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Press Contact:

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

NEW YORK FESTIVAL OF SONG (NYFOS)

announces its

25TH ANNIVERSARY GALA

NYFOS Artistic Directors and pianists **STEVEN BLIER** and **MICHAEL BARRETT**
host this **Silver Anniversary Celebration** for NYFOS
with an extraordinary lineup of special guests including:

Obie award-winning tenor **DARIUS DE HAAS**
Drama Desk Award-winning singer, actress and comedienne **MARY TESTA**
Tony award-winning Broadway favorite **JUDY KAYE**
and two-time Grammy winner **SYLVIA MCNAIR**

performing a program of music as diverse as NYFOS itself
including art song, musical theater, cabaret, and jazz

MONDAY, APRIL 8 at 7:00PM

Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall

Followed by an elegant supper at '21' Club

TICKETS

Gala tickets begin at \$750

Information on purchasing single tickets and tables can be obtained online at
www.nyfos.org/gala or by calling (646) 230-8380.

Information regarding donations can also be found online at www.nyfos.org/gala

NEW YORK FESTIVAL OF SONG celebrates its 25-year history with a **SILVER ANNIVERSARY GALA** on **Monday, April 8 at 7:00PM** at **Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall**, followed by an elegant supper at the **'21' Club**.

NYFOS artistic director and pianist **Steven Blier** plays host to a star-studded lineup of friends with musical backgrounds as diverse as NYFOS itself. Gracing the stage are three leading ladies: **Sylvia McNair**, the elegant two-time Grammy Award-winner at home on the world's finest opera, concert and cabaret stages; the inimitable **Mary Testa**, singing actress and comedienne, Drama Desk Award-winner of Broadway and off-Broadway acclaim; and two-time Tony Award-winning Broadway favorite **Judy Kaye**, currently featured in *Nice Work If You Can Get It*.

Rounding out the guest performers is the soulful, versatile, and Obie Award-winning tenor **Darius de Haas**, who recorded a widely-praised album, *Quiet Please* (Bridge Records), with Steven Blier in 2010.

Since its journey began a quarter of a century ago, NYFOS, founded by pianists Steven Blier and Michael Barrett in 1988, has been hailed throughout the world for its artistic contributions. "New York Festival of Song reinvented the song recital," wrote *The New Yorker*. "One of the longstanding delights of the New York music scene," offered *The New York Times*, while *New York Magazine* lauded NYFOS for the "best classical programming in New York."

Marking the end of another successful season, and paying tribute to its rich history, this year's spring gala serves as the major fundraising event for the season, and contributions to the event help keep the music playing at NYFOS events for years to come.

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

"A NYFOS concert is one of the greatest pleasures you can have hearing music." — Classical TV

"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

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

TICKETS

Tickets to the gala, beginning at \$750, are available at multiple donor levels and can be purchased online at <http://www.nyfos.org/gala> or by calling NYFOS at (646) 230-8380 for further information.

ABOUT NYFOS

"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

Now in its 25th anniversary season, **New York Festival of Song** (NYFOS) is dedicated to creating intimate song concerts of great beauty and originality, weaving music, poetry, history and humor into evenings of seamless theater. Each program of song and story engages, entertains, educates and fosters community among artists and audiences in a spirit of shared adventure.

Founded by pianists Michael Barrett and Steven Blier in 1988, NYFOS continues to produce its series of thematic song programs, drawing together rarely-heard songs of all kinds, overriding traditional distinctions between high and low performance genres, exploring the character and language of other cultures, and the personal voices of song composers and lyricists. NYFOS also nurtures the artistry and careers of young singers in training residencies with The Juilliard School (in its 8th year), Caramoor Center for Music and the Arts (in its 5th year), San Francisco Opera (in its 15th year) and Glimmerglass Opera (2008 - 2010).

Since its founding, NYFOS has particularly celebrated American song, featuring premieres and

commissions of new American works, including a double bill of one-act comic operas, *Bastianello* and *Lucrezia*, by John Musto and William Bolcom, both with libretti by Mark Campbell, commissioned and premiered by NYFOS in 2008, and released on Bridge Records in 2011. In addition to *Bastianello* and *Lucrezia* and the 2008 Bridge Records release of *Spanish Love Songs* with Joseph Kaiser and the late Lorraine Hunt Lieberson, NYFOS has produced five recordings on the Koch label, including a Grammy Award-winning disc of Bernstein's *Arias and Barcarolles*, and the Grammy-nominated recording of Ned Rorem's *Evidence of Things Not Seen* (also a NYFOS commission) on New World Records. In 2011, NYFOS's 13-segment, nationally syndicated radio show, hosted by Frederica von Stade, debuted on WFMT, producer of radio programs for the New York Philharmonic, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Wigmore Hall and many others. 2011 also saw the debut of *NYFOS Next*, NYFOS's mini-series for new songs, hosted by guest composers in intimate venues.

NYFOS's concert series, touring programs, radio broadcasts, recordings, and educational activities continue to spark new interest in the creative possibilities of the song program, and have inspired the creation of thematic vocal series around the world.

LINKS

NEW YORK FESTIVAL OF SONG

<http://nyfos.org/>

STEVEN BLIER

http://nyfos.us/blier_bio.html

MICHAEL BARRETT

http://www.nyfos.org/barrett_bio.html

DARIUS DE HAAS

<http://www.dariusdehaas.com>

JUDY KAYE

<http://www.judykaye.com>

SYLVIA MCNAIR

<http://sylviamcnair.com>

MARY TESTA

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mary_Testa

UPCOMING NYFOS EVENTS

Sunday, March 10, 2013, 4:00pm

Song of the Midnight Sun

Music Room, Rosen House, Caramoor Festival of Arts, Katonah, NY

Tuesday, March 12, 2013, 8:00pm

Song of the Midnight Sun

Merkin Concert Hall at Kaufman Center

Monday, April 8, 2013, 7:00pm

NYFOS 25th Anniversary Gala
Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall and '21' Club

Tuesday, April 30, 2013, 7:00pm
NYFOS Next: Mohammed Fairouz
Mohammed Fairouz, host and curator
DiMenna Center for Classical Music

Monday, May 13, 2013, 7:30pm
NYFOS's 25th Anniversary Celebration
DiMenna Center for Classical Music

All NYFOS programming is funded, in part, by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.

NYFOS at Merkin Concert Hall and NYFOS Next at DiMenna Center are funded, in part, by the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council.

For further information, press tickets, photos, and to arrange interviews,
please contact Aleba & Co. at 212/206-1450 or aleba@alebaco.com

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