7 Sopranos

Saturday, October 5, 2013
8:00 PM

Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall

Cynthia Cole (Founder/Artistic Director)
Laura Bass
Nicole Lamm
Eriko Murray
Adrienne Neal
Bharati Soman
Jennifer Wintle
Ruth Locker, accompanist

Featuring music by Puccini,
Gilbert and Sullivan,
Handel, Rodgers and
Hammerstein, and
Rachmaninoff
Saturday, October 5, 2013, 8:00 PM

Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall

Distinguished Concerts International New York (DCINY)

Iris Derke, Co-Founder and General Director
Jonathan Griffith, Co-Founder and Artistic Director

Present

7 Sopranos in Concert

Sop7anos

Cynthia Cole (Founder/Artistic Director)
Laura Bass
Nicole Lamm
Eriko Murray
Adrienne Neal
Bharati Soman
Jennifer Wintle

Accompanist: Ruth Locker

Cindy C. Oxberry, Guest Stage Director
Act I

Overture  
The Enchantress  
Ruth Locker

Art is Calling for Me  
The Enchantress  
(The Prima Donna Song)
Meet the Diva as she takes the stage. Her only worry is her competition...for now.

Vissi d’arte  
Tosca  
Giacomo Puccini
She lived for art and love, but now her situation is bleak. She is at the end of her rope in desperation, but how did this happen?

Three Little Maids from School  
The Mikado  
Gilbert & Sullivan
To find out how she reached her final fate, we look back on the life of the Diva at an early age. She enjoys laughing with her school friends and thinking of the day when they will marry.

Ah, guarda, sorella  
Cosi fan tutte  
W. A. Mozart
Now the Diva enjoys young love and brags to her sister about his charms, vowing that she would be heartbroken to leave him.

Myself I Shall Adore  
Semele  
G. F. Handel
With so many suitors and admirers, who wouldn’t let it all go to her head...now entranced with her own beauty, the Diva’s ego has taken over! Vanity...thy name is Diva!

I Feel Pretty  
West Side Story  
Bernstein and Sondheim
The Diva feels light hearted, stunning and entrancing! The world belongs to her!

Endless Pleasure  
Semele  
G. F. Handel
With the confidence of a young beautiful woman, the Diva enjoys how she can torment her suitor!
Una donna quindici anni  
Cosi Fan Tutti  
W.A. Mozart

The young Diva must now learn how to use her feminine cunning with great skill to get what she wants to serve her needs. “Viva la Diva, che sa servir!” (Long live the Diva, who knows how to serve!)

O mio babbino caro  
Gianni Schicchi  
Giacomo Puccini

Putting her new skills to the test, the Diva pleads with her dear loving father to allow her to leave home with her “true” love...but we all know a Diva has many loves!

Comic Duet for Two Cats  
Giaochino Rossini

Full of ego and vanity, the Diva will not tolerate any competition! Let’s see how she handles this!

What Good Would the Moon Be?  
Street Scene  
Kurt Weill

Ridding herself of any competition, the Diva now sticks to her convictions of how she will always choose true love over showy promises. Will this last?

Poor Wand’ring One  
The Pirates of Penzance  
Gilbert and Sullivan

The Diva meets a new suitor (does this surprise you?). She takes pity on him, but her friends could care less!

Chi il bel sogno di Doretta  
La Rondine  
Giacomo Puccini

In love with love, the Diva recounts the joy of meeting her newest love.

Sous le dôme épais  
Lakmé  
Léo Delibes

Still enjoying love’s bliss, the Diva enjoys the beauty in nature.

Act II

Juliette’s Waltz  
Roméo & Juliette  
Charles Gounod

The Diva realizes that her youth is fleeting and wants to revel in it before it is gone!
I Enjoy Being a Girl

Flower Drum Song

Rodgers & Hammerstein

The Diva still revels in her femininity and many suitors and dreams of being adored. (Is this hard to imagine by now?)

Yoimachigusa

(Evening Primrose)

Eriko Murray

Tadasuke Ohno

The Diva has met her “guy,” and awaits his arrival.

Steal Me, Sweet Thief

The Old Maid & The Thief

Gian Carlo Menotti

The Diva’s waiting game continues, and she feels her youth slipping away by the minute.

Tonight

West Side Story

Bernstein & Sondheim

The Diva anticipates her long-awaited love to return to her tonight! Will they “steal” away into the night together?

Ah, non giunge

La Sonnambula

Vincenzo Bellini

Adrienne Neal

Now that the Diva’s lover has declared his love, she is overjoyed and ready to live her life in happiness!

Can’t Help Lovin’ That Man

Showboat

Kern & Hammerstein

The Diva finds that the man she loves is far from perfect, but she can’t help lovin’ that man!

Vocalise

Opus 34, No. 14

Sergei Rachmaninoff

Growing suspicious that her love has strayed, the Diva reflects on their relationship. She decides that no man will burn her again. She frees herself of him and makes him suffer. Love is bittersweet, but “sweet revenge” is just as sweet!

Mein Herr Marquis

Die Fledermaus

Johann Strauss

Nicole Lamm

The Diva puts on the false air of confidence to get her revenge and torment all who try to bring her down. Laughing and teasing him in front of all is how she will mend her broken heart!
Sull’aria

The Marriage of Figaro

W.A. Mozart

Burned again by her lover’s wandering eye, the Diva plots a plan of her own to get even!

Quando me’n vo’

La Bohème

Giacomo Puccini

She knows the power of beauty, but is she the only one with that power? Watch how the Diva makes sure she keeps her love’s attention!

Habanera

Carmen

George Bizet

Love is fickle and so is the Diva! If you don’t love her, she loves you... but if she loves you, BEWARE!

I Cain’t Say No

Oklahoma!

Rodgers & Hammerstein

Will the Diva ever settle down to just one love? Never! She loves the attention TOO MUCH and “can’t say no!”

Summertime/Sometimes

I Feel Like a Motherless Child

Porgy & Bess/Spiritual

George & Ira Gershwin

arr. Bharati Soman

Now with child, the Diva is alone with her thoughts and faced with how she’s lived her life so far...what can she do?

Down to the River to Pray

Spiritual

Anonymous

She is now ready to mend her ways and turn to a higher power for strength.

Sempre libera

La Traviata

Giuseppe Verdi

Jennifer Wintle

The Diva’s free spirit takes hold of her and she revels again in whatever lies ahead.

Libiamo

La Traviata

Giuseppe Verdi

Full of spirit (literally), the Diva is ready to be happy! Life is fleeting and these moments are to be cherished!

Art Is Calling for Me

(The Reprise)

The Enchantress

Victor Herbert

The Diva and her ego return with a vengeance! (Is this what has led to her eventual despair?) Above all, she chooses art and the adoration of her audience!
Bios

They are divas in their own right and together, they are a force to be reckoned with. They call themselves 7 Sopranos®. This unique ensemble of sopranos, elegantly gliding around on stage in their signature apple-red gowns, is capable of bringing the ceiling down with their powerful vocal weights and bright timbres. Cynthia Cole, who founded the group in 2007, says, “my vision was to get seven sopranos to each show their own personality, their ‘divaness,’ their own voices and entertain as the music was meant to do when written. Each performer is like a component of an orchestra: we each have our own instrument and unique sound, but weave it with the other sopranos. One of Cynthia’s goals in forming the ensemble was to introduce opera to everyone in a new and exciting medium. It takes a lot of rehearsal the way we perform it. It has got to sound like one piece but we are seven different voices and personalities while we also add choreography. Although it is not easy to categorize an ensemble whose repertoire features both comedy and drama, one thing is for sure—audiences love these sopranos. Their program is eclectic, ranging from arias to Broadway musicals and showcasing such works as Handel’s “Mysel I Shall Adore,” Rossini’s “Cat Duet” and Gershwin’s “Summertime.” The performances are full of expression, range and tone, and each diva has her moment to shine via a solo performance. All the while, the sopranos never stray far from their classical roots. One audience member said, “it’s like being invited to their party.”

Cynthia Cole, full lyric soprano, is the founder and artistic director of 7 Sopranos®. After graduating with a music degree from Mars Hill University, NC, she attended graduate studies at Sessionic senese per la musica el’Arte, Siena, University Siena, Italy, the University of Washington, WA, and Kent State University, OH. Cynthia has performed with the Fairbanks Fine Arts Festival, Crittenden Opera Company, Opera International, D.C. and the George Washington University Opera Theater, D.C. among others. Her opera experience include Maria Corona (The Saint of Bleecker Street), Agathe (Der Freischutz), Hansel (Hansel and Gretel), Manon (Manon), Cerubino (Le Nozze di Figaro), Fiordiligi (Così Fan Tutte), Sophie (Werther), Lucy (The Telephone), and Geraldine (Hand of Bridge) among others. Cynthia enjoys performing with 7 Sopranos® all over the Mid-Atlantic States. She is really looking forward to the DCINY Concert at Carnegie Hall tonight! Thank you to all who have made this possible.
The Washington Post recently heralded the voice of emerging artist Laura E. Bass as “fresh and agile” while “powerfully” portraying Micaela in Carmen, and having “Lit up the Stage” as a “passionate” Donna Elvira in Don Giovanni with Washington, D.C. area companies, Bel Cantanti Opera and Repertory Opera Theater of Washington. Laura holds her Master of Music degree in Voice from Indiana University, where she studied with famed opera veterans Timothy Noble, Carol Vaness, and Sylvia McNair. Her operatic performance repertoire includes: Susannah in Susannah; Nedda in I Pagliacci, Pamina and First Lady in Die Zauberflöte; Yum-Yum in The Mikado, Suor Genovieffa in Suor Angelica, Princess Ninetta in Prokofiev’s The Love for Three Oranges, and Helen in Rorem’s We are Three Sisters, Who are not Sisters. Laura has been featured as the Soprano Soloist in Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony, the Brahms Requiem, Schubert’s Mass in G Major, and the Poulenc Gloria.

Nicole Lamm, soprano, received her Master of Music at Catholic University of America and her Bachelor of Arts at Sweet Briar College. Over the years she has performed with companies and summer festivals such as Opera Roanoke, Maryland Opera Society, New York Opera Society, Bay Area Summer Opera Theatre Institute, Hawaii Performing Arts Festival, Summer Opera Theatre, La Fabbrica and others. Nicole has performed operas and recitals throughout the US as well as internationally including France, Italy, Canada, and Puerto Rico. Her operatic experience consists of full roles such as Pamina (Die Zauberflöte), Susanna (Le Nozze di Figaro), Zerlina (Don Giovanni), Adina (L’elisir d’amore), Mimi (La Bohème), Laurie (The Tender Land), Monica (The Medium), and Rosasharn (The Grapes of Wrath Suite) among others. As an active singer in the D.C. metropolitan area, Nicole enjoys singing concerts and recitals both as a soloist and as a member of 7 Sopranos*.

Japan-born Eriko Murray won first prize for her solo at the competition at age 15. Eriko performed at the world premiere of Beyond the Horizon for Voice and Orchestra at the Sri Lankan presidential mansion, Temple Tree; the world premiere of Paths in the Forest for Eight Solo Strings and Voice with Chamber Music Society of Colombo; and the theme song of the international award winning movie Akasa Kusum while living in Sri Lanka. She has been giving recitals worldwide since then. Eriko’s vocal training currently includes Dr. Louise Urban (Faculty Emeritus, University of Maryland) and Noriko Kimura (Liszt Music Institute, Weimar, Germany). She is the founder of the children’s chorus group “Kodomo Chorus,” “Japanese a cappella sisters” and Tenchido exercise, which uses voice and deep breathing (www.erikomurray.jimdo.com). Recently Eriko had a Japanese music recital with Koto instruments. She moved to Washington D.C. in 2010 and joined the 7 Sopranos*.
Adrienne Neal is a native of Washington, D.C. She has graced many different stages within the Washington area as a soloist and has been with 7 Sopranos* since its inception in 2007. Ms. Neal received a Bachelor of Music degree in Voice Performance from the University of the District of Columbia. Ms. Neal’s vocal abilities have been recognized by a number of organizations. In 1997 she won second place in the Leontyne Price Vocal Arts Competition sponsored by the Washington Chapter of the Century Club, in 2003 she was awarded the third place in the Gretchen M. Hood Vocal Competition, and in 2004 she was a semi-finalist in the Maryland Opera Society’s Marie Crump Vocal Competition. In 2005 she was a finalist in the Paul Robeson Vocal Competition sponsored by the Urban Philharmonic.

Bharati Soman has been praised for her “lovely, ornamented soprano” and “silken renderings of Mozart’s legato arias.” Opera credits include Mimi (La Bohème), and the title roles in Madame Butterfly and Semele with Pocket Opera, Hanna Glawari (The Merry Widow), Livermore Valley Opera, the Countess (The Marriage of Figaro, Cinnabar Theater), and Zerlina (Don Giovanni, Sacramento Opera). Concert credits include solos with Choralis, San Francisco Sinfonietta, and Washington Chamber Symphony. Bharati is a past winner of the San Francisco Sinfonietta Messiah Competition and the East Bay Opera League Young Artists Scholarship Awards Competition. In addition to performing, Bharati served on the UC Davis voice faculty for three years, and currently maintains a studio in Northern Virginia. She holds a B.M. from James Madison University and a M.M. and Performer Diploma from Indiana University. In June 2014, Bharati will reprise her role as the Countess with Cinnabar Theatre.

Jennifer Wintle is an active concert performer and opera singer in the D.C. area. She has appeared locally with Loudon Lyric Opera and Repertory Opera Theater of D.C. Her operatic roles include Donna Elvira (cover) in Mozart’s Don Giovanni, the Countess in Mozart’s Le Nozze di Figaro, Dido in Purcell’s Dido and Aeneas, Frasquita in Bizet’s Carmen, and Valetto in Monteverdi’s The Coronation of Poppea. In demand as an oratorio soloist, she has appeared in performances of Vivaldi’s Gloria, Handel’s Messiah, Bach’s Missa Brevis in G minor, St. Matthew Passion, and St. John Passion. Ms. Wintle was the third place finalist in the 2011 Vocal Arts D.C. competition, and she has given recitals across the United States and in Italy as a member of the Centro Studi Lirica opera and language immersion program. A devoted church musician, she is also a soprano soloist at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in Alexandria, VA.
Hailed by Anne Midgette of the Washington Post as “a powerful collaborative pianist,” pianist Ruth Locker made her solo debut with the Pittsburgh Symphony at age 13. The recipient of many awards, Ruth is a graduate of Carnegie-Mellon University and did graduate study at Catholic University with William Masselos. She has continued her multi-faceted career appearing in concerts throughout the U.S. as a chamber musician, collaborative pianist, and as a soloist. She also maintains a teaching studio in Virginia and has recorded on AmeriMusi, Inc. Ms. Locker’s love for vocal music was developed in her years working in the voice studio of Todd Duncan. She has played for hundreds of vocalists and has been working with 7 Sopranos® since its inception.

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Cindy C. Oxberry who has helped us along the way.”

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