knowledge and understanding of this mysterious country as we have seminars and coachings with native speakers. Art song, theater song, and folk song (set by some very sophisticated musicians) form a delicious musical paella.”

NYFOS CD RELEASE

October 2010

Bastianello / Lucrezia

BRIDGE 9299A/B (Two Discs) DDD UPC: 090404929922

This two-disc set presents the world premiere recordings of new comic operas by John Musto and William Bolcom. The twin operas contain librettos written by Mark Campbell, and were commissioned by and composed for New York Festival of Song (NYFOS). Both operas were written for identical casts—the five singers heard on these recordings. The 2-CD release comes packaged in a slipcase which contains a 112 page book with complete librettos.

Steven Blier writes: “Bill Bolcom’s music for *Lucrezia* is exuberant and tonal, the opulent sound of desire. John Musto’s musical world in *Bastianello* is more elusive and complex: chords often include elements of both major and minor, defying easy categorization. It is a fitting musical landscape for a piece that explores the way one moment can embrace many conflicting feelings. *Lucrezia* is a riotous piece where greed and deception are thwarted, and *Bastianello*, is a complex work in which a man learns the lesson of forgiveness.”

Bastianello: Music by **John Musto**; Libretto by **Mark Campbell**.

Lucrezia: Music by **William Bolcom**; Libretto by **Mark Campbell**.

New York Festival of Song: **Lisa Vroman**, soprano; **Sasha Cooke**, mezzo-soprano;

Paul Appleby, tenor; **Patrick Mason**, baritone; **Matthew Boehler**, bass;

Steven Blier and **Michael Barrett**, piano

NYFOS @ JUILLIARD

ROAD TRIP: An American Travelogue

Wednesday, January 12, 2011, 8:00PM

Alice Tully Hall

NYFOS founders Steven Blier and Michael Barrett and the students of The Juilliard School’s Vocal Arts Department present a concert that marks the culmination of the sixth annual installment of *NYFOS@Juilliard*. This collaboration between NYFOS and The Juilliard School celebrates the creative energy and superlative vocal talent of tomorrow’s brightest

stars, building on NYFOS's distinctive approach to programming and performing. This year *NYFOS@Juilliard* presents a musical travelogue, *Road Trip*, taking audiences on a cross-country journey from Charles Ives' New England to Arthur Schwarz's Brooklyn, from Hoagy Carmichael's Indiana to Emmerich Kálmán's Arizona. Featuring music by Cole Porter, Steven Mark Kohn, Irving Berlin, Paul Bowles and many others.

NYFOS SPRING GALA

A FINE ROMANCE

Kelli O'Hara, Joseph Kaiser, and Steven Blier

perform songs by Jerome Kern

Monday, April 4, 2011, 7:00PM

Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall and the '21' Club

Kelli O'Hara, Broadway's most luminous leading lady, and the dazzling tenor Joseph Kaiser revel in Jerome Kern's gorgeous melodies, accompanied and hosted by NYFOS's own Steven Blier. The concert program is followed by an elegant supper at '21' Club. Contact New York Festival of Song (646) 230-8380 for further information.

LINKS

Paul Appleby, tenor

http://www.nyfos.org/bios/Appleby_Paul.php

Michael Barrett

http://www.nyfos.org/bios/Barrett_Michael.php

Baryshnikov Arts Center

<http://www.bacnyc.org/>

Steven Blier

http://www.nyfos.org/bios/Blier_Steven.php

Jesse Blumberg, baritone

<http://www.jesseblumberg.com/>

Matthew Boehler, bass

<http://www.mattboehler.com/>

Bridge Records

<http://www.bridgerecords.com/>

Caramoor

<http://www.caramoor.org/>

Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center

<http://claricesmithcenter.umd.edu/2010/>

Sasha Cooke, mezzo-soprano

<http://sashacooke.com/>

Liza Forrester, mezzo-soprano
<http://www.lizaforrester.com/>

Sari Gruber, soprano
<http://www.barrettvantage.com/artist.php?id=sgruber>

Gabriel Kahane
<http://www.imgartists.com/?page=artist&id=734>

Joseph Kaiser, tenor
<http://www.josephkaiser.com/>

Phil Kline
<http://www.philkline.com/index2.html>
James Martin, baritone
http://www.nyfos.org/bios/Martin,_James.php

Patrick Mason, baritone
<http://www.colorado.edu/music/faculty/mason.html>

Merkin Concert Hall
<http://kaufman-center.org/merkin-concert-hall>

Scott Murphree, tenor
<http://steinhardt.nyu.edu/music/voice/people/faculty/murphree>

Kelli O'Hara
<http://www.kelliohara.com/>

Benjamin Sosland
<http://www.romanticcentury.org/artists.html#sosland>

Frederica von Stade
<http://www.fredericavonstade.com/>

Vocal Arts DC
<http://www.vocalartsdc.org/>

Lisa Vroman, soprano
<http://www.lisavroman.com/>

WFMT Chicago
<http://www.wfmt.com/>

Matthew Worth, baritone
http://www.nyfos.org/bios/Worth,_Matthew.php

NYFOS 2010-2011 Season at a Glance

Saturday, August 7 – Friday, August 13
Steven Blier residency at Glimmerglass Opera

Friday, August 13, 3:00PM
Killer “B”s: American Song from Amy Beach to the Beach Boys
Glimmerglass Opera’s Young American Artists Program
Alice Bush Opera Theater (Cooperstown, NY)

October 2010

NYFOS CD Release

Bastianello / Lucrezia

Comic operas by John Musto and William Bolcom

Two-CD release on Bridge Records

Monday, October 4, 10:00PM

Sing for Your Supper

Henry's Restaurant

2745 Broadway (at 105th Street)

Tuesday, October 19, 8:00PM

Beginner's Luck: The Passion and Promise of Youth

Merkin Concert Hall at Kaufman Center

Thursday, October 21, 8:00PM

Beginner's Luck: The Passion and Promise of Youth

Merkin Concert Hall at Kaufman Center

Sunday, October 24, 2:00PM

Beginner's Luck: The Passion and Promise of Youth

Presented by Vocal Arts D.C.

Terrace Theatre at the Kennedy Center (Washington, DC)

Tuesday, November 16, 7:00PM

NYFOS Next

Gabriel Kahane, co-host and curator

Presented by The Movado Hour

Baryshnikov Art Center's Howard Gilman Performance Space (NYC)

Tuesday, November 30, 8:00PM

Manning the Canon: Songs of Gay Life

Merkin Concert Hall at Kaufman Center

Thursday, December 2, 8:00PM

Manning the Canon: Songs of Gay Life

Merkin Concert Hall at Kaufman Center

Wednesday, January 12, 8:00PM

Road Trip

NYFOS@Juilliard

Alice Tully Hall

Saturday, February 12, 8:00PM

Night & Day/USA: Americans Working and Dreaming

Gildenhorn Recital Hall

Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center – University of Maryland

Tuesday, February 15, 8:00PM

Night & Day/USA: Americans Working and Dreaming

Merkin Concert Hall at Kaufman Center

Thursday, February 17, 8:00PM

Night & Day/USA: Americans Working and Dreaming

Merkin Concert Hall at Kaufman Center

Monday, March 7 – Saturday, March 12

Steven Blier and Michael Barrett residency

Caramoor's Vocal Rising Stars Program (Katonah, NY)

Sunday, March 13, 4:00PM

Spanish Gold: Songs of the Iberian Peninsula

Caramoor Festival of Music and Arts

(Katonah, NY)

Tuesday, March 15, 8:00PM

Spanish Gold: Songs of the Iberian Peninsula

Merkin Concert Hall at Kaufman Center

Thursday, March 17, 8:00PM

Spanish Gold: Songs of the Iberian Peninsula

Merkin Concert Hall at Kaufman Center

Monday, April 4, 7:00PM

Spring Gala

Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall

Tuesday, May 3, 7:00PM

NYFOS Next

Phil Kline, co-host and curator

Presented by The Movado Hour

Baryshnikov Art Center's Howard Gilman Performance Space (NYC)

"New York Festival of Song is the most important nucleus of contemporary song in the world." — Ned Rorem

Beginner's Luck is funded, in part, by the A. L. and Jenny L. Luria Foundation.

Paul Appleby appears with the cooperation of The Metropolitan Opera Lindemann Young Artist Development Program.

Joseph Kaiser appears courtesy of The Metropolitan Opera.

The NYFOS Merkin Hall Concert Series is made possible, in part, with public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency, and from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Counsel.

For further information, press tickets, photos, and to arrange interviews,
please contact Aleba Gartner Associates at 212/206-1450 or a@alebgartner.com.

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