2021/2022 SEASON

thedallasopera™



THE ROBERT E. AND JEAN ANN TITUS FAMILY RECITAL

BENJAMIN APPL, baritone

JAMES BAILLIEU, pianist

SUNDAY, JANUARY 30, AT 2:00PM
MOODY PERFORMANCE HALL

A MESSAGE FROM GENERAL DIRECTOR & CEO IAN DERRER

It has been far too long since we last gathered for the sound of singing and the magical moments created between artist and audience. What joy it brings me to return to this hall which was also the site of our last performance in 2020 prior to the start of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Now, for our return, we welcome renowned baritone Benjamin Appl as he joins us singing Schubert's *Winterreise* ('Winter Journey'), a song cycle that holds a special place for all great lieder artists. Fresh off the release of BBC TV's film entitled *Winter Journey*, we are fortunate to get a live preview of Mr. Appl's new recording of the Schubert favorite, to be released in just a few weeks.



PHOTO: LAUREN BLOOM

IAN DERRER
The Kern Wildenthal
General Director and CEO

We are also very pleased to welcome back celebrated pianist James Baillieu, last seen accompanying Angel Blue in our 2020 Titus Family Recital. As collaborators, Mr. Baillieu and Mr. Appl have worked closely to create their unique understanding of this famed song cycle, a true feat.

Today's recital fills me with hope for the future of the arts and The Dallas Opera. To be together again with you, after our own challenging journey, is the culmination of hard work, perseverance, and incredible patience.

Let us savor every note.



Ian Derrer
The Kern Wildenthal General Director and CEO

LAND AND PEOPLE
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Creating a place of belonging for everyone to experience this art form is a vital part of inspiring generations of opera lovers and honoring those who came before us. As an opera company, we are storytellers of the full human experience, and that includes the narratives we share about this land and its people.

We are on the original land of the Caddo, Wichita, and Comanche sovereign nations, whose people faced horrible treatment and policies that forced their removal from the land.

People were also stolen from their homes in Africa, enslaved, dehumanized, and forced to build Dallas through free labor.

While none of us created these conditions, we have the opportunity, responsibility, and honor to uplift these communities through truth-telling, greater connection, and holistic celebration.

Thank you for joining us in acknowledging this land and these peoples.

COVER PHOTO: LARS BORGES/SONY CLASSICAL

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

The Dallas Opera is thrilled to gather with you today to celebrate and enjoy the Robert E. and Jean Ann Titus Art Song Recital Series. The Titus Family established the series in 2014 to showcase recognized singers performing distinctive programs dedicated to preserving the fine art of "art song." Created by the family to honor Bob and Jean Ann's lifetime commitment to advancing the arts in Dallas, as well as their incredible history supporting The Dallas Opera, this series is an important part of the Opera's annual programming enabling the company to reach our community in new and unexpected ways, complementing the company's big and bold mainstage opera productions with an intimate afternoon of music.



IAN DERRER
WITH JEAN ANN TITUS

"The Titus family continues to uplift the arts in our community and The Dallas Opera is ever grateful for the opportunity to bring world-class artists to Dallas each year, showcasing the craft of singing." - IAN DERRER

thedallasopera™
presents

The Robert E. And Jean Ann Titus Family Recital

Benjamin Appl, baritone

James Baillieu, pianist

January 30, 2022, 2:00 PM
Moody Performance Hall

***Winterreise*, Op. 89, D.911** — Franz Schubert (1797-1828)

1. Gute Nacht
2. Die Wetterfahne
3. Gefrorne Tränen
4. Erstarrung
5. Der Lindenbaum
6. Wasserflut
7. Auf dem Flusse
8. Rückblick
9. Irrlicht
10. Rast
11. Frühlingstraum
12. Einsamkeit
13. Die Post
14. Der greise Kopf

(Program continued)

15. Die Krähe
16. Letzte Hoffnung
17. Im Dorfe
18. Der stürmische Morgen
19. Täuschung
20. Der Wegweiser
21. Das Wirtshaus
22. Mut!
23. Die Nebensonnen
24. Der Leiermann

The program will be approximately 1 hour and 12 minutes with no intermission.

Benjamin Appl appears by arrangement with IMG Artists, Capital Tower, 91 Waterloo Road, London SE1 8RT, United Kingdom

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Season Sponsor: Mary Anne Cree, in memory of Rosine Smith Sammons

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PROGRAM NOTES

FRANZ SCHUBERT (1797-1828)
WINTERREISE

Thirty years after Schubert's death, one of his closest friends, a man named Joseph von Spaun wrote down his memories of the first performance of this song cycle, a private performance in which the composer previewed his latest work for his circle of friends.

For some time, Schubert appeared very upset and melancholy. When I asked him what was troubling him, he would say only, "Soon you will hear and understand." One day he said to me, "Come over to Schober's today and I will sing you a cycle of horrifying [schauerlicher] songs. I am anxious to know what you will say about them. They have cost me more effort than any of my other songs." So he sang the entire Winterreise through to us in a voice full of emotion. We were utterly dumbfounded by the mournful, gloomy tone of these songs, and Schober said that only one of them, "Der Lindenbaum" (The Linden Tree), had appealed to him. To this Schubert replied, "I like these songs more than all the rest, and you will come to like them as well."

Schubert insisted that he had to have good poetry before he could compose good songs and he finally found the perfect subject for his purposes in works by the Prussian poet Wilhelm Müller (1794–1827).

Müller fashioned his wanderer's search for answers as a monodrama, with only one speaking character; we are never told his name, what he looks like (except his black hair), or personal history. Of his inner life, we learn much more—he is an aspiring philosopher, an atheist who cannot be comforted by appeals to a spiritual realm, a realist who knows that dreams are wish fulfillment, a being remarkably free from self-pity. By the end, he even understands his past love to have been illusion.

The wanderer takes us on this journey only to discover that he is condemned to a living death as a singer poet irrevocably set apart from society. He has yearned for reciprocated love and domesticity; when this precious, ordinary happiness is denied him, he longs for a nihilistic death. The prospect of an artist's lonely existence horrifies him, impelling once again the desire for death. At the end of the cycle, he "meets" the hurdy gurdy player, who is perhaps a nightmarish image of the wanderer's own future and a haunting statement of the absolute necessity for human bonds. It is crucial that this uniquely powerful figure is a beggar musician: music reduced to its most elemental state is all that is left to the wanderer.

PROGRAM NOTES (CONTINUED)

When Schubert set these poems to music, he was confronting his own probable fate. Enough was known about the terminal stages of syphilis in the 1820s for Schubert to know it ended in horrifying dementia and paralysis. If death turned him away in the early stages of the disease, as it turns away the wanderer in "Das Wirtshaus," would he have to suffer the living death the wanderer endures, his creative faculties numbed and the stream of his music frozen? The cycle ends on a terrifying question mark, for which there is no answer–only the echoing silence following the dying away drone of the hurdy-gurdy. Despite the tragedy of his premature death, we can be grateful that he escaped the wanderer's miserable fate before his own gentler end.

—Susan Youens©

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PAST TITUS RECITALISTS



Angel Blue, soprano
James Baillieu, pianist
January 26, 2020



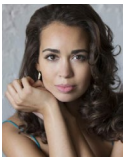
Frederica von Stade, mezzo-soprano
Jake Heggie, pianist
January 31, 2016



Simon O'Neill, tenor
Terrence Dennis, pianist
January 27, 2019



Matthew Polenzani, tenor
Julius Drake, pianist
January 11, 2015



Nadine Sierra, soprano
Bryan Wagorn, pianist
January 28, 2018



Ian Bostridge, tenor
Wenwen Du, pianist
January 4, 2014



Michael Fabiano, tenor
Laurent Philippe, pianist
January 22, 2017

BENJAMIN APPL

The German baritone is in demand worldwide, collaborating with ensembles such as the NHK Symphony Orchestra, Staatskapelle Dresden, Philharmonia Orchestra, Vienna Symphony, Akademie für Alte Musik Berlin, Zürich Tonhalle Orchestra, Academy of Ancient Music, Les Violons du Roy, Seattle Symphony, and multiple BBC orchestras. He has performed in recital at major festivals—among them those of Schleswig-Holstein, Edinburgh, and Ravinia—and has been heard at such important venues as Festspielhaus Baden-Baden, Amsterdam's Concertgebouw, Hamburg's Elbphilharmonie, and Paris's Musée de Louvre. Working closely with pianists James Baillieu and Graham Johnson, Appl is a regular recitalist at London's Wigmore Hall and the Schubertiade Hohenems and Schwarzenberg.


PHOTO: UWE ARENS/SONY CLASSICAL

The baritone, who began 2021/2022 as Harlekin/*Ariadne auf Naxos* at Barcelona's Gran Teatre del Liceu, portrays Mozart's Papageno/*The Magic Flute* later this season at Dresden's Semperoper and appears in recital in Barcelona, Paris, and Berlin. Earlier in 2021 he sang a staged version of Bach's St. John Passion at Paris's Théâtre du Châtelet.

Recent highlights also include his first Guglielmo/*Così fan tutte* with London's Classical Opera Company and his Philadelphia Orchestra debut in Bach's Mass in B Minor. Among the major releases in Appl's growing discography are a live recording of Schubert lieder from Wigmore Hall and his first solo disc for SONY Classical, "Heimat," which won the prestigious Prix Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau (Best Lieder Singer) at the 2017/2018 Académie du Disque Lyrique Orphées d'Or. Appl recently released discs of Sibelius's *Kullervo* with the BBC Scottish Symphony and works by Bach with both Concerto Köln and the Berlin Bach Soloists.

JAMES BAILLIEU

The South African artist, widely regarded as one of the leading song and chamber-music pianists of his generation, collaborates in performance each season with many renowned singers and instrumentalists. As a soloist, he has appeared with the Ulster Orchestra, English Chamber Orchestra, and the Wiener Kammersymphonie. Baillieu is a frequent guest at many of the world's most distinguished venues including Carnegie Hall, London's Wigmore Hall and Barbican Centre, Amsterdam's Concertgebouw, Berlin's Konzerthaus, and Vienna's Musikverein and Konzerthaus, among many others.


PHOTO: KAUPO KIKKAS

Festivals include those of Aix-en-Provence, Verbier, Schleswig-Holstein, Festpillene i Bergen, Edinburgh, Spitalfields, Aldeburgh, Cheltenham, Bath, City of London, and Brighton.

Baillieu has presented his own programming series at Wigmore Hall and has stewarded many song and chamber music series for the Brighton Festival, BBC Radio 3, Verbier Festival, Bath International Festival, and Perth Concert Hall. Recording projects with baritone Benjamin Appl, violinist Tamsin Waley-Cohen, clarinetist Julian Bliss, and flutist Adam Walker figure prominently in his acclaimed discography. Baillieu is a professor at the Royal Academy of Music, a coach for the Jette Parker Young Artist Program at the Royal Opera House, a course leader for the Samling Foundation, and head of the Song Program at the Atelier Lyrique of the Verbier Festival Academy.



PHOTO: DARIO ACOSTA

"Jaw-dropping virtuosity."
GRAMOPHONE MAGAZINE

TENOR
JAVIER CAMARENA

SATURDAY, MARCH 26
7:30 PM
WINSPEAR OPERA HOUSE

ÁNGEL RODRÍGUEZ
PIANIST

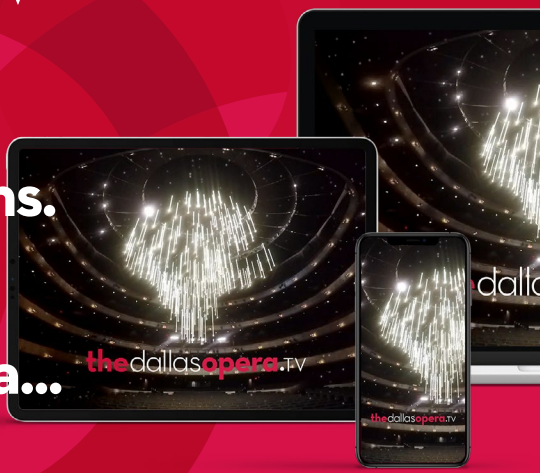
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EMBRACE THE PASSION



MADAME BUTTERFLY

BY GIACOMO PUCCINI

February 18, 20, 23, & 26



FLIGHT

BY JONATHAN DOVE

March 4, 6, 9, & 12



THE BARBER OF SEVILLE

BY GIOACHINO ROSSINI

March 19, 23, 25, & 27



THE PEARL FISHERS

BY GEORGES BIZET

April 2, 6, 8, & 10

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