

June 2024

Dear Friends of NYFOS,

I want to extend a warm invitation to NYFOS's 37th season. As always, each concert will offer the immersive cultural richness that has marked our performances for the last four decades.

Our Merkin Hall series opens with a project dreamed up—literally—by baritone Justin Austin, a longtime member of our artistic family. Last fall he called me with a most unusual message: “Steve—I just woke up from this vivid dream: I was onstage doing a NYFOS concert with you, Joshua Blue, Will Liverman, Joseph Parrish, Chaz’men Williams-Ali, and Jorell Williams. The show was called *My Brother’s Keeper*, and it was about the solidarity of Black men—brotherly love, encouragement, determination, perseverance—and even jealousy.” My response was instantaneous: “We’re doing it.” Miraculously, we found a date when all five of these extremely busy singers were available, and we are thrilled to share the realization of this dream concert with you in November.

I am equally fired up about our February concert, *Le tour de France*. Originally performed during our mostly virtual 20-21 season, it played to an audience of just four (masked) listeners at Caramoor. Conceived with pianist Bénédicte Jourdois, *Le tour de France* is a musical travelogue sweeping from the Riviera to Brittany, ending with five sublime songs about Paris. This program reunites three of the original cast members: soprano Nicoletta Berry, mezzo-soprano Erin Wagner, and baritone Samuel Kidd. Their careers have taken off in the intervening years, with performances stretching from Carnegie Hall to San Francisco Opera. Joining them is another peerless balladeer and NYFOS favorite, tenor Daniel McGrew.

This year’s Schwab Vocal Rising Stars concert is called *Beginner’s Luck: The Young Artist’s Journey*. A wide-ranging playlist, from German Lieder to Bob Dylan, explores that chaotic decade between adolescence and adulthood, filled with seemingly endless possibility and endless peril. A cast of five brilliant young artists, all in their 20s, will join Bénédicte Jourdois and me in this intriguing musical journey.

Our season closer in April brings three powerhouse artists back to NYFOS: pianist Peter Dugan, baritone John Brancy, and mezzo-soprano Kara Dugan in a program called *Other Worlds: Songs of Fantasy*. It also marks the NYFOS debut of Grammy Award-winning clarinetist Mark Dover, one of America’s great virtuosos. With musicians this bold and imaginative, the sky’s the limit.

We wanted to give you—our valued subscribers—first dibs on tickets, as well as an early chance to purchase tickets for both our NYFOS Next series and our annual Yuletide show, *A Goyishe Christmas to You!*. If you return the enclosed order form by July 26, either by mail in the included envelope, or by email to info@nyfos.org, we’ll make sure you get the best seats. It’s an exciting season of new and much-loved music, and we can’t wait to share it all with you!

Yours sincerely,



Steven Blier

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2024–2025 NYFOS PROGRAMS
IN MERKIN HALL AT KAUFMAN MUSIC CENTER
All concerts at 8:00pm; post-concert receptions included

MY BROTHER'S KEEPER

Tuesday, November 19, 2024

Conceived by baritone **Justin Austin**, this program tells a story of brotherly love and community among Black men in America through art song, soul, gospel, and opera. *My Brother's Keeper* features a stellar team of Black American male singers, including Austin, tenor **Joshua Blue**, baritone **Will Liverman**, bass-baritone **Joseph Parrish**, baritone **Jorell Williams**, and tenor **Chaz'men Williams-Ali**, alongside NYFOS's own **Steven Blier**.

LE TOUR DE FRANCE

Wednesday, February 26, 2025

A musical voyage to the four corners of France from Brittany to the Riviera, ending with a deluxe stay in Paris. The program includes songs by Francis Poulenc, Joseph Canteloube, André Caplet, Gustav Mahler, Michel Legrand, Charles Trénet, and others, featuring the superb vocal talent of soprano **Nicoletta Berry**, mezzo-soprano **Erin Wagner**, tenor **Daniel McGrew**, and baritone **Samuel Kidd**, with pianists **Steven Blier** and **Bénédicte Jourdois**.

BEGINNER'S LUCK: THE ARTIST'S JOURNEY

Thursday, March 20, 2025

Highlighting the talents of **Caramoor's 2025 Schwab Vocal Rising Stars** program, *Beginner's Luck* features a wide-ranging playlist from German Lieder to Bob Dylan, exploring the chaotic decade between adolescence and adulthood, filled with seemingly endless possibility and endless peril. A cast of five brilliant young artists, all in their 20s, will join co-directors **Bénédicte Jourdois** and **Steven Blier** in this intriguing musical journey.

OTHER WORLDS: SONGS OF FANTASY

Wednesday, April 9, 2025

Mezzo-soprano **Kara Dugan**, baritone **John Brancy**, Grammy Award-winning clarinetist **Mark Dover** in his NYFOS debut, and pianist **Peter Dugan** join NYFOS's **Steven Blier** for a new program that explores the mysteries of the forest, the ocean, and the skies, with songs by Schumann, Spohr, Sibelius, and many others.

ADDITIONAL CONCERTS

NYFOS NEXT

The Theater at the Rubin Museum of Art, 150 West 17th Street, NYC

Sunday, September 29, 2024 at 3:00pm

Sunday, November 3, 2024 at 3:00pm

Pianist and curator **Nathaniel LaNasa** returns with two concerts showcasing the best in contemporary art song. In September, mezzo-soprano **Blythe Gaissert** and soprano **Britt Hewitt** perform pieces for voice and bassoon by **Kamala Sankaram** and **LJ White**. **Robin Steitz** and **Gregory Feldmann** return to the series in November, performing **Hannah Kendall's Rosalind** (2020) for soprano, baritone, piano; with additional songs by **Sarah Kirkland Snider**, **Isabella Gellis**, and **Joe Rubinstein**.

A GOYISHE CHRISTMAS TO YOU!

Congregation Beit Simchat Torah (CBST), 130 W 30th Street, NYC

Tuesday, December 17, 2024 at 7:00pm

NYFOS's elves return in our annual holiday program filled with seasonal tunes by Jewish composers. Featuring **Donna Breitzer**, Cantor **Joshua Breitzer**, **Joshua Jeremiah**, **Rebecca Jo Loeb**, **Alex Mansoori**, and **Lauren Worsham**, with **Alan R. Kay** on clarinet and **Steven Blier** at the keyboard.

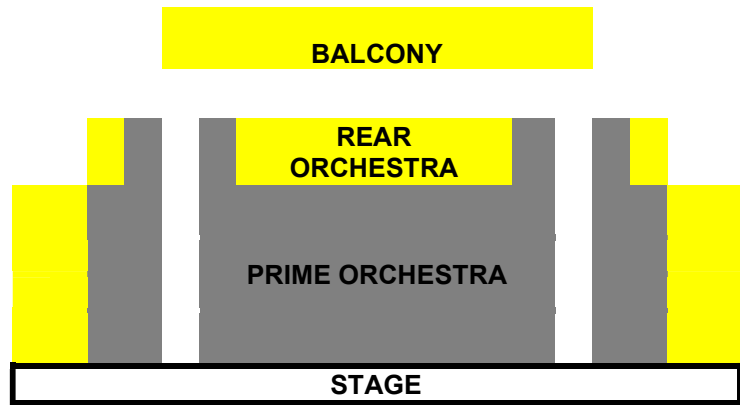
All programs and artists are subject to change.

SUBSCRIPTION ORDER — NYFOS 2024–2025 SEASON

VENUE: NYFOS continues co-presentation of its MAINSTAGE series with Kaufman Music Center in Merkin Hall, 129 West 67th Street between Broadway and Amsterdam Avenue. All concerts begin at 8:00 pm.

2-TIERED PRICING: Two levels of subscription pricing based on seating locations in Prime Orchestra and Far Side/Rear Orchestra or Balcony. See diagram. Please note that all seats near the aisles are Prime Orchestra.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: Order by Friday, July 26, 2024 for priority seating. Last season's locations cannot be guaranteed. Tickets will be mailed to you in late August.



- **Subscriber Pricing:** One full four-program subscription for Prime Orchestra seats is \$280; for Far Side/Rear Orchestra or Balcony, \$172 (over 10% off the single ticket prices).
- **Final Subscription Deadline:** The subscription period will end on November 19, 2024.

FRIENDS FOR FREE TICKETS FOR RENEWING SUBSCRIBERS: Bring friends to NYFOS – on us! Renewing MAINSTAGE subscribers may request a pair of complimentary *Friends for Free* tickets to bring friends to a concert they are attending. After sending in your renewal order, call the NYFOS office at 646-230-8380 or email info@nyfos.org to reserve your complimentary tickets. This offer is subject to availability.

ADDITIONAL CONCERTS: NYFOS subscribers are able to purchase tickets to the NYFOS Next series held at the Rubin Museum (150 W 17th St.) at 3pm on Sept 29 and Nov 3; and the annual holiday show *A Goyishe Christmas to You!*, held on December 17, 7PM at Congregation Beit Simchat Torah (130 W 30th St.), before they go on sale to the general public. Please look out for more information on these concerts later this summer.

TO ORDER: Please review the enclosed order form and the 2024–2025 program descriptions (on the reverse). Fill out the form and send it with your credit card information or check made out to New York Festival of Song in the enclosed envelope to NYFOS, 209 West 29th St, #6108, New York, NY 10001. Your tickets will be mailed to you in late August.

- **Special Needs:** *If you have special seating needs, please indicate your request on the enclosed form.*

SINGLE TICKETS: Single tickets (\$20-79) for MAINSTAGE concerts will be available beginning on Thursday, August 1 from the Merkin Hall box office, online and by phone (212) 501-3330.

STAY INFORMED: Please provide us with your email address or sign up on our website so that we can keep you up-to-date on all of the latest news from NYFOS, including concert reminders, information on our other series, and advance access to our program notes.

Join us in our 37th season!
For best seating, order by Friday, July 26

FOUR-CONCERT MERKIN HALL SERIES — subscriptions available through November 19, 2024

MY BROTHER'S KEEPER

Tuesday, November 19, 2024

LE TOUR DE FRANCE

Wednesday, February 26, 2025

BEGINNER'S LUCK

Thursday, March 20, 2025

OTHER WORLDS

Wednesday, April 9, 2025

LOCATION	# of Subs	x Price = Total
Prime Orchestra	_____	x \$280 = \$ _____
Far Side or Rear Orchestra	_____	x \$172 = \$ _____
Balcony	_____	x \$172 = \$ _____

Add-On Performances	# of Tickets	x Price = Total
NYFOS Next series: Sep 29 and Nov 3	_____	x \$40 = \$ _____
A Goyishe Christmas to You! on Dec 17	_____	x \$45 = \$ _____

MAKE A DONATION IN HONOR OF NYFOS'S 37th SEASON

A fully tax-deductible contribution to NYFOS in any amount is greatly appreciated! \$ _____

Please Add Handling (\$6 per order): **\$ 6.00**

TOTAL: **\$ _____**

SEATING REQUESTS

We cannot guarantee last season's locations, but we will make every effort to accommodate your requests. Priority seating will be given to those who order by the renewal deadline of Monday, July 26. **Please note your seating preferences here:**

Name

Address (to which you would like tickets mailed)

City State Zip

Daytime Phone Email

I'd like to receive emails from NYFOS about upcoming performances.

Payment Information: Enclosed is my check payable to **New York Festival of Song**
 Charge my: Amex Visa Mastercard
 Please fill in the credit card information below and mail to: **NYFOS, 209 West 29th St, #6108, New York, NY 10001**

Card Number Expiration Security Code

Cardmember Name (exactly as it appears) Signature

Billing Address (if different from address above) State Zip