

EASTMAN OPERA THEATRE

OUR VOICES

Wednesday, December 16, 2020 — 7:30 PM

THE GREATEST LIBERTY

with selected arias by Anthony Davis

Thursday, December 17, 2020 — 7:30 PM

HEART MELODIES

music by Ricky Ian Gordon

Friday, December 18, 2020 — 7:30 PM

I SHALL NOT LIVE IN VAIN

music of Lori Laitman

Saturday, December 19, 2020 — 2:00 PM

THIS WORLD WITHIN ME

with selections from *Song from the Uproar* by Missy Mazzoli

Saturday, December 19, 2020 — 7:30 PM

THE JOURNEY TOWARDS FREEDOM

with selected songs and arias by Ben Moore

Sunday, December 20, 2020 — 2:00 PM

THE JOURNEY TO HERE

with songs by Errollyn Wallen



EASTMAN
SCHOOL OF MUSIC

UNIVERSITY of ROCHESTER

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Music Director
Timothy Long

Associate Artistic Director
Stephen Carr

Assistant Music Director
Wilson Southerland

Instructor of Opera
Lindsay Warren Baker

Candidate for M.M. Opera Stage Directing
Madeleine Snow

Graduate Assistant Collaborative Pianists

Rebecca Golub
Jenny Kirby
Ava Linvog
Evan Ritter

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Daniel Hobbs
Charles Murdock Lucas*

Costume Designer
Carly Holzwarth

Lighting Designer
Nic Minetor

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Mark Houser

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* United Scenic Artists, Local USA 829 of the IATSE is the union representing Scenic, Costume, Lighting, Sound, and Projection designers in Live Performance

** Additional Stage Hands provided by IATSE Local-25

CONCEPT OF OUR VOICES

Eastman Opera Theatre has responded to the challenges of social distancing by focusing on the creative process through intimate, one-on-one musical collaborations with prominent composers for the voice and lyric stage. These composers are **Anthony Davis, Ricky Ian Gordon, Lori Laitman, Missy Mazzoli, Ben Moore, and Errollyn Wallen**. They have each curated a program of their vocal music, joined in group discussions, and guided the process up to our November recordings in Kilbourn Hall. We are sincerely appreciative and grateful for their collaboration with EOT.

This “innovative study” has taken the singer and pianist on a full creative, collaborative journey with a composer, vocal coach, director, and design team. From the beginning of the design process, the student performers were part of the scenic production design process and worked side-by-side to create a conceptual storyline told through text, song, staging, costume, lighting, and visual projections. Unlike a traditional narrative opera, this project offered the collaborative team more interpretative exploration. This individually tailored exploration of the full creative process has provided an invaluable training opportunity for the singing-actor as well as all the artists working on this production.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR COLLABORATIVE PIANISTS

In the planning of our 2020 – 2021 season, Eastman Opera Theatre charted unknown territory as we worked on planning and developing a program suitable for the vocal students and adaptable for an uncertain performance medium. Our Graduate Assistant pianists, **Rebecca Golub, Jenny Kirby, Ava Linvog, and Evan Ritter**, were assigned a wide-ranging repertoire to play between six programs among thirty singers. They recorded their piano tracks prior to filming the singer, who sang along to their pianists’ playback through speakers in Kilbourn Hall. EOT would like to especially thank and acknowledge the herculean effort by Rebecca, Jenny, Ava, and Evan, and we are indebted to their patience.

THE GREATEST LIBERTY

Wednesday, December 16

ANTHONY DAVIS

7:30 PM

Director

Stephen Carr

Production Designer

Charles Murdock Lucas

Costume Designer

Carly Holzwarth

Lighting Designer

Nic Minetor

The Greatest Liberty from ***Amistad***

libretto by Thulani Davis

Peter Schoellkopf, bass

Evan Ritter, piano

These Aren't Mere Arms from ***Lilith***

libretto by Allan Havis

Alexandria McNeely, soprano

Evan Ritter, piano

The Moonlight Died from ***Amistad***

libretto by Thulani Davis

Bergsvein Toverud, tenor

Evan Ritter, piano

Once Upon A Time from ***Tania***

libretto by Michael John LaChiusa

Alexandra Rose Hotz, soprano

Evan Ritter, piano

They Stole From Me

from ***The Central Park Five***

libretto by Richard Wesley

Travon Walker, tenor

Rebecca Golub, piano

They Come As if From the Heavens

from ***Amistad***

libretto by Thulani Davis

Gia Pappas, soprano

Rebecca Golub, piano

HEART MELODIES

Thursday, December 17

RICKY IAN GORDON

7:30 PM

Director

Madeleine Snow

Production Designer

Charles Murdock Lucas

Costume Designer

Carly Holzwarth

Lighting Designer

Nic Minetor

My People

text by Langston Hughes

Jazmine Saunders, soprano

Ava Linvog, piano

Angel Wings

text by Langston Hughes

Ella Torres, soprano

Evan Ritter, piano

Kid in the Park

text by Langston Hughes

Anneliese Wolfanger, soprano

Ava Linvog, piano

Dream Variations

text by Langston Hughes

Jazmine Saunders, soprano

Ava Linvog, piano

Strange Hurt

text by Langston Hughes

Ella Torres, soprano

Evan Ritter, piano

I'm Open All Night

text by James Agee

Chloe Lee, soprano

Evan Ritter, piano

Poor Girl's Ruination/The Dream Keeper text by Langston Hughes

Anneliese Wolfanger, soprano

Ava Linvog, piano

Border Line

text by Langston Hughes

Ella Torres, soprano

Evan Ritter, piano

Will There Really Be a Morning?

text by Emily Dickinson

Jazmine Saunders, soprano

Ava Linvog, piano

Finding Home from *Dream True*

lyrics by Tina Landau

Chloe Lee, soprano

Evan Ritter, piano

I SHALL NOT LIVE IN VAIN

Friday, December 18

LORI LAITMAN

7:30 PM

Director

Steven Daigle

Production Designer

Daniel Hobbs

Costume Designer

Carly Holzwarth

Lighting Designer

Nic Minetor

I Was Reading a Scientific Article
from *Orange Afternoon Lover*

text by Margaret Atwood

Jenna Rose Cipolla, soprano
Evan Ritter, piano

Swimmers on the Shore

text by David Mason

Murphy Meyn, baritone
Evan Ritter, piano

Men With Small Heads
from *Men with Small Heads*

text by Thomas Lux

Raffi Wright, baritone
Evan Ritter, piano

Homeless

text by Michael Flack

Kyrsten Chambers Jones, mezzo-soprano
Evan Ritter, piano

The Butterfly
from *I Never Saw Another Butterfly*

text by Pavel Friedmann

McKenzie Garey, soprano
Anne Kunkle, saxophone

The Old House
from *I Never Saw Another Butterfly*

text by Franta Bass

Gwyneth Paker, soprano
Anne Kunkle, saxophone

Kindness from *The Blood Jet*

text by Sylvia Plath

Anna Thompson, soprano
Rebecca Golub, piano

On a Photograph...

text by John Wood

Travon Walker, tenor
Rebecca Golub, piano

If I... from *Four Dickinson Songs*

text by Emily Dickinson

Jenna Rose Cipolla, soprano
Rebecca Golub, piano

THIS WORLD WITHIN ME

Saturday, December 19

excerpts from *Song from the Uproar:*

2:00 PM

The Lives and Deaths of Isabelle Eberhardt (2012)

MISSY MAZZOLI

Director

Stephen Carr

Production Designer

Daniel Hobbs

Costume Designer

Carly Holzwarth

Lighting Designer

Nic Minetor

words by Royce Vavrek & Missy Mazzoli

This World Within Me Is Too Small

Elise Noyes, soprano

Evan Ritter, piano

I Am Not Mine

Gia Pappas, soprano

Evan Ritter, piano

You Are the Dust

Sarah Luebke, soprano

Evan Ritter, piano

Mektoub (It Is Written)

Hannah Stokes, soprano

Rebecca Golub, piano

Here Where Footprints Erase the Graves

Kyrsten Chambers Jones, mezzo-soprano

Rebecca Golub, piano

Electronic music/backing vocals provided courtesy of Missy Mazzoli

THE JOURNEY TOWARDS FREEDOM Saturday, December 19

BEN MOORE

7:30 PM

Director

Stephen Carr

Production Designer

Daniel Hobbs

Costume Designer

Carly Holzwarth

Lighting Designer

Nic Minetor

Mutta

from *So Free Am I*

Text by Indian Buddhist nuns, 6th Century B.C.

Translated by Uma Chakravarti and Kumkum Roy

Ashleigh Dannielle Wolf, soprano

Ava Linvog, piano

Tamara's Aria from *Enemies, a Love Story*

libretto by Nahma Sandrow

Veronica Siebert, mezzo-soprano

Ava Linvog, piano

Lies from *Enemies, a Love Story*

libretto by Nahma Sandrow

S Joshua Sheppard, baritone

Ava Linvog, piano

Interlude from *So Free Am I*

Poem by Amy Lowell

McKenzie Garey, soprano

Jenny Kirby, piano

Orinda Upon Little Hector Philips

from *So Free Am I*

Poem by Katherine Philips

Gwyneth Paker, soprano

Ava Linvog, piano

Away! away! from *Ode to a Nightingale* Poem excerpt by John Keats

Nathaniel Malkow, baritone

Jenny Kirby, piano

I Am in Need of Music

Poem by Elizabeth Bishop

Anna Thompson, soprano

Jenny Kirby, piano

The Lake Isle of Innisfree

Poem by William Butler Yeats

Alexander Nick, tenor

Jenny Kirby, piano

Diana, Marvin, Gladys,

Words by Mark Campbell

Barbra, Etc. (And Another Song Comes On)

Raffi Wright, baritone

Ava Linvog, piano

I Believe

Lyrics by Ben Moore

Lauren Case, soprano

Jenny Kirby, piano

Mettika

Text by Indian Buddhist nuns, 6th Century B.C.

Translated by Uma Chakravarti and Kumkum Roy

Ashleigh Dannielle Wolf, soprano

Ava Linvog, piano

THE JOURNEY TO HERE

Sunday, December 20

ERROLLYN WALLEN

2:00 PM

Director

Lindsay Warren Baker

Production Designer

Daniel Hobbs

Costume Designer

Carly Holzwarth

Lighting Designer

Nic Minetor

words and music by Errollyn Wallen

About Here

The Guide

Beatrice Kim, soprano

Rebecca Golub, piano

My Feet May Take a Little While

The Student

Katja Pennypacker, soprano

Rebecca Golub, piano

Beehive

The Preacher

Jacob Hunter, tenor

Jenny Kirby, piano

London's Burning

The Advocate

Samantha Sosa, soprano

Jenny Kirby, piano

North

The Student

Katja Pennypacker, soprano

Rebecca Golub, piano

Off the Map

The Advocate

Samantha Sosa, soprano

Jenny Kirby, piano

Hudson, Mississippi, Thames

The Preacher

Jacob Hunter, tenor

Jenny Kirby, piano

Guru

The Guide

Beatrice Kim, soprano

Rebecca Golub, piano

MEET THE ARTISTS

Opera News has called **Anthony Davis** “a national treasure” for his pioneering, distinctly original work in opera, chamber, choral, and orchestral music. He won the 2020 Pulitzer Prize in Music for his opera *The Central Park Five*.

The New York Times describes the vocal music of **Ricky Ian Gordon** as “caviar for a world gorging on pizza!” and praised him for “bursting effervescence infusing songs that blithely blur the lines between art song and the high-end Broadway music of Leonard Bernstein and Stephen Sondheim.” Eastman Opera Theatre recently produced his opera *The Tibetan Book of the Dead*.

Described by *Fanfare Magazine* as “one of the most talented and intriguing living composers,” **Lori Laitman**’s operas, choral works, and songs are widely performed throughout the world. *The Journal of Singing* praised “her exceptional gifts for embracing a poetic text and giving it new and deeper life through music.”

Recently deemed “one of the more consistently inventive, surprising composers now working in New York” (*New York Times*) and “Brooklyn’s post-millennial Mozart” (*Time Out NY*), **Missy Mazzoli** has had her music performed by the Kronos Quartet, LA Opera, eighth blackbird, the BBC Symphony, Scottish Opera, and many others. In 2018 she became one of the first two women to receive a mainstage commission from the Metropolitan Opera and was also nominated for a Grammy award.

The work of **Ben Moore** has been called “brilliant” and “gorgeously lyrical” by the *New York Times*; *Opera News* has praised the “easy tunefulness” and “romantic sweep” of his songs, which have been performed by such singers as Deborah Voigt, Susan Graham, Frederica von Stade, Isabel Leonard, Lawrence Brownlee, Robert White, Nathan Gunn, and Audra McDonald.

Errollyn Wallen—“renaissance woman of contemporary British music” (*The Observer*)—is as respected a singer-songwriter of pop-influenced songs as she is a composer of contemporary new music. Communication is at the center of both worlds: engaging the audience, speaking directly to hearts and minds.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Jessica Kaufman, Michelle Martorell, David Raymond,
Katey Padden, Courtney Morton
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Helen Smith, Lou Chitty, John Truebger,
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In Memory of Richard E. Tepper

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*Story Teller, and mother of Timothy
George Long, Music Director, Eastman
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Ms. Rose-Marie B. Klipstein

Christine R. McAvoy P`18E and
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For more information, please check the Eastman School of Music Website at <http://www.esm.rochester.edu>. If you would like to register to receive e-mail notification of Eastman events, please go to: <http://www.esm.rochester.edu/concerts/ mailing.php>.

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EASTMAN OPERA THEATRE

Postcard from Morocco

By Dominick Argento '58E (PhD)

Details to be announced in Spring 2021

Friends of Eastman Opera Voice Competition

Details to be announced Spring 2021

EASTMAN OPERA THEATRE

Elizabeth Cree

By Kevin Puts '99E (DMA)

Details to be announced Spring 2021

EASTMAN OPERA THEATRE

Mozart May-hem

Details to be announced Spring 2021

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PHONE: (585) 274-3000

IN PERSON: 433 East Main Street,
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www.esm.rochester.edu/concerts

 www.facebook.com/ConcertsAtEastman

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Please note: The use of unauthorized photographic and recording equipment is not allowed in this building. We reserve the right to ask anyone disrupting a performance to leave the hall.

Restrooms are located on the main floor of Kilbourn Hall. Fully-accessible restrooms are available on the first floor of the Eastman School. Our ushers will be happy to direct you to them.

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