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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **LIEDER ALIVE! Announces the 2018/19 Liederabend Series**

### **HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR 8<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL SEASON INCLUDE:**

#### **“Neue Lieder, Neue Welt” Grand Opening**

Featuring Mezzo-Soprano Kindra Scharich and Pianist Ricardo Ballestero  
Performing Works by Brazilian Composer Alberto Nepomuceno and his Muses

#### **“Curtis on Tour”**

Featuring Pianist Mikael Eliassen with Artists from Curtis Institute  
Performing Brahms’ *Liebeslieder Waltzes* Plus Selected Lieder and Duets

#### **Brahms, Strauss, and Tosti**

Performed by Baritone Eugene Villanueva and Pianist Peter Grünberg

#### **“Mussorgsky and Kandinsky”**

Featuring Bass Kirk Eichelberger and Pianist Simona Snitkovskaya  
Performing the World Première of Veronika Krausas’ *Kandinsky Lieder*  
and Mussorgsky’s *Songs and Dances of Death*

#### **Beethoven and Schumann**

Performed by Mezzo-Soprano Kindra Scharich and Pianist Jeffrey LaDeur

**San Francisco** – LIEDER ALIVE!’s Founder and Director Maxine Bernstein is thrilled to announce the 2018/19 Liederabend Series, which will include five exciting recital programs from September 2018 through April 2019. Now in its eighth season, the series will open with “Neue Lieder, Neue Welt” (New Songs, New World), a celebration of the 19<sup>th</sup> century Brazilian composer Albert Nepomuceno and his muses, Brahms, Grieg, and Chausson, performed by one of LIEDER ALIVE!’s two exemplary Artists-in-Residence, mezzo-soprano Kindra Scharich, and São Paulo-based pianist Ricardo Ballestero. The season will continue with a special performance of Brahms’ *Liebeslieder Waltzes* and other works performed by pianist Mikael Eliassen and a group of outstanding musicians from the prestigious Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia; the return engagement of baritone Eugene Villanueva and pianist Peter Grünberg (LIEDER ALIVE!’s other Artist-in-Residence), performing Brahms, Strauss, and Tosti; bass Kirk Eichelberger and pianist Simona Snitkovskaya performing the première of a commissioned work by Canadian composer Veronika Krausas titled *Kandinsky Lieder*, with Mussorgsky’s *Songs and Dances of Death*; and an evening of Beethoven and Schumann performed by Ms. Scharich and pianist Jeffrey LaDeur. 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.

## About the Liederabend Series

The annual Liederabend Series (“Evenings of Song”) was launched by LIEDER ALIVE! 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 accomplished professional musicians in the Bay Area and beyond, including such talented vocalists as Kirk Eichelberger, Heidi Moss Erickson, Thomas Glenn, Katherine Growdon, Sol Jin, Anthony Reed, Eleazar Rodriguez, Kindra Scharich, and Eugene Villanueva, in collaboration with equally gifted pianists, including George Fee, Ronny Michael Greenberg, Corey Jamason, Jeffrey LaDeur, John Parr, Marek Ruszczynski and others. The roster of guest artists who have performed with these singers and pianists on the series is notable for both its quality and eclecticism, starting with the Alexander String Quartet and further including clarinetists Natalie Parker and Anthony Striplen, cellist Mark Peters, and violists Ethan Filner and Paul Yarbrough. Repertoire for the series has ranged from the great song cycles of Brahms, Schubert, Schumann, and other masters of the form, to commissioned works by LIEDER ALIVE!’s Composer-in-Residence Kurt Erickson and other contemporary composers. Additionally, in 2015 the organization commissioned Zakarias Grafilo, violinist with the Alexander String Quartet, to transcribe transcriptions of three of Gustav Mahler’s great orchestral song cycles—*Lieder eines Fahrenden gesellen* (Songs of a Wayfarer), the *Rückert-Lieder*, and *Kindertotenlieder*—for voice and string quartet; these works premiered on the Liederabend Series with performances by the Quartet with mezzo-soprano Kindra Scharich, and will be released in a recording on the Foghorn Classics label in Fall 2018.

## The 2018/19 Season

In 2013, critic Jason Victor Serinus wrote about one of the Liederabend Series recitals in San Francisco Classical Voice, declaring that “[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.” The upcoming season, being presented as usual at the beautifully renovated Noe Valley Ministry concert hall in San Francisco from September 2018 through April 2019, will be no less inspired, with artists and programs, as follows:

- **September 16, 2018: Kindra Scharich, mezzo-soprano, and Ricardo Ballestero, piano**

For the opening concert of the 2018/19 series—titled “Neue Lieder, Neue Welt,” or “New Songs, New World”—Scharich and Ballestero will perform a program of music of the 19<sup>th</sup> century Brazilian Alberto Nepomuceno (1864-1920) and his muses, Brahms and Chausson, and in particular that of his friend, the Norwegian composer Edvard Grieg. Scharich—who is one of LIEDER ALIVE!’s two Artists-in-Residence—and Ballestero have been refining this program in São Paulo, Brazil—where the pianist is based—for some years and are excited to be able to share it with San Francisco audiences this fall.

- **February 17, 2019: Mikael Eliassen, piano, with artists from Curtis Institute**

LIEDER ALIVE! is honored to present a group of outstanding artists—led by pianist and Dean of Vocal Studies, Mikael Eliassen—from the prestigious Philadelphia conservatory, Curtis Institute, on its 2018/19 season. Since “Curtis on Tour” was established in 2008, students, faculty, and alumni have performed more than 200 concerts in over 90 cities in Europe, Asia, and the Americas. The Liederabend recital program will include Brahms’ *Liebeslieder Waltzes*, along with other selected Lieder and duets. Curtis on Tour is the Nina von Maltzahn global touring initiative of the Curtis Institute of Music.

- **March 3, 2019: Eugene Villanueva, baritone, and Peter Grünberg, piano**

Back by popular demand, in the aftermath of the duo's enthralling performance on the 2017/18 season, LIEDER ALIVE! is thrilled to have the opportunity to showcase the combined talents of Villanueva and Grünberg in our upcoming Liederabend Series. 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 this recital, he and Peter Grünberg—one of the region's most sought-after collaborating pianists, and LIEDER ALIVE!'s other Artist-in-Residence—will perform songs by Brahms, Strauss, and Paolo Tosti.

- **March 24, 2019: Kirk Eichelberger, bass; and Simona Snitkovskaya, piano**

Regular Liederabend Series audience members have fond memories of numerous brilliant performances by this great duo over the years, and their 2018/19 recital will not disappoint. This program will pair *Kandinsky Lieder*, a commissioned work by Canadian composer Veronika Krausas, with the beautiful, rarely-performed *Songs and Dances of Death* by Modest Mussorgsky. The Krausas work was inspired by paintings of the Russian abstract painter Wassily Kandinsky and written specifically for Eichelberger. This unique collaboration with Russian-born Snitkovskaya is sure to be a powerful experience.

- **April 28, 2019: Mezzo-Soprano Kindra Scharich and Pianist Jeffrey LaDeur**

The 2018/19 Liederabend Series will come to a splendid close with a performance by this exquisite duo of Beethoven's *An die ferne Geliebte* (To the Distant Beloved), the composer's only true song cycle, and the first important example of the form. Scharich and LaDeur—two of LIEDER ALIVE!'s most sought-after and acclaimed contributing artists—will pair this masterwork with two others by Robert Schumann, *Frauenliebe und Leben*, Opus 42, and *Liederkreis*, Opus 39, to our minds a fitting end to a beautifully programmed concert series.

## About the Artists



Brazilian pianist **RICARDO BALLESTERIO** has performed with instrumentalists Hansjörg Schellenberger, Atar Arad, Alex Klein, Erling Blöndal Bengtsson, and Ray Chen, and vocalists Luis Lima, Eiko Senda, Fernando Portari, Nicholas Phan, Nikolay Didenko, Gabriella Pace, Alicia Nafe, and Julie Simson. He performs regularly with singers Adélia Issa and Kindra Scharich, clarinetist Cristiano Alves, violist Marcelo Jaffé and cellist Antonio Lauro Del Claro. His engagements have taken him to many cities of Brazil, the United States, Germany, Italy, Spain, Portugal, and Argentina. A keen enthusiast of the Art Song literature, Mr. Ballesterio created the Liederstudio of São Paulo, an organization that promotes the genre through recitals, workshops and lectures.



Bass **KIRK EICHELBERGER** has sung major operatic roles throughout the U.S. and Canada, including performances with the Sacramento Opera, Opera Santa Barbara, Monterey Opera, Opera Memphis, Sorg Opera, Trinity Lyric Opera, the Washington National Opera, Nevada Opera, Opera Birmingham, Dayton Opera, the Virginia Opera, Cincinnati Opera, and Spoleto Festival USA. On the concert stage, Mr. Eichelberger has performed as a principal soloist with the Oakland East Bay Symphony, the Redwood Symphony, the Peninsula Symphony, the Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra, the San Francisco Concert Choral, Masterworks Chorale, Symphony Silicon Valley, the Choral Arts Society of Washington, and many more.



Danish-born pianist, coach and accompanist **MIKAEL ELIASSEN** is Artistic Director of Curtis Opera Theatre and Dean of Vocal Studies at Curtis Institute of Music. He has collaborated with numerous singers in recital worldwide, including Robert Merrill, Tom Krause, John Shirley-Quirk, Elly Ameling, Edith Mathis, Florence Quivar, Mira Zakai, Sarah Walker, and Joan Patenaude-Yarnell. He has a long association with the young-artist programs at the Royal Danish Opera and the Opera Studio of Amsterdam, and has also worked at the Lyric Opera of Chicago, Houston Grand Opera, Santa Fe Opera, and the Met. Mr. Eliassen was music director of the San Francisco Opera Center from 1994 to 1996, and for 20 years has taught at Chautauqua's Voice Program.



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 **VERONIKA KRAUSAS** has had her works performed around the world. The Globe & Mail (Toronto) writes that "her works, whose organic, lyrical sense of storytelling are supported by a rigid formal elegance, give her audiences a sense that nature's frozen objects are springing to life." She has had commissions and performances by the Penderecki String Quartet, San Francisco Choral Artists and the Alexander String Quartet, Ensemble musikFabrik, Esprit Orchestra, Vancouver Symphony, ERGO Projects, Continuum Music, Toca Loca, Motion Music, and many others. Of Lithuanian heritage, she was born in Australia, raised in Canada, and currently resides in Los Angeles.



Pianist **JEFFREY LADEUR** enjoys an increasingly busy career as concerto soloist, recitalist and chamber musician. He has concertized throughout the world including performances at the Kennedy Center, Eastman Theater, Shanghai Conservatory of Music, and as an artist-in-residence at the Banff Centre. A passionate chamber musician, LaDeur has performed with such artists as Robert Mann, Bonnie Hampton, Ian Swensen, and Jodi Levitz, and is a founding member of the Delphi Trio. Formed while its members were studying at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, the trio has performed in the Bay Area, at the Hochschule für Musik in Frankfurt, Germany, and as Ensemble-in-Residence at the 2011 Dakota Sky International Piano Festival.



Mezzo-soprano **KINDRA SCHARICH** has been praised by The San Francisco Chronicle for her "exuberant vitality" and "technical precision." A finalist in Irene Dalis Competition 2014, she has more than 25 roles in her operatic repertoire, ranging from Minerva in *Il Ritorno d'Ulisse in Patria* (West Edge Opera), to Zerlina in *Don Giovanni* (Opera San José.) A dedicated recitalist, Ms. Scharich has performed at the American Composer's Forum in Los Angeles, LIEDER ALIVE!, the Wagner Society of Northern California, and more. This spring, she collaborated with the Alexander String Quartet on a recording of Mahler's orchestral Lieder transcribed for mezzo-soprano and string quartet by Zakarias Grafilo, which will be released on the Foghorn label in 2018.



Pianist **SIMONA SNITKOVSKAYA** was born and raised in St. Petersburg, Russia. She studied at the St. Petersburg Conservatory until 1994, earning the equivalent of Bachelor's, Master's and post graduate degrees in piano performance and chamber music. She worked as an accompanist for the Conservatory as well as the Marinsky Theatre until 2001, when she moved to the U.S. During the 1990's she won many awards in major international competitions, vocal performance accompaniment, and chamber music ensemble performance. Ms. Snitkovskaya has worked as a coach accompanist for Opera San Jose on over 25 operatic productions, and has performed many concerts as a soloist and vocal accompanist in the Bay Area.



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.

## About LIEDER ALIVE!

LIEDER ALIVE! was founded in 2007 and is the only organization of its kind in America that is so thoroughly devoted to the performance, training, and appreciation of German Lieder. The centerpiece of our programming is the annual Liederabend Series, which offers recitals by some of the most accomplished singers in the region and around the world. Other year-round offerings include the Neue Lieder Commissioning Program; The Lieder Institute, directed by Master Coach John Parr (Head of Music Staff at Deutsche Oper Berlin); and "Bringing Lieder to Life!," a training program aimed at novice and experienced singers alike. Through these programs, the organization is keeping Lieder where it belongs—alive!

## 2018/19 Liederabend Series Calendar Listings

### Sunday, September 16, 5pm

#### **“Neue Lieder, Neue Welt” Grand Opening!**

**Artists:** Kindra Scharich, mezzo-soprano; Ricardo Ballesterro, piano

**Program:** Alberto Nepomuceno and his muses—Brahms, Grieg, Chausson

### Sunday, February 17, 5pm

#### **“Curtis on Tour”**

**Artists:** Mikael Eliassen, piano, and five artists from Curtis Institute

**Program:** Brahms—*Liebeslieder Waltzes*, Selected Lieder and Duets

### Sunday, March 3, 5pm

**Artists:** Eugene Villanueva, baritone; Peter Grünberg, piano

**Program:** Brahms, Strauss, Tosti

### Sunday, March 24, 5pm

#### **“Mussorgsky and Kandinsky”**

**Artists:** Kirk Eichelberger, bass; Simona Snitkovskaya, piano

**Program:** Veronika Krausas—*Kandinsky Lieder*, Mussorgsky—*Songs and Dances of Death*

### Sunday, April 28, 5pm

**Artists:** Kindra Scharich, mezzo-soprano, Jeffrey LaDeur, piano

**Program:** Beethoven—*An die ferne Geliebte*, Schumann—*Frauenliebe und Leben*, *Liederkreis*, Opus 39

## Ticket Information

Subscriptions for the five-concert series are \$250, which includes reserved seating at all concerts, including the “Neue Lieder, Neue Welt” Grand Opening; general admission subscriptions are also offered at \$160. Single tickets for all 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](https://www.eventbrite.com) or by calling (415) 561-0100. For more information, visit [www.liederalive.org](http://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 [LIEDER ALIVE! Media Page](#).

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