



presents

In this 30th Anniversary Season, San Francisco Performances dedicates its Vocal Series to Founding Trustee James H. Schwabacher, Jr.

Joyce DiDonato, mezzo-soprano

John Churchwell, piano

Monday, November 16, 2009, 8pm

Herbst Theatre

PROGRAM

I ARIE ANTICHE

FRANCESCO DURANTE
GIOVANNI B. PERGOLESI
GIULIO CACCINI
LUIGI ROSSI
GIOVANNI PAISIELLO
RAFFAELLO RONTANI

Danza, danza, fanciulla gentile
Se tu m'ami
Amarilli mia bella
Mio Ben (arr. Arne Dørumsgaard)
Nel cor più non mi sento
Or ch'io non sequo più (arr. Arne Dørumsgaard)

II

GIOACCHINO ROSSINI

Willow Song

III CANZONI ITALIANE

ARTURO BUZZI PECCIA
RUGGERO LEONCAVALLO
BARBARA GIURANNA
VINCENZO DI CHIARA

Lolita, Serenata Spagnola
Serenata Francese
Canto Arabo
La Spagnola

INTERMISSION

IV CANCIONES CLASSICA

FERNANDO OBRADORS

La mi, sola, Laureola
Al Amor
Corazón, porque pasáis
El majo celoso
Con amores la mia madre
Del cabello más sutil
Chiquitita la novia

V

ENRIQUE GRANADOS

Elegia Eterna
La Maja Dolorosa No. 1
La Maja Dolorosa No. 2
La Maja Dolorosa No. 3

VI

XAVIER MONTSALVATGE

Cuba dentro de un piano
Punto de Habanera
Ninghe, Ninghe
Canto Negro

San Francisco Performances acknowledges the generosity of Concert Partners: Dennis and Kathleen Abbe, Marie Bertillon Collins, Dr. Graeme Hanson, Dr. and Mrs. Samuel D. Kaplan, Bob and Terri Ryan.

Joyce DiDonato is represented by IMG Artists, Carnegie Hall Tower, 152 West 57th Street, 5th Floor, New York, NY 10019; 212.994.3500; www.imgartists.com.

Hamburg Steinway Model D and piano technical services, Pro Piano San Francisco.

ARTIST PROFILES

This recital marks Joyce DiDonato's first appearance with San Francisco Performances. It is also the first appearance for accompanist John Churchwell.

Joyce DiDonato



Wherever she sings, Joyce DiDonato earns rhapsodic reviews. Called “the flame-toned American mezzo” by Britain’s *Daily Telegraph*, she is among the world’s most enchanting performers and the winner of many honors, including the Metropolitan Opera’s Beverly Sills Award.

DiDonato begins the season in her Edinburgh Festival debut and a concert at the BBC Proms with the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment under Sir Roger Norrington, singing Haydn’s daunting *Scena di Berenice*. She continues her time in Great Britain singing the role of Marguérite in Berlioz’s *Damnation de Faust* for the first time with the London Symphony Orchestra under Valery Gergiev. Before returning to the Metropolitan Opera in *Il barbiere di Siviglia* in October, she releases her second recording on Virgin Classics, a selection of Rossini arias associated with the composer’s muse, the great Isabella Colbran.

DiDonato makes her company debut with the Los Angeles Opera in *Barbiere* in November, and rings in 2010 with a televised New Year’s Eve gala in Baden-Baden, Germany. She launches 2010 in Spain with a recital tour of Italian love songs, also to be performed in Brussels and twice in London’s Wigmore Hall. She returns to Lyric Opera of Chicago as Cherubino in *Le nozze di Figaro*, before making another role debut as Rossini’s Elena in *La donna del lago*, first in Geneva and then, with Juan Diego Floréz, at the Opéra National de Paris. The pair will also appear at Milan’s La Scala in a production of *Il barbiere di Siviglia*.

DiDonato has soared to international prominence in operas by Rossini, Handel and Mozart, as well as in high-profile world premieres. Her growing discography also has earned accolades. Her Wigmore Hall recital disc was a *Gramophone* “Editor’s Choice,” while *The Deepest Desire*, her first solo disc, was awarded France’s Diapason d’Or de l’année, an extraordinary honor for a recording of American songs. Her CD of Spanish songs, *¡Pasión!*, was a London *Sunday Times* “Classical CD of the week.”

She has appeared on the world’s major opera stages, in Amsterdam, Barcelona, Chicago, Geneva, London, Milan, Munich, New York, Paris, San Francisco and Tokyo, adding Vienna last season; and she has given recitals and concerts at Wigmore Hall, Amsterdam’s Concertgebouw, and Carnegie Hall, with the New York Philharmonic, Cleveland Orchestra, San Francisco Symphony, Orchestre National de Paris, St. Luke’s Chamber Orchestra, and Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra. DiDonato has had important triumphs at the Rossini Opera Festival in Pesaro and in performances and recordings with Alan Curtis’s ensemble, Il Complesso Barocco, and Les Arts Florissants under William Christie.

Born and educated in Kansas, the dynamic and engaging mezzo-soprano was a member of the young artist programs of the San Francisco, Houston Grand and Santa Fe Opera companies after graduate studies at Philadelphia’s Academy of Vocal Arts.

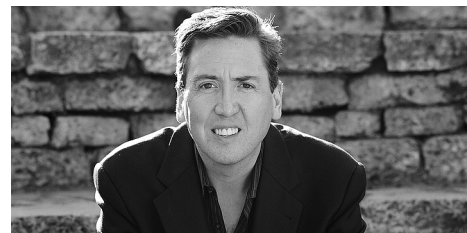
During the 2005-06 season, DiDonato gave her Metropolitan Opera debut as Cherubino in *Le nozze di Figaro*, sang her role debut as Sesto in Mozart’s *La clemenza di Tito* at the Geneva Opera, and returned to Covent Garden as Rosina in a new production of *Il barbiere di Siviglia*—receiving the Royal Philharmonic Society’s Singer of the Year award. She reprised her tour-de-force as Dejanira in Handel’s *Hercules* in New York and London, earning a prestigious Laurence Olivier Award nomination for Outstanding Achievement in Opera. She capped off the season with a triumphant role debut in the title part of Massenet’s *Cendrillon* at Santa Fe Opera.

Of her newest complete opera recording, Handel’s *Alcina*, *Gramophone* commented: “DiDonato is superb: her *Alcina* is a complex, feminine creature, vain and vindictive...” Her extensive discography includes a disc of Handel duets with soprano Patrizia Ciofi; complete recordings of Rossini’s *La Cenerentola*, Handel’s *Radamisto* and *Floridante*, and Berlioz’s *Benvenuto Cellini*; and DVDs of Handel’s *Hercules* and Rossini’s *Barbiere di*

Siviglia. She can also be heard in a survey of Antonio Vivaldi’s sacred music, as well as on four solo CDs—*The Deepest Desire, ¡Pasión!*, her debut recital from London’s Wigmore Hall, and *Furore*. At Houston Grand Opera she premiered and recorded the roles of Meg in Mark Adamo’s highly acclaimed *Little Women*, and of Katerina Maslova in Tod Machover’s epic *Resurrection*, both of which were recorded and are currently available.

Honors bestowed upon DiDonato—in addition to the Met’s Beverly Sills Award and the Royal Philharmonic Society’s Singer of the Year—include the Richard Tucker Award, given to a single American singer annually; second place in Plácido Domingo’s Operalia; and prizes from the George London Foundation, the ARIA Award Foundation, and the Sullivan Musical Foundation. For more information, please visit: www.joycedidonato.com

John Churchwell



John Churchwell enjoys a career on the concert stage as well as in the nation’s leading opera houses. Formerly associated with Seattle Opera, the Wolf Trap Opera Company, Berkshire Opera, the Minnesota Opera, and the Minnesota Orchestra, he is an assistant conductor for the Metropolitan Opera and San Francisco Opera. A champion of American music, Churchwell has participated in the world premieres of John Harbison’s *The Great Gatsby*, Jake Heggie’s *Dead Man Walking*, Philip Glass’s *Appomattox*, and the recent collaboration between Stewart Wallace and Amy Tan, *The Bonesetter’s Daughter*.

On the recital stage, Churchwell has partnered with some of today’s most sought-after vocalists, including Carol Vaness, Dawn Upshaw, David Pittsinger, Patricia Schuman and Jill Grove. He also appears regularly in chamber music concerts with members of the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra.

Churchwell earned a doctorate from the University of Minnesota and holds a bachelor of music degree in piano from New England Conservatory, a bachelor’s degree in French from Tufts University, and a master of music degree in accompaniment from the University of Minnesota. He has been a member of the Music Academy faculty since 2000.