



MFTWR.org

presents

Sunday, September 9, 2018

Lara Troyer, soprano Denise Milner Howell, mezzo-soprano

Timothy Culver, tenor Brian Keith Johnson, baritone

Judith Ryder, piano

A Rodgers and Hammerstein Medley

The King and I

A Puzzlement

I Whistle a Happy Tune

I Have Dreamed

We Kiss in a Shadow

Something Wonderful

Shall We Dance?

Flower Drum Song

A Hundred Million Miracles

I Enjoy Being a Girl

Don't Marry Me

South Pacific

There Is Nothin' Like a Dame

A Cockeyed Optimist

Some Enchanted Evening

I'm in Love with a Wonderful Guy

Happy Talk

Bali Ha'i

You've Got to Be Carefully Taught

Younger than Springtime

Created by Judith Ryder

Richard Rodgers/Oscar Hammerstein

Intermission

Ohio from <i>Wonderful Town</i>		Leonard Bernstein
Agony from <i>Into the Woods</i>		Stephen Sondheim
	Ms. Troyer, Ms. Howell, Mr. Culver, Mr. Johnson	
Vanilla Ice Cream from <i>She Loves Me</i>		Jerry Bock
	Ms. Troyer	
Bring Him Home from <i>Les Misérables</i>		Claude-Michel Schönberg
	Mr. Culver	
Soon It's Gonna Rain from <i>Show Boat</i>		Jerome Kern
	Ms. Howell, Mr. Johnson	
O Happy We from <i>Candide</i>		Leonard Bernstein
	Ms. Troyer, Mr. Culver	
Mr. Snow from <i>Carousel</i>		Richard Rodgers/Oscar Hammerstein
	Ms. Howell	
Ol' Man River from <i>Show Boat</i>		Jerome Kern
	Mr. Johnson	
Finale from <i>Into the Woods</i>		Stephen Sondheim

Red Campion Ensemble Biographies

Described as *singing with an engaging, robust tone* (clevelandclassical.com), **Lara Troyer** is a versatile soprano, at home on the opera stage as well as concert and recital stage. This past summer she was the soprano soloist in the world premiere of *The Emergent Universe* by Sam Guarnaccia with the Cleveland Chamber Choir and she sang the role of The Foreign Woman in *The Consul* with Nightingale Opera Theatre. Recent engagements include the role of Beth in Mark Adamo's *Little Women* with Nightingale Opera Theatre, Fanny in Rossini's *La Cambiale Matrimonio* with the Kent/Blossom Music Festival, the soprano solo in the Brahms Requiem with both the Summit Choral Society and the Kent State Chorus and Orchestra, and in Vivaldi's *Gloria* with Akron Baroque and Singer's Companye. She has also performed recitals with Chamber Music Society of Ohio and performed the Ohio premiere of Ricky Ian Gordon's *Orpheus and Euridice* in 2013.

Ms. Troyer has toured with the *New Sigmund Romberg Orchestra* as their soprano soloist throughout the Midwest and Southeastern United States. She also spent four years as an Associate Artist with Cleveland Opera. She has made solo appearances with the Akron Symphony, Canton Symphony Orchestra, Heights Chamber Orchestra, Chagrin Falls Studio Orchestra, Lansing Symphony Orchestra, Rochester Symphony Orchestra, Southeast Iowa Symphony Orchestra, and PAND (Cleveland). She has sung lead roles with Lansing Lyric Opera, Nightingale Opera, Lorain Community College and Akron Opera Theatre (Guest Artist for both), Opera in the Ozarks, and Bay View Music Festival. Ms. Troyer regularly performs under the auspices of Center for Arts-Inspired Learning and The Children's Concert Society of Akron. She has served on the voice faculty at the University of Akron, The College of Wooster, and currently teaches at Kent State University.

Denise Milner Howell, mezzo-soprano, is a versatile performer of opera, concerts, and recitals, whose singing has been called "superb" (Cleveland Classical). Ms. Howell's solo engagements include performances with Cleveland Opera Theater, Opera Cleveland, Chautauqua Opera, Kent/Blossom Festival, Nightingale Opera Theatre, Akron Symphony Orchestra, Akron Lyric Opera Theatre, Akron Baroque, Tanglewood Festival, Carousel Dinner Theatre, and Buffalo Philharmonic.

Recent performances include leading roles in *Little Women* (Meg), *Amahl and the Night Visitors* (Mother), *Carmen* (Mercédès), *La cambiale di matrimonio* (Clara), Robert Ward's *The Crucible* (Rebecca Nurse), and *Iolanthe* (Celia). A frequent concert soloist, Ms. Howell has performed the alto solos in Handel's *Messiah*, Mozart *Requiem*, Bach *Magnificat*, Haydn *Lord Nelson Mass*, Verdi *Requiem*, Vivaldi *Gloria* and Duruflé *Requiem*. Additionally, Ms. Howell is committed to the performance of new works by living composers, and has been heard at Cleveland Ingenuity Festival and New to New York Concert Series.

In addition to performing, Ms. Howell is an active voice teacher. She currently teaches at Cleveland Institute of Music/Case Western Reserve University in the Joint Music Program, and has served on the voice faculties of Ashland University, University of Akron School of Music, and the State University of New York College at Fredonia. She lives in Sharon Township, Ohio with her husband, Gregg, and their three children.

Tenor **Timothy Culver** has been described as having “a rich but penetrating tenor” and that he “faces florid tenor writing with a fearless vivacity.” Since his professional debut in 2003, he has performed almost forty different stage roles. Equally at home in both operatic and musical theatre works, Mr. Culver has performed with Atlanta Opera, Ann Arbor Symphony, Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra, The Boston Landmarks Orchestra, Cleveland Opera Theater, Canton Symphony Orchestra, Porthouse Theatre, Akron Symphony, Nightingale Opera Theatre, Bar Harbor Music Festival and the Cleveland Orchestra. Some recent roles include Calaf in *Tosca*, Cavaradossi in *Tosca*, Werther in the title role, Pinkerton in *Madama Butterfly*, Luigi in *Il Tabarro*, Arturo in *Lucia di Lammermoor*, Canio in *I Pagliacci*, Il duca di Mantua in *Rigoletto*, Alfredo in *La Traviata* and Nemorino in *L’elisir d’amore*. During the inaugural season of the Opera Theatre of Lucca in Lucca, Italy, Mr. Culver performed and studied under the direction of internationally renowned baritone, Lorenzo Malfatti. A frequent recitalist, oratorio and concert soloist, Mr. Culver sang in the U.S. premiere of Erwin Schulhoff’s *H.M.S. Royal Oak* with the Cleveland Chamber Symphony. In 2012, Mr. Culver was selected to participate in the Cleveland Art Song Festival where he worked with international artists Christine Brewer, Roger Vignoles and Warren Jones.

Currently, Mr. Culver is an Associate Professor of Voice at the Hugh A. Glauser School of Music at Kent State University, where he earned both his Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees. He resides in Stow, Ohio with his wife and three children.

Brian Keith Johnson, baritone, has performed many roles in opera from Figaro in *Il barbiere di Siviglia* to Ford in *Falstaff*. As a member of Actors’ Equity Association, he has also performed a variety of musical theatre roles ranging from Jim in *Big River* to Father/God in *Children of Eden*. His concert repertoire includes most of the major baritone works such as Carmina Burana, Elijah, The Verdi Requiem, Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony, The Brahms Requiem and The Faure’ Requiem. He has performed operatic and musical theatre roles across the United States including performances with The Cleveland Orchestra, Akron Symphony Orchestra, Canton Symphony Orchestra, Cleveland Opera, Lyric Opera Cleveland, Blossom Festival Orchestra, Opera Theatre of Pittsburgh, Opera Western Reserve, Carolina Master Chorale, Charlotte Symphony Orchestra and Porthouse Theatre. Mr. Johnson received his Bachelor’s Degree from The University of Akron and has also studied abroad at The New Opera Academy of Rome in Rome, Italy and The American Institute of Musical Studies in Graz, Austria.

This season’s performances include concerts with The Cleveland Orchestra, The Cleveland Youth Orchestra, Western Reserve Chorale, the vocal chamber ensemble, Red Campion; *Messiah*; *Amahl and The Night Visitors*; Pasek in *The Cunning Little Vixen*; August in *Verlorene Heimat*; Sharpless in *Madama Butterfly*; Crown in *Porgy and Bess*; The Representative in *A Game of Chance* and Renato in *Un Ballo in Macheria*.

Judith Ryder, pianist, was the Founding Director of Cleveland Opera’s well-known education and outreach program, Cleveland Opera on Tour, recipient of numerous awards including the prestigious Ohio Governor’s Award for Arts in Education. The diverse education and outreach programs Ms. Ryder developed in her thirty-one years with Cleveland Opera reached an average of 80,000 people throughout the Midwest and beyond. As the Music Administrator for Cleveland Opera, Ms. Ryder was company liaison to conductors, served as the opera orchestra’s personnel manager and was Music Director for the company’s series of imaginative children’s operas and other touring and mainstage productions, including “The Fantasticks.” In addition to her opera

work, Ms. Ryder was Music Director for acclaimed Cleveland productions of Jon Marans' "Old Wicked Songs" (Dorothy Silver, Director), Terrence McNally's "Master Class" (Reuben Silver, Director), and other area theatre productions.

A graduate of Eastman School of Music, Ms. Ryder was a founding member of the Thalia Piano Trio, served on the Cleveland Institute of Music and Music Settlement faculties, and was coach and keyboardist for the Robert Page Singers. Ms. Ryder was the recipient of the first Vocal Arts Resource Network's Ovation Award in 2000 for her dedicated work with singers and the 2003 Young Audiences of Greater Cleveland's Arts Education Champion Award. In August 2008, Judith Ryder became the first manager of the Cleveland Arts Education Consortium with new offices at Cleveland State University where she oversees a range of member activities, community projects and general arts advocacy on behalf the Consortium's membership more than 60 organizations. Ms. Ryder continues to serve as the Founding Director of the Judson Choristers with intergenerational links to Cleveland schools, as a vocal coach, and pianist in vocal and instrumental ensembles.