

LIEDER ALIVE!

RE-INVIGORATING THE TEACHING, PERFORMANCE AND APPRECIATION OF GERMAN LIEDER

Maxine Bernstein, Director

Media Contact:

Cristin O'Keeffe

Ph: 415.894.0745

Email: cristin@liederalive.org

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LIEDER ALIVE! Announces the 2017/18 Liederabend Series

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 7th SEASON INCLUDE:

Mahlerfest Grand Opening

Featuring Mezzo-Soprano Kindra Scharich and the Alexander String Quartet

Performing Zakarias Grafilo's Transcriptions of Three Mahler Song Cycles for Voice and String Quartet

Selections from Wolf Mörike, Goethe and Michelangelo Lieder and Mahler's Knaben Wunderhorn

Featuring Bass Kirk Eichelberger, and Pianist Marek Ruszczyński

"Neue Lieder, Neue Jahr"

Featuring Commissioned Works by Kurt Erickson, Luna Pearl Woolf, and Mark Carlson

In Dialogue with Compositions of Romantic Era Masters

Soprano Heidi Moss Erickson, Mezzo-Soprano Kindra Scharich, and Pianist Ronny Michael Greenberg

Brahms, Wolf Italienisches Liederbuch, and Tosti

Performed by Baritone Eugene Villanueva and Pianist Peter Grünberg

Neue Lieder by German Composer Anno Schreier

Jointly Commissioned with the Deutsche Oper Berlin

Performed by Mezzo-Soprano Kindra Scharich and Pianist John Parr

San Francisco – LIEDER ALIVE!'s Founder and Director Maxine Bernstein today announced the 2017/18 Liederabend Series, marking the series' seventh season, running from September 10, 2017 through July 1, 2018. The five-concert series will include a Mahlerfest Grand Opening with mezzo-soprano Kindra Scharich and the internationally acclaimed Alexander String Quartet performing violinist Zakarias Grafilo's transcriptions of Mahler's *Lieder eines Fahrenden gesellen* (Songs of a Wayfarer), the *Rückert-Lieder*, and *Kindertotenlieder*; a program of Hugo Wolf and Gustav Mahler performed by bass Kirk Eichelberger, and pianist Marek Ruszczyński; an evening of "Neue und Alte Lieder," featuring commissioned works by Kurt Erickson, Luna Pearl Woolf, and Mark Carlson, performed by soprano Heidi Moss Erickson, Ms. Scharich, and pianist Ronny Michael Greenberg; baritone Eugene Villanueva performing Brahms, Wolf, and Tosti with pianist Peter Grünberg; and the U.S. Premiere of Neue Lieder by German composer Anno Schreier, co-commissioned by LIEDER ALIVE! with the Deutsche Oper Berlin, performed by Ms. Scharich and pianist John Parr. All recitals will take place in the concert hall at the Noe Valley Ministry—an intimate and convivial performance space perfectly suited to the tradition of *Liederabend*—and will be followed by a reception with the artists.

The 2017/18 Liederabend Series

LIEDER ALIVE!'s annual Liederabend Series ("Evenings of Song") was inaugurated in 2011 to increase audience awareness and appreciation of the wonderful musical genre of Lieder. The recitals are presented in intimate settings and over the years have featured performances by some of the most outstanding professional musicians in the Bay Area and beyond, including Brian Asawa, Kirk Eichelberger, George Fee, Ronny Michael Greenberg, Katherine Growdon, Peter Grünberg, Corey Jamason, Jeffrey LaDeur, Heidi Moss Erickson, John Parr, Anthony Reed, Kindra Scharich, Simona Snitkovskaya, Katherine Tier, Eugene Villanueva, Paul Yarbrough, the Alexander String Quartet, and many more. In 2013, critic Jason Victor Serinus wrote in *San Francisco Classical Voice*: "[The] performance was so beautiful, and so honored the essence of love and longing at the heart of Brahms' music, that I wanted it to go on and on." Now presented at the Noe Valley Ministry concert hall, the 2017/18 season will run from September 2017 through July 2018, as follows:

- **September 10, 2017: Kindra Scharich, mezzo-soprano, and the Alexander String Quartet**

The Liederabend Series Mahlerfest Grand Opening will include performances by Scharich and the Quartet of three beloved song cycles by Gustav Mahler—*Kindertotenlieder*, the *Rückert-Lieder*, and *Lieder eines Fahrenden gesellen* (Songs of a Wayfarer)—transcribed for voice and string quartet by Zakarias Grafilo, the ensemble's first violinist. These works will be recorded in Spring 2018, for release on the Quartet's own label, Foghorn Classics.

- **October 2, 2017: Kirk Eichelberger, bass; and Marek Ruszczynski, piano**

Eichelberger and Ruszczynski will present Lieder by Hugo Wolf and Gustav Mahler—a pot pourri of *Mörke* and *Goethe* Lieder, and also the complete Wolf *Michelangelo Lieder*. The second half of the program will comprise selections from Gustav Mahler's *Knaben Wunderhorn*.

- **January 14, 2018: Heidi Moss Erickson, soprano; Kindra Scharich, mezzo-soprano; and Ronny Michael Greenberg, piano**

The second biennial Neue und Alte Liederfest entitled "Neue Lieder Neue Jahr" will include the World Premieres of commissioned works by Kurt Erickson (LIEDER ALIVE!'s Composer-in-Residence since 2013), and by two other extraordinarily gifted composers, Luna Pearl Woolf and Mark Carlson. These works will be performed by Moss, Scharich, and Greenberg—three of LIEDER ALIVE!'s most accomplished contributing artists—and presented in dialogue with masterworks from the Late Romantic period.

- **March 25, 2018: Eugene Villanueva, baritone, and Peter Grünberg, piano**

Villanueva is the first American singer ever to have been awarded the coveted Tosti song prize from the Instituto Nazionale Tostiano in Ortona, Italy. In his second appearance on the Liederabend Series, he and Peter Grünberg—one of the region's most sought-after collaborating pianists—will pair selections from Hugo Wolf's *Italienisches Liederbuch* with a set of delightfully light and expressive songs by Paolo Tosti. The artists will open the concert with a selection of Lieder by Johannes Brahms.

- **July 1, 2018: Mezzo-Soprano Kindra Scharich and Pianist John Parr**

LIEDER ALIVE!'s Master Coach John Parr—currently the head of music staff at the Deutsche Oper Berlin—and mezzo-soprano Kindra Scharich (LIEDER ALIVE!'s 2017/18 Artist-in-Residence) will perform a new work by German composer Anno Schreier set to poetry by Nora Bossong, co-commissioned by LIEDER ALIVE! with the Deutsche Oper Berlin.

About the Artists



The **ALEXANDER STRING QUARTET**—comprising Zakarias Grafilo and Fred Lifszitz, violins; Paul Yarbrough, viola; and Sandy Wilson, cello—was formed in New York in 1981 and is widely acknowledged as one of the finest chamber music ensembles performing today. It was the first American quartet to win the London International String Quartet Competition in 1985, and has since then gained widespread admiration for its performances of standard repertoire and contemporary music at major halls throughout North America and Europe. The quartet has collaborated with many outstanding artists, such as pianists Joyce Yang, Roger Woodward, Anne-Marie McDermott, Menachem Pressler, Marc-André Hamelin, and Jeremy Menuhin; clarinetists Joan

Eric Lluna, David Shifrin, Richard Stoltzman, and Eli Eban; soprano Elly Ameling; mezzo-soprano Joyce DiDonato; violinist Midori; cellists Lynn Harrell, Sadao Harada, and David Requiro; and jazz greats Branford Marsalis, David Sanchez, and Andrew Speight.



Bass **KIRK EICHELBERGER** has been praised for “commanding the stage at every turn” (San Francisco Chronicle) and for his “resonant bass and riveting stage presence.” (Dayton City Paper) Recent engagements include The Emperor in Tan Dun’s *Tea* and Don Fernando in *Fidelio* both with Opera Company of Philadelphia, Mephistopheles in *Faust* with Opera Grand Rapids, Sparafucile in *Rigoletto* with Vancouver Opera, and Ferrando in *Il Trovatore* with Lyric Opera of Kansas City. Kirk made his Metropolitan Opera debut in Prokofiev’s, *The Gambler*. On stage with the Festival Opera of Walnut Creek Kirk has performed Timur in *Turandot*, Bottom in *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*,

and Ferrando in *Il Trovatore*. A regular recitalist with LIEDER ALIVE! in San Francisco, Mr. Eichelberger has performed Schumann’s *Dichterliebe*, Mahler’s *Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen*, Brahms’s *Vier ernste Gesänge*, Wolf’s *Michelangelo Lieder*. Mr. Eichelberger was a national finalist in the 1999 Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions.



Composer **KURT ERICKSON** has received awards from ASCAP, American Composers Forum, and the Seaver Institute, and commissions from Festival Opera, Lone Star Lyric Theater Festival (Houston), San Francisco Girls Chorus, Sacramento Philharmonic, choreographer Lawrence Pech, and many others. His recent projects include *Andalusian Love Songs*, commissioned by the late countertenor Brian Asawa; a new work for guitar and mandolin for the German duo Ahlert & Schwab; and the expansion of Festival Opera’s 2012 commission, *Mister Merrick*, based on the story of the so-called “Elephant Man.” He has served as Composer-in-Residence at LIEDER

ALIVE! since 2013, and has premiered numerous works on the Liederabend Series.



Pianist **RONNY MICHAEL GREENBERG** has performed as a soloist with the Montreal Symphony, and in concerts at the Canadian Museum of Civilization for the Glenn Gould Exhibit, Steinway Hall as part of Yale in New York, and Stern Auditorium at Carnegie Hall as part of the Worldstrides Heritage Performance Programs. After finishing his studies at the Manhattan School of Music under the tutelage of Warren Jones, Mr. Greenberg was a coach apprentice at the 2014 Merola Opera Program; he was then selected for an Adler Fellowship at San Francisco Opera. Recent engagements include performances with LINES Ballet at Yerba Buena Center for the

Arts and fundraising events for the Silicon Valley League of the San Francisco Symphony.



Pianist, conductor, and lecturer **PETER GRÜNBERG** is the musical assistant to Michael Tilson Thomas, Music Director of the San Francisco Symphony, a lecturer for the Symphony's "Inside Music" pre-concert talk series, and principal musical consultant and advisor for its award-winning "Keeping Score" program, a PBS television and radio series about classical music. Mr. Grünberg has performed widely as a soloist, and also as a collaborating pianist with such outstanding singers as Laura Claycomb, Michelle DeYoung, Franz Grundheber, Frederica von Stade, Kurt Streit, Deborah Voigt, and dozens more. As a chamber musician, he has performed with musicians from San Francisco Symphony, the Berlin Philharmonic, and the San Francisco Opera orchestras.



Composer **MARK CARLSON**'s lyrical, emotionally powerful, and stylistically unique music has earned him the admiration of audiences and musicians throughout the United States, Canada, Mexico, and Europe. A versatile composer, his approximately 100 works include art songs, chamber music, choral music, concertos and other large ensemble works, and songs for musical theater. The recipient of more than 50 commissions, including by organizations such as the National Shrine in Washington, DC, and the New West Symphony, among others, as well as by many individual musicians and private parties. One of his thirteen CDs, *The Hall of Mirrors*, was a winner of the Chamber Music America/WQXR Record Awards for 2001. His works *Sueños y canciones*, *Intermezzo*, *Two Ballads*, *Sonata for Cello and Piano*, *For Those Silenced*, *On the Coming of War*, and *Night Music* have all been released on CDs over the past few years. He is the Founder and Artistic Director of the Los Angeles chamber music ensemble Pacific Serenades. Born in 1952 in Ft. Lewis, Washington, Carlson grew up in California, attended the University of Redlands, graduated from CSU Fresno, and received MA and PhD degrees in composition from UCLA. His principal composition teachers were Alden Ashforth and Paul Reale.



Soprano **HEIDI MOSS ERICKSON**, noted for her "rich and radiant soprano" (Edward Ortiz, Sacramento Bee) has performed with area companies such as West Edge Opera, Opera Parallele, West Bay Opera, Pocket Opera, Livermore Opera, Fremont Symphony, Oakland Symphony, Sacramento Choral Society, and the San Francisco Lyric Opera. She has been recognized in major vocal competitions, including the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions (NY District First Place Winner and Regional Finalist), Liederkrantz Awards, and the MacAllister Awards. In 2012, she was featured in a Festival Opera project entitled "About Face," which aimed to increase awareness of facial paralysis and other afflictions.



Pianist and Master Coach, **JOHN PARR**, was formerly head of music staff at the San Francisco Opera, and currently holds the same position at the Deutsche Oper Berlin. From 2002-2005 he worked as a coach at the Wagner Festival in Bayreuth, and gave recitals in the Wagner Museum. In 2005 he initiated a recital series entitled "Basically British" at Old First Church in San Francisco. He has appeared with cellist Lynn Harrell, in chamber music concerts in the Bay Area, and in recitals for the Marilyn Horne Foundation, San Francisco Performances, Old First, and LIEDER ALIVE! He returns regularly to San Francisco to coach young artists in the Merola and Adler Fellowship programs of the San Francisco Opera, and to further his advisory role with LIEDER ALIVE!



Pianist **MAREK RUSZCZYŃSKI** has given recitals across Europe in concert halls including the at Wigmore Hall, Barbican, Berlin Philharmonie, and the Musikverein. He has performed under the tutelage of Marilyn Horne in “The Song Continues” at Carnegie Hall and the Opéra de Bastille. Marek is a Samling Artist, a Britten-Pears Young Artist, and an alumnus of Academie Musicale de Villecroze, where is the collaborating pianist for Teresa Berganza. During his studies at the Guildhall School he was awarded the Gold Medal Accompanist Prize in both 2009 and 2011. Currently he is on the music staff at the Jette Parker Young Artists Programme of the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, and is a coach for the Kiri Te Kanawa Foundation.



Mezzo-soprano **KINDRA SCHARICH** has been praised by the San Francisco Chronicle for her "noble, vocally assured singing, with stately grace and deep-rooted pathos." A versatile musician, she has sung over 25 roles in the lyric mezzo repertoire, and is equally at home on the operatic or concert stage. Engagements have been with Opera San Jose, Opera Parallèle, Haymarket Opera (Chicago), West Edge Opera, the Santa Rosa Symphony, and the San Francisco Choral Society, among others. Ms. Scharich has presented recitals for the American Composer’s Forum in Los Angeles, LIEDER ALIVE!, the Wagner Society Northern California Chapter, and the Yehudi Menuhin Seminar in San Francisco. She is LIEDER ALIVE!’s 2017/18 Artist-in-Residence.



Composer **ANNO SCHREIER** Born in 1979, Mr. Schreier has composed numerous vocal, orchestral and chamber works, as well as several large-scale operas, including *Die Stadt der Blinden* (Opernhaus Zürich, 2011), *Mörder Kaspar Brand* (Deutsche Oper am Rhein, 2012), and *Prinzessin im Eis* (Theater Aachen, 2013). In 2016, his opera *Hamlet* was premiered at Theater an der Wien, and nominated for the International Opera Awards. His other honors include first prize at the "Teatro minimo" competition at the Opernhaus Zürich (2009), the Music Award at the Academy of Arts in Berlin (2009), the Karl Arnold Award (2010), and other prizes. In 2009/10 he was the resident composer for the Theater & Orchesters Heidelberg.



Baritone **EUGENE VILLANUEVA** is the first American ever to have been awarded the coveted Tosti song prize from the Instituto Nazionale Tostiano in Ortona, Italy. He has performed with the San Francisco Opera, Festival d’Aix-en-Provence, Teatro Comunale di Bologna, Opera Basel, Festival Puccini, and the Shanghai National Grand Theater. He made his Carnegie Hall debut in 2008 and returned in 2011 and 2017. He was a member of the Marilyn Horne Foundation, and has performed for the Schwabacher Debut Recital Series and the New York Festival of Song. He has also been a soloist with the San Francisco Symphony, the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the Toscanini Orchestra of Parma, and other outstanding orchestras.



The music of composer **LUNA PEARL WOOLF** has been praised for its “psychological nuances and emotional depth,” by the New York Times. She has been commissioned by Carnegie Hall and the Washington National Opera, among others, collaborating with such artists as Joyce DiDonato, Frederica von Stade, Russian National Orchestra, Brentano String Quartet, Julian Wachner, Matt Haimovitz, Christopher O’Riley, Academy Award-winner Jeremy Irons and author Cornelia Funke. Woolf is the featured composer in the Washington Chorus’ New Music for a New Age series and recipient of Opera America’s 2014 Discovery Grant. Her recorded music is available internationally on the [Oxingale](#) and PENTATONE labels.

About LIEDER ALIVE!

LIEDER ALIVE! is the only organization of its kind in America so thoroughly dedicated to keeping Lieder where it belongs—alive! Founded in 2007, our primary program is the annual Liederabend Series, now entering its seventh season. The upcoming season will include our second biennial Neue und Alte Liederfest, co-directed by Kurt Erickson (our Composer-in-Residence) and soprano Heidi Moss Erickson. Kurt is responsible for the Neue Lieder Commissioning Program; works commissioned by LIEDER ALIVE! are being compiled into the Neue Lieder Songbook, for online publication by Swirly Music. Our educational programs include The Lieder Institut, directed by our Master Coach, John Parr of the Deutsche Oper Berlin; coaching and consultation by founder Maxine Bernstein, and Bringing Lieder to Life, a monthly series of classes featuring renowned pianist Peter Grünberg.

2017/18 Liederabend Series Calendar Listings

Sunday, September 10, 5pm

MAHLERFEST GRAND OPENING!

Artists: Kindra Scharich, mezzo-soprano, and the Alexander String Quartet

Zakarias Grafilo, violin

Frederick Lifszitz, violin

Paul Yarbrough, viola

Sandy Wilson, cello

Program: Gustav Mahler's *Songs of a Wayfarer*, the *Rückert-Lieder*, and *Kindertotenlieder*, arranged for voice and string quartet by Zakarias Grafilo.

Sunday, October 2, 5pm

Artists: Kirk Eichelberger, bass; and Marek Ruszczyński, piano

Program: Lieder by Hugo Wolf and Gustav Mahler.

Sunday, January 14, 5pm

Artists: Heidi Moss Erickson, soprano; Kindra Scharich, mezzo-soprano; and Ronny Michael Greenberg, piano

Program: "Neue Lieder, Neue Jahr," our 2nd Biennial Neue und Alte Liederfest, featuring new works by Kurt Erickson, Luna Pearl Woolf, and Mark Carlson in dialogue with works of the Romantic Era.

Sunday, March 25, 5pm

Artists: Eugene Villanueva, baritone, and Peter Grünberg, piano

Program: Selections from Hugo Wolf's *Italienisches Liederbuch* paired with a set of songs by Paolo Tosti, also works by Johannes Brahms.

Sunday, July 1, 5pm

Artists: Kindra Scharich, mezzo-soprano, and John Parr, piano

Program: The American Premiere of Neue Lieder set to poems by Nora Bossong by German composer Anno Schreier, jointly commissioned by LIEDER ALIVE! and the Deutsche Oper Berlin.

Ticket Information

Subscriptions for the four-concert series start at \$175, which includes reserved seating at all concerts; subscribers enjoy significant savings on single ticket prices and free ticket exchange privileges. Single tickets for the Mahlerfest are \$100 in advance on Eventbrite for reserved seating and \$45 for general admission on Eventbrite; tickets at the door for this event are \$50 and \$25 for students, seniors, and working artists. Single tickets for each of the four regular Liederabend Series concerts are \$75 (reserved seating) and \$35 (general admission) in advance; tickets at the door are \$40 and \$20 for students, seniors, and working artists. All tickets include bubbly libations and reception with the artists. Subscriptions and single tickets may be purchased at Eventbrite, or by calling (415) 561-0100. For more information, visit www.liederalive.org.

Venue Information

Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez, between 23rd Street and Elizabeth, San Francisco [[map](#)]. Doors open a half hour prior to performance time.

All programs are subject to change.

High-res jpegs are available at the LiederAlive.com media page ([LIEDER ALIVE! Media Page](#))

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