

*MICHAEL P. HAMMOND
PREPARATORY PROGRAM*



CONCERT CXVIII

*JOHN PRESTON,
Cello and Baritone*

*Assisted by
Charles Tauber, Piano
Emily Mechler, Soprano*

*Sunday, May 6, 2007
2:00 p.m.
Lillian H. Duncan Recital Hall*

RICE UNIVERSITY

the
Shepherd
School
of Music

PROGRAM

**Suite No. 4 in E-flat Major
for Solo Cello, BWV 1010**

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)

1. Prelude
4. Sarabande
5. Gigue

**Sonata in E Minor for Cello
and Piano, Op. 38**

Johannes Brahms
(1833-1897)

1. Allegro non troppo

I've Never Been in Love Before
from Guys and Dolls

Frank Loesser
(1910-1969)

Stars
from Les Misérables

Claude-Michel Schönberg
(b. 1944)

Memory
from Cats

Andrew Lloyd Webber
(b. 1948)

Emily Mechler, soprano

Polonaise Brillante, Op. 3

Frédéric Chopin
(1810-1849)

The reverberative acoustics of Duncan Recital Hall magnify the slightest sound made by the audience. Your care and courtesy will be appreciated. The taking of photographs and use of recording equipment are prohibited.

JOHN PRESTON has studied the cello for eleven years as a student of Cornelia Watkins and is currently enrolled in the Michael P. Hammond Preparatory Program at the Shepherd School of Music. He has also taken master classes with Norman Fischer, Professor of Cello, at the Shepherd School. John studied piano with Carolyn Ayers for nine years and voice with Lauren Pastorek and Sam Handley. John was selected for the Texas All-State Symphony Orchestra for four years in high school and has performed in the TMEA Region Symphony Orchestra since sixth grade. He both understudied and performed the title role for the opera **The Little Prince** in its inaugural production with the Houston Grand Opera. John was selected as a Houston Young Artists performer in 2004 and 2005.

John is a senior at St. John's School, where he has played various sports and served as co-captain for the varsity cross country team. He also participates in the school orchestra and choir and has performed in numerous musical theater productions. He recently formed a cello quartet that has performed for school and community events. John has been inducted into the Cum Laude Society as a senior at St. John's and has been selected as a National Merit Finalist.

Next year John will attend Princeton University, where he plans to major in engineering and continue in music performance with the university orchestra and singing groups.

EMILY MECHLER is a senior at Stratford High School and next year will be a student of the Weitzenhoffer Department of Musical Theatre at the University of Oklahoma. She studies voice with Julia Laskowski. Emily has been very active with the Stratford Playhouse as well as community theatre throughout high school. This year she was nominated for Best Supporting Actress at the Tommy Tune Awards and received the Texas Thespian Scholarship. A few of her favorite roles have been Annabel in **Lucky Stiff**, Audrey in **Little Shop of Horrors**, the Witch in **Into the Woods**, Anna in **The King and I**, and Winifred in **Once Upon a Mattress**.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank Ms. Watkins for teaching me for all eleven years that I have played the cello. She has the ability to communicate with me in a way that brings out all dimensions of musicality in me. The progress I have made from day one to today is a testament to her versatility and skill as a teacher both on a technical and musical level. I also owe a lot of my foundation in music to Mrs. Ayers, who was patient enough to teach me piano starting as a four-year old. In addition, I would like to thank Sam Handley because, although I have only studied with him for one year, I feel I have made immense progress through his guidance and knowledge of the voice. I would like to thank Charlie for all of the times he has accompanied me and for his talent as a first-rate pianist. Finally, I would like to give a thank you to my family for constantly encouraging me to be better in everything I do.

I would like to give a special thanks to Emily Mechler for agreeing to sing a duet with me. I went to middle school with Emily, and we performed in many shows together. We moved on to different schools, so it has been enjoyable getting back together to work on this duet. Thank you, Emily, for being part of my recital.



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