

The
Morgan
Library &
Museum

and

The George London Foundation for Singers

presents

Aaron Blake, *tenor*
with Ken Noda, *piano*

Sunday, April 24, 2022, 4 pm

*The program will be performed without an intermission.
Please turn off all electronic devices. Photography and recording are not allowed.*

Program

Il fervido desiderio	Vincenzo Bellini (1801-1835)
Me voglio fa' 'na casa	Gaetano Donizetti (1797-1848)
Maliconia ninfa gentile	Bellini
Il barcaiolo	Donizetti
La ricordanza	Bellini
Malia	Francesco Paolo Tosti (1846-1916)
Allerseelen	Richard Strauss (1864-1949)
L'ultima canzone	Tosti
Zueignung	Strauss
L'alba separa dalla luce l'ombra	Tosti
<i>(Brief Pause)</i>	
Pace non trovo	Franz Liszt (1811-1886)
I vidi in terra	Liszt
Tombe degli avi miei	Gaetano Donizetti (1797-1848)
A Foggy Day	George Gershwin (1898-1937)
The Dodger	Aaron Copeland (1900-1990)
It's De-lovely	Cole Porter (1891-1964)
Long Time Ago	Copeland

About the Artists

The recipient of a 2017 George London Foundation Award, tenor **Aaron Blake** has earned international recognition for his performances in repertoire ranging from Martinu to Rossini. Most notable was his 2016 star turn in the creation of the role of Timothy Laughlin in the Cincinnati Opera world premier of Gregory Spears' *Fellow Travelers*. The live recording of these performances was captured on the Cincinnati Symphony Fanfare Label and was released in 2017. In addition, Mr. Blake made a critically acclaimed debut with New York City Opera in Peter Eötvös' operatic adaptation of *Angels in America*. Praised by the *New York Times* for his "youthful fervor and endearing sweet sound."

Mr. Blake begins his 2021/2022 season with his return to the Cincinnati Opera as Il Conte Almaviva in *The Barber of Seville*, which is followed by a concert of operatic duets, arias and Neapolitan Songs with the Los Angeles Symphony featuring soprano Young Ok Shin in celebration of Korean Independence Day. He then returns to The Israeli Opera to open their season as Tamino in Barrie Kosky's critically acclaimed production of *Die Zauberflöte* and makes his role debut as Alfredo in Verdi's *La Traviata* with the Jerusalem Opera. He continues his season at the Komische Oper Berlin as Tamino and makes his recital debut in Middlebury, Indiana with the Crystal Valley Recital Series, with a program featuring Liszt, Tosti, Verdi, Puccini, Berg, Schumann and Fauré. In the early spring Mr. Blake will make his debut with the Des Moines Metro Opera as Tamino, in a special presentation of *Die Zauberflöte* celebrating the company's 50th anniversary season. Following these performances, he will be presenting his much anticipated George London Foundation Recital at the Morgan Library & Museum with renowned pianist Ken Noda. He then makes his Opera de Montréal debut as Tamino and he finishes his season with a return to the Metropolitan Opera to reprise his role as the High Priest of Amon in Phelim McDermott's monumental production of *Akhnaten*.

During the COVID19 pandemic Mr. Blake created and produced the video series *Tosti Tuesdays*, with his longtime collaborator and friend Cris Frisco. The video series chronicled the songs of Tosti and his contemporaries throughout 25 episodes, which received thousands of views across online platforms and social media. He also joined White Snake Projects for their virtual production of *Death by Life* an homage to George Floyd through celebrating the lives of incarcerated persons and demonstrating the incredible ability of human beings to change for the better. In addition to his artistic efforts during this time, Mr. Blake, was able to reconnect with nature in a meaningful way overseeing the planting of his family's vineyard, *Infinty Vines*, featuring Pinot Noir, Cabernet Sauvignon, San Giovese and Chardonnay grapes. Stay tuned in future seasons for an offering of operatically inspired wines.

2019/20 Season engagements for Mr. Blake included his German and European debut as Michel in Bohuslav Martinu's *JULIETTA* with Oper Frankfurt a return to the Metropolitan Opera as The High Priest of Amon in Philip Glass's *Akhnaten*. He made his Walt Disney Concert Hall debut with the LA Syphony in a concert of Duets and Arias with soprano Stefania Dovhan and later in the season returned with the LA Symphony to The Cerritos Performing Arts Center for a concert of Holiday Favorites and Arias. He debuted at The Israeli National Opera as Il conte Almaviva in *Barber of Seville* and as Tamino in *Die Zauberflöte* at the Komische Oper Berlin, which were his final productions before the COVID19 pandemic. He was posed to make his debut with Opéra de Montréal as Tamino and return to the Cincinnati Opera for their 100th Anniversary with performances of *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* opposite mezzo soprano Isabel Leonard. These performances have been rescheduled for a future season.

In 2018/19 the Tenor returned to the Metropolitan Opera for *The Dialogues of the Carmelites* and made his debut in the company's Summer Recital Series at Brooklyn Bridge Park with Nathan Gunn and Yin Fang. He made his role debut as Count Almaviva in *The Barber of Seville* with the Tulsa Opera. Mr. Blake created the Role of Mila in Andrea Clearfields *Mila, Great Sorcerer* with the Prototype Festival. He also reprised his role of Tamino with The Komische Oper Berlin on tour in Australia and New Zealand earning him a Helpmann Award nomination for best male artist. He made his Mostly Mozart Festival debut at Lincoln Center in the same role in July of 2019. He made his Bangor Symphony debut as Candide and returned to Carnegie Hall with the American Symphony

Orchestra as Michel in the US Premier Bohuslav Martinu's *The Key of Dreams* as well as for a concert of Sacred Music with John Rutter conducting and returns to the Cincinnati Opera for the company's season opening concert at Washington Square Park.

He has performed leading roles with Cincinnati Opera as Don Ottavio in *Don Giovanni*, Pan in *La Calisto*, and Tamino in *Die Zauberflöte*; Komische Oper Berlin and Minnesota Opera as Tamino in *Die Zauberflöte*; Utah Opera as Rinuccio in *Gianni Schicchi*, Fenton in *Falstaff*, Don Ottavio in *Don Giovanni*, Ferrando in *Così fan tutte*, and Nemorino in *L'elisir d'amore*; Tulsa Opera as Nadir in *Les Pêcheurs de Perles*, as a guest on their 70th Anniversary Gala and Il conte Almaviva in *Il barbiere di Siviglia*; The Dallas Opera as Romeo in *Romeo et Juliette*; Opera Orchestra of New York as Ugo in Donizetti's *Parisina d'Este*; Washington National Opera in *Anna Bolena*; and the Metropolitan Opera where he debuted opposite Plácido Domingo in *La Traviata*.

Mr. Blake's recent engagements saw his return to the Metropolitan Opera for *Les contes d'Hoffmann* and *The Merry Widow*. He performed the role of Tamino with the Komische Oper Berlin on tour in Tokyo, Hiroshima and Osaka. He returned to the Utah Opera for the role of Rinuccio in *Gianni Schicchi* and made debuts with the American Symphony Orchestra singing Fleishman's *Rothschild's Violin* at Carnegie Hall, and as *Candide* with the Atlanta Symphony-Alliance Theater in a production celebrating the Leonard Bernstein centennial, a performance which garnered a nomination for a Suzi Bass Award for best actor.

Mr. Blake's portrayal of Timothy Laughlin can be heard on the commercial recording of *Fellow Travelers*, released this season on the Fanfare Label, and named by the *New Yorker* Magazine as one of the top 10 recordings of 2017.

Mr. Blake is represented by Robert Lombardo of Lombardo Associates.

Ken Noda is Musical Advisor to the Lindemann Young Artist Development Program at the Metropolitan Opera. After a 28-year tenure, he retired from his full-time Met position as a coach and teacher in July 2019. He is a regular guest coach at the Carnegie Hall/Weill Music Institute, the Verbier Festival in Switzerland, the Marlboro Music Festival, and the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center. From 2020-2023, he is coaching a Mozart/da Ponte opera cycle in Salzburg conducted by András Schiff. He studied piano with Daniel Barenboim and in his first career as a piano soloist, played with the Berlin, Vienna, Israel, Rotterdam, New York, and Los Angeles Philharmonics; the London, Boston, and Chicago, San Francisco, Toronto, and Montreal Symphonies; the Philharmonia Orchestra in London, the Cleveland Orchestra, and L'Orchestre de Paris under Abbado, Barenboim, Chailly, Kubelik, Leinsdorf, Levine, Mehta, Ozawa, and Previn. He has collaborated in chamber music with Itzhak Perlman, Pinchas Zukerman, Lynn Harrell, Nigel Kennedy, and the Emerson String Quartet, and as vocal accompanist to Kathleen Battle, Hildegard Behrens, Maria Ewing, Aprile Mollo, James Morris, Kurt Moll, Jessye Norman, Matthew Polenzani, Dawn Upshaw, and Deborah Voigt.

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The Morgan Library & Museum

Celebrate the intersection of art, literature, and music in engaging concerts inspired by the Morgan's collections and exhibitions. The Morgan Library & Museum houses one of the finest collections of music manuscripts in the country, featuring composers such as J.S. Bach, Ludwig van Beethoven, Frédéric Chopin, Claude Debussy, Gustav Mahler, Fanny Mendelssohn, W.A. Mozart, Franz Schubert, Clara Schumann, Igor Stravinsky, and Philip Glass, among many others. In addition, the collection is enhanced by extensive holdings of musician's letters and first edition scores and librettos. Explore select autographs on the Morgan's website at Music Manuscripts Online (www.themorgan.org/music).

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The Morgan Library & Museum

Current and Upcoming Exhibitions

Holbein:
Capturing Character
Through May 15, 2022

Woody Guthrie:
People Are the Song
Through May 22, 2022

Gwendolyn Brooks:
A Poet's Work In Community
Through June 5, 2022

One Hundred Years of James Joyce's *Ulysses*
June 3, 2022 through October 2, 2022

J. Pierpont Morgan's Library:
Building the Bookman's Paradise
June 10, 2022 through September 18, 2022

Writing a Chrysanthemum:
The Drawings of Rick Barton
June 10 through September 11, 2022

PLEASE SEND TO REAL LIFE:
Ray Johnson Photographs
June 17 through October 2, 2022

The Morgan Library & Museum

Concerts

Grigoryan Brothers, guitars

Rush Hour Music in J. Pierpont Morgan's Library
Tuesday, May 10, 2022, 6:30 PM

Hermitage Piano Trio

Tuesday, May 17, 2022, 7:30 PM

Films

A Man for All Seasons

Director: Fred Zinnemann
(1966, 120 minutes)
Friday, April 29, 2022, 6 PM

1913 Massacre

Directors: Ken Ross and Louis V. Galdiery
(2013, 66 min)
Thursday, May 12, 2022, 6 PM

Lectures and Symposia

Capturing Holbein: The Artist in Context

Friday, May 6, 2022, 2 PM–6:30 PM

Woody Guthrie's Holy Ground

Friday, May 20, 2022, 6:30 PM

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