

LIEDER ALIVE!

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

Maxine Bernstein, Director

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LIEDER ALIVE! is proud to present

Bass Kirk Eichelberger
and
Pianist Marek Ruszczyński
Performing works by

Wolf & Mahler

Sunday, October 15 at 5 PM

(Doors open at 4:30 PM)

Noe Valley Ministry

1021 Sanchez Street, San Francisco

Full calendar listing below

San Francisco – LIEDER ALIVE! will present the second recital in its Seventh Annual Liederabend Series on Sunday, October 15, with **bass Kirk Eichelberger** and **pianist Marek Ruszczyński** performing selections from Hugo Wolf's *Möricke Lieder*, along with three of the composer's Goethe Lieder and three of his Michelangelo Lieder. After the intermission, the two artists will perform five songs from Gustav Mahler's *Des Knaben Wunderhorn* (The Youth's Magic Horn). Mr. Eichelberger is a longtime LIEDER ALIVE! contributing artist who has been praised for "commanding the stage at every turn" (San Francisco Chronicle). Appearing in his series debut, Mr. Ruszczyński is a member of the music staff at the Jette Parker Young Artists Programme of the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden and he works as a coach for the Kiri Te Kanawa Foundation. The concert will take place at 5:00 pm at the **Noe Valley Ministry**, an intimate performance space perfectly suited to the tradition of Lieder performance. The program will be followed by a reception with the artists.

About the Program

When bass Kirk Eichelberger and pianist Marek Ruszczynski met at Covent Garden in 2016, they became instant musical colleagues and friends. Kirk, who has performed extensively in Europe and across the U.S. A regular recitalist with LIEDER ALIVE! in San Francisco, Mr. Eichelberger has performed Schumann's *Dichterliebe*, Mahler's *Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen*, Brahms' *Vier ernste Gesänge*, Strauss' *Rückert Lieder* and Wolf's *Michelangelo Lieder*. Marek has performed in Wigmore Hall, Barbican, Berlin Philharmonie, the Musikverein, and other prestigious European venues, and is rapidly carving out a niche in recital performance in the mold of such luminaries as Gerald Moore and Charles Spencer.

The two artists are excited to focus their San Francisco LIEDER ALIVE! recital—which will be Marek's series debut—on works by Gustav Mahler and Hugo Wolf. The concert will open with Wolf's welcoming and familiar *Drei Lieder nach Gedichten von Eduard Mörike*, followed by three of the composer's Goethe Lieder and three of his Michelangelo Lieder. The second half will be dedicated in its entirety to Mahler, whose work serves as an ideal vehicle for the velvet tonality of Kirk's voice; the percussive, almost anti-vocal *Fünf Lieder aus Des Knaben Wunderhorn* (The Youth's Magic Horn) are, in Kirk's hands, colored by an almost transcendent legato beauty and pathos.

About the 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 (LIEDER ALIVE!'s current Artist-in-Residence), Simona Snitkovskaya, 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."

About the Artists



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, Ferrando in *Il Trovatore* with Opera Manitoba, and Ferrando in Lyric Opera of Kansas City's production of *Il Trovatore*. Kirk made his Metropolitan Opera debut in Prokofiev's, *The Gambler*. He has sung The Four Villains in *The Tales of Hoffman* with Opera Theatre of Saint Louis, the title role in *Le Nozze di Figaro* for Opera Memphis, and Alidoro in *La Cenerentola* with Sacramento Opera. 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*. Concert engagements include Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, as well as Mozart's *Requiem*, Beethoven's *Symphony No. 9*, Handel's *Messiah*, Brahms' *Ein Deutsches Requiem*, Bach's *B-minor Mass*, Haydn's *Creation*, Pärt's *Litany*, Rossini's *Stabat Mater*, Kodály's *Budavári Te Deum* and Einhorn's *Voices of Light*. Mr. Eichelberger was a national finalist in the 1999 Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions.



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.

About LIEDER ALIVE!

LIEDER ALIVE! is the only organization of its kind in America that is so thoroughly devoted to the performance, training, and appreciation of German Lieder. Our principal program is the Liederabend Series, which was inaugurated in 2012 and offers recitals by some of the most accomplished singers in the region and around the world. In 2013, as part of this series, LIEDER ALIVE! launched the Neue Lieder Commissioning Program, bringing the marriage of German Romantic poetry and music into the 21st Century. LIEDER ALIVE! was founded by Maxine Bernstein in 2007; programming was initiated the following year with a Vocal Master Workshop series that has included master classes by baritone Thomas Hampson, mezzo-soprano Marilyn Horne, soprano June Anderson, and baritone Håkan Hagegård. Since then, our educational programming has expanded to include The Lieder Institute, directed by Master Coach John Parr (Head of Music Staff at Deutsche Oper Berlin); “Bringing Lieder to Life!,” aimed at novice and experienced singers alike; and year-round artistic consultations by Ms. Bernstein. LIEDER ALIVE! is dedicated to keeping Lieder where it belongs—alive!

CALENDAR LISTING

Sunday, October 15, 5pm

Artists

Kirk Eichelberger, bass
Marek Ruszczyński, piano

Program

GUSTAV MAHLER: *Fünf Lieder aus Des Knaben Wunderhorn*
HUGO WOLF: *Drei Lieder nach Gedichten von Eduard Mörike, Drei Lieder nach Gedichten von Goethe, and Drei Lieder nach Gedichten von Michelangelo*

Ticket Information

Tickets are \$35 in advance through Eventbrite, or \$40 at the door; premium reserved seats are available for \$75. Tickets may be purchased at [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com), or by calling (415) 561-0100. For more information, visit our website, 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 the performance time.

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

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