

with assistance from JACKIE AND JOHN MIDDELKAMP presents

## PRETTY YENDE, SOPRANO KAMAL KHAN, PIANO

This evening marks the 1,000<sup>th</sup> presentation by the Harriman-Jewell Series, Pretty Yende and Kamal Khan's first appearance with the Series, and the artists' Kansas City debut.

The Muriel McBrien Kauffman Family Foundation is the sponsor of our 58th Season.

6:00 P.M., SATURDAY, JANUARY 7, 2023 FOLLY THEATER KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

Founded by William Jewell College in 1965, Harriman-Jewell Series' commitment to Kansas City has been to bring the best of the performing arts.

# 1,000<sup>th</sup> CONCERT CELEBRATION PRETTY YENDE, SOPRANO KAMAL KHAN, PIANO

Song dedicated to Jackie and John Middelkamp

Vanne, o rosa fortunata

VINCENZO BELLINI (1801–1835)

Go, you lucky rose, to rest on the maiden's bosom. Oh, how I wish I could transform myself into you.

Poetic translation from Luciano Pavarotti's February 1, 1973 American recital debut.

La conocchia L'amor funesto GAETANO DONIZETTI (1797–1848) DONIZETTI

When I want to speak with my love, I casually drop my spindle into the street. When he bends to pick it up, a fire is lit within that will burn forever.

More than an angel loves, I loved you in my delirium. Your 'I love yous' were said to a miserable man and will leave no trace upon his grave.

"O luce di quest' anima" from Linda di Chamounix

DONIZETTI

You are the radiance of my soul. The sighs of love and my yearning heart are yours alone.

Ballade No. 2 in F Major, Op. 38

FRÉDÉRIC CHOPIN (1810-1849)

The Polish legend of Świtezianka is captured in this narrative ballade that speaks of the love between the nixie (a water nymph) and a young man.

Artists appear by arrangement with GM Art & Music www.gmartandmusic.com

As an auxiliary organization of William Jewell College, the Harriman-Jewell Series adheres to the anti-harassment policy of the College, and is committed to maintaining an environment that is free of harassment, illegal discrimination, and unprofessional conduct. In keeping with the policy, any form of harassment by or against any person is prohibited, whether such harassment is lawful or unlawful. This policy applies to all patrons, venue staff, Series staff, performing artists, artist representatives, and third-party vendors. To report harassment, either speak to a Harriman-Jewell Series staff member, email the Series at info@hjseries.org, or call 816·415·5025.

#### "La promessa" from Soirées musicales

#### GIOACHINO ROSSINI (1792-1868)

Do you think I could ever stop loving you? No, my lovely with those beloved eyes; not even as a trick would I ever deceive you.

Poetic translation from Luciano Pavarotti's April 15, 1975 recital.

Song dedicated to Marcia Karbank -

"Una voce poco fa" from Il barbiere di Siviglia

ROSSINI

I'll sharpen all my wits and Lindoro will be mine. I swear it, I will win! A hundred tricks I'll play before I yield.

#### INTERMISSION

Tre Sonetti di Petrarca, S. 270

FRANZ LISZT (1811–1886)

Pace non trovo Benedetto sia'l giorno I vidi in terra angelici costumi

I find no peace. I fear and hope. I burn and freeze. My delight is the cause of this strife.

Blessed be that I was bound to two beautiful eyes. My thoughts are only of love.

Angelic virtue and heavenly beauty on earth. Heaven was so intent upon harmony that even the leaves were still.

Coro di festa e marcia funebre de Don Carlos, S. 435

GIUSEPPE VERDI (1813–1901)/LISZT

A festive chorus of the people of Madrid in praise of King Philip II is juxtaposed with a chorus of monks leading those condemned by the Inquisition to death by fire.

#### Selections from La sonnambula

BELLINI

Oh! se una volta sola Ah! non credea mirarti Ah! non giunge uman pensiero

Oh if I could just see him again before he takes another to the altar.

You died as did our love that only lived a day.

Happiness fills me. Embrace me now and forever. We will make a heaven of love.

#### PRETTY YENDE, SOPRANO

■ With her magnetic charm, acclaimed operatic and solo performances worldwide, and a critically lauded discography, South African soprano Pretty Yende has quickly become one of the brightest stars of the classical music world.

Since making her professional operatic debut at the Latvian National Theatre in Riga as Micaela in *Carmen*, she has been seen at nearly all of the major theaters of the world, including the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, Opéra National de Paris, Metropolitan Opera, Teatro alla Scala in Milan, Deutsche Oper Berlin, Staatsoper Berlin, Bayerische Staatsoper in Munich, Opernhaus Zürich, Gran Teatre del Liceu in Barcelona, and Vienna Staatsoper, as well as many major concert venues.

This season, Yende returns to the Paris Opera to star in Roméo et Juliette and Die Zauberflöte. She makes her San Francisco Opera house debut as Violetta Valerie in Verdi's La Traviata in the new production by Shawna Lucey. Later, she will return to Wiener Staatsoper to star in the title role in Massenet's Manon, and as Marie in La fille du régiment. She reprises the role of Michaela in Carmen at the Staatsoper Berlin. At the Staatsoper Hamburg she is making her role debut as Gilda in Verdi's Rigoletto, and returns to all four heroines Olympia/Antonia/Giulietta/Stella in Offenbach's Le Contes d'Hoffmann.

On the concert stage, Yende makes her return with the Philadelphia Orchestra at Carnegie Hall and the Kimmel Center performing Mahler's Symphony No. 4 under the baton of Yannick Nézet-Séguin. This season, Yende will also make multiple recital appearances, including in Kansas City, Princeton, Geneva, Naples, Gstaad, Vienna, and the Auverssur-Oise Festival. She will also join Nadine Sierra in a uniquely special series of concerts around Europe.



In 2020/21, Yende made her successful house debut at the Wiener Staatsoper as Adina in *L'elisir d'amore* and later sang Violetta in Simon Stone's acclaimed production of *La Traviata*. She reprised Violetta several times: at the Bayerische Staatsoper in Patrick Bannwart's production; at the Gran Teatre del Liceu in David McVicar's production; and at Teatro Massimo di Palermo, marking her muchanticipated house debut. She returned to the

Théâtre des Champs-Elysées to star as Amina in Bellini's *La sonnambula*, featuring a new production by Rolando Villazón.

Her rise into the global stage includes highlights from her acclaimed Metropolitan Opera debut, stepping in as the Countess Adele in Le Comte Ory; her role and house debut as Marie in La fille du Régiment at the Teatro de la Maestranza in Seville; debuts at Opéra national de Paris as Rosina in *Il barbiere di Siviglia*, the Gran Teatre del Liceu as Norina in Don Pasquale, the Los Angeles Opera as Micaëla in Carmen, at Staatsoper Hamburg as Fiorilla in Il Turco in Italia, and her debut at the Theater an der Wien as Countess Adèle. Additional highlights include Rosina, Juliette in Roméo et Juliette, Elvira in I Puritani, Pamina in Die Zauberflöte at the Met; Adina at the Royal Opera House; Lucia at the Opéra national de Paris and Deutsche Oper Berlin; Adina at the Staatsoper Berlin; Pamina at the Grand Théâtre de Genève; Elvira at Opernhaus Zürich; Susanna in Le nozze di Figaro at Los Angeles Opera; Countess Adèle and Musetta in La Bohème at Teatro alla Scala; her role debut as Teresa in Benvenuto Cellini in Paris: and Lucia di Lammermoor in concert at the Cape Town Opera.

Highlights on the concert stage include her Carnegie Hall recital debut with pianist Kamal Khan, with the *New York Times* acclaiming "A gracefulness that can seem decidedly divine seems to radiate from Ms. Yende." She later returned to Carnegie Hall to join the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra for a performance of Mozart's *Exsultate*, *Jubilate* and Mahler's Symphony No. 4. Yende has presented concerts in Switzerland, Spain, Austria, Johannesburg, South Africa, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, and Prague.

In 2016, she released her debut album, A Journey, for Sony Classical which won several awards including the 2017 International Opera Award - Best Recording (Solo Recital), an Echo award for best newcomer at the Echo Klassik Awards 2017, as well as a first for an opera singer in her home country being awarded the International Achiever Award at the South African Metro FM Awards. She appeared as the musical quest on several television shows including The Late Show with Stephen Colbert, The Wendy Williams Show, and Good Morning America. She released her second solo album titled *Dreams* one year later on Sony Classical, which won her the Readers' Choice Award at the 2018 International Opera Awards, with Opera Now raving "South African Yende has a delicious instrument, with a youthful quiver of passion to it, and a wonderfully secure technique.'

A 2011 graduate of the Young Artists Accademia of the Teatro alla Scala, Yende made her debut with the company in 2010 as Berenice in Rossini's *L'Occasione fa il ladro*. In 2010, she became the first artist in the history of the Belvedere competition to win top prize in every category, and went on to win First Prize in the Operalia Competition in 2011.

Other prestigious awards include 'The Order of Ikhamanga in Silver,' an Award from the South African government for her excellent achievement and international acclaim in the field of the world of opera and serving as a role model to aspiring young musicians. More recently, she received the Italian Knighthood, 'Ordine Stella d'Italia,' for her work in building extraordinary relations between Italy and other countries, making her the youngest South African ever awarded this accolade.

#### KAMAL KHAN, PIANO

■ Indian-American conductor and pianist Kamal Khan combines an active performing career with a passionate commitment to the alobalization of operatic training. He has performed with many opera companies around the world including the Metropolitan Opera, New York City Opera, Dallas Opera, Baltimore Opera, and Palm Beach Opera. Additionally he has conducted the



Jerusalem Symphony, Buenos Aires Philharmonic, Beijing Symphony, Shanghai Symphony, São Paulo Philharmonic, Balearic Islands Philharmonic, Oviedo Philharmonic, the Spanish Radio and Television Orchestra, Cape Town Philharmonic, Kwazulu-Natal Philharmonic, and the Academy of St. Martin in the Fields.

As a recitalist and accompanist Khan has appeared in venues such as Alice Tully Hall, Carnegie Hall, Weill Hall, The Kennedy Center, Gran Teatro Liceu, Palau de la Música Catalana, Palais Garnier, Suntory Hall, Casals Hall, Palau de Congressos, Baxter Concert Hall, and Montecasino, with singers such as Marcelo Álvarez, Nadine Benjamin, Harolyn Blackwell, Nico Castel, Justino Díaz, Placido Domingo, Michael Fabiano, Dmitri Hvorostovsky, Larisa Martinez, Angela Meade, Juan Pons, Herman Prey, Nadine Sierra, Sir Bryn Terfel, Verónica Villarroel, and Pretty Yende, and violinist Joshua Bell.

Prof. Khan is Visiting Extraordinary Professor at North West University in South Africa. He is a founding member of Opera for Peace, Artistic Director of Classical Vocal Arts International, and Director of the Taller para Cantantes in Santo Domingo, DR. He is Affiliate Faculty at the Royal Opera Covent Garden Jette Parker Young Artists Program, the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London, the Metropolitan Opera Lindemann Young Artists Program, and the Voices of South Africa Festival and Competition. Additionally, he has worked with the Juilliard School, Mannes College of Music, Manhattan School of Music in New York, the International Vocal Arts Institute, European Center for Vocal Arts, Chautauqua School of Music, Opera Theatre of St. Louis, Ravinia Festival, and Glimmerglass Opera.

A graduate of the Manhattan School of Music, Khan was the youngest Assistant Conductor at the Metropolitan Opera, a position he held for ten years. While at the MET, he was responsible for the musical preparation of many new productions, including the telecasts of Schenk/Schneider-Siemssen's complete Ring Cycle, del Monaco's La Fanciulla del West and Simon Boccanegra, Zeffielli's Cavalleria Rusticana and I Pagliacci, the company premiere of I Lombardi, and the world premieres of Glass' The Voyage and Corigliano's The Ghosts of Versailles.

Some of the works he has conducted include Don Giovanni, Le nozze di Figaro, Così fan tutte, Die Zauberflöte, Norma, I Puritani, La Sonnambula, Maria Stuarda, Lucia di Lammermoor, La Favorita, L'Elisir d'Amore, Tosca, Rigoletto, La Bohème, Il Trittico, Turandot, La Traviata, Nabucco, Un Ballo in Maschera, Carmen, Don Carlo, Werther, Mefistofele, Cavalleria Rusticana, I Pagliacci, Die Fliegende Holländer, Ariadne auf Naxos, Porgy and Bess, Die Fledermaus, The Rake's Progress, The Merry Widow, and the African premieres of Il viaggio a Reims and Dead Man Walking, and the world premieres of Five:20 Operas Made in South Africa and Four:30 Operas Made in South Africa.

A native of Washington, D.C., Kamal Khan was the recipient of the first National Foundation for the Advancement of the Arts prize, and has also received prizes and grants from the National Association of Music Teachers and the National Symphony Orchestra. PBS Channel 13's documentary *I Live to Sing*, based on his work in South Africa, won the 2014 Emmy for best cultural program.

### THE RICHARD HARRIMAN AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN THE ARTS



Richard Harriman (1932–2010), co-founder and Artistic Director of the Harriman-Jewell Series, believed in bringing the best of the performing arts to the Kansas City community. He was passionate about the artistic and cultural landscape of our region, and sought to enrich the lives of arts lovers, musicians, students, and audience members through engaging artistic experiences.

Named in Richard Harriman's honor and memory in 2010, The Richard Harriman Award for Excellence in the Arts is presented to champions of the arts in our Kansas City community and beyond. These individuals share a wholehearted dedication to enriching the lives of others through the performing arts as arts leaders, donors, volunteers, and artists. They have inspired our local community—and communities around the world— with their talent, generosity of spirit, and commitment to the life-changing power of the performing arts.

This year, we honor the prestigious artists and ensembles who have appeared on the Series ten times or more. Joining us to accept the award on behalf of these distinguished artists is Kansas City's own David Parsons.

#### 2022-2023 AWARD RECIPIENTS

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater

Emanuel Ax, piano

Canadian Brass

Joyce DiDonato, mezzo-soprano

Marilyn Horne, mezzo-soprano

Warren Jones, collaborative pianist

Martin Katz, collaborative pianist

The King's Singers

Yo-Yo Ma, cello

Wynton Marsalis, trumpet

David Parsons and Parsons Dance

Itzhak Perlman, violin

The legacies of these Harriman artists are generously underwritten by Marcia Karbank, Jackie and John Middelkamp, Ed Milbank, Muriel McBrien Kauffman Family Foundation, and Suzanne Shank.

#### Past Award Recipients

2010 Beth Ingram

2011 Julie Gerson and Paget Higgins

2012 Roswitha and Ken Schaffer

2013 Esther Loeb

2015 Dorothy and Bill Curry

2016 Jackie and John Middelkamp

2017 Burnell and Linda Landers

2018 Jonathan and Nancy Lee Kemper

2019 Jane Chu