

FACULTY RECITAL

SUSANNE MENTZER, Mezzo-soprano

TIMOTHY PITTS, Double Bass

CHARLES TAUBER, Piano

KATHLEEN WINKLER, Violin

Thursday, November 5, 2009

8:00 p.m.

Lillian H. Duncan Recital Hall

RICE UNIVERSITY

the
Shepherd
School
of Music

PROGRAM

Three Old English Songs

Rebecca Clarke

*It was a Lover and his Lass
Phillis on the new made Hay
The Tailor and His Mouse*

(1886-1979)

Susanne Mentzer, mezzo-soprano

Kathleen Winkler, violin

Four Songs for Voice and Violin, Op. 35

Gustav Holst

*Jesu Sweet
My Soul Has Nought but Fire and Ice
I Sing of a Maiden
My Leman is So True*

(1874-1934)

Susanne Mentzer, mezzo-soprano

Kathleen Winkler, violin

Scotch Folk Songs (selections)

Joseph Haydn

*Will ye go to Flanders
The Birks of Abergeldie
Leader Haughs and Yarrow
On a Bank of Flowers
The White Cockade
O, let me in
The Soger Laddie
I love my Love
The Ploughman
Galla Water
This is no mine ain House*

(1732-1809)

Susanne Mentzer, mezzo-soprano

Kathleen Winkler, violin

Timothy Pitts, double bass

Charles Tauber, piano

INTERMISSION

Irish Country Songs with Violin

Rebecca Clarke

I know my love

I know where I'm goin'

As I was goin' to Ballynure

Down by the Salley Gardens

Susanne Mentzer, mezzo-soprano

Kathleen Winkler, violin

Elegy (Do Not Tempt Me Unnecessarily...)

Mikhail Glinka

(1804-1857)

Somneniye (Doubt)

arr. Gary Karr

Susanne Mentzer, mezzo-soprano

Timothy Pitts, double bass

Charles Tauber, piano

Suite pour chant et violon

Heitor Villa-Lobos

A Menina e a Canção

(1887-1959)

Quéro ser Alégre

Sertaneja

Susanne Mentzer, mezzo-soprano

Kathleen Winkler, violin

The Last Contrabass in Las Vegas

Eugene Kurtz

(1934-1996)

Susanne Mentzer, mezzo-soprano

Timothy Pitts, double bass

Ferdinand

Alan Ridout

(1923-2006)

Susanne Mentzer, mezzo-soprano

Kathleen Winkler, violin

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.

BIOGRAPHIES

*Internationally acclaimed mezzo-soprano SUSANNE MENTZER has taught at The Shepherd School of Music since 2006 and continues to perform actively. Widely admired for her acting and as a specialist in trouser roles (Cherubino in **Le nozze di Figaro** and Der Komponist in **Ariadne auf Naxos**), she specializes in the operas of Mozart, Berlioz, and Richard Strauss. Professor Mentzer enjoys a significant concert and recital career, and is particularly interested in chamber music. She has been a guest artist at the Metropolitan Opera in leading roles since 1989. During the 2008-2009 season, she appeared with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra in **La damnation de Faust** (Berlioz), the Pittsburgh Symphony in Mozart's **Requiem**, with the New York Philharmonic at Carnegie Hall in **L'enfant et les sortilèges** (Ravel), in the Metropolitan Opera's 125th Anniversary Gala (in which she reprised the title role in the trio from **Der Rosenkavalier**), **La Damnation de Faust** with the Toronto Symphony, and Bernstein's **Jeremiah Symphony** with the Minnesota Orchestra.*

Professor Mentzer has appeared on four continents in nearly every great opera house and orchestra under the batons of R. Abbado, Bonyngé, Boulez, Chailly, Conlon, Sir Colin Davis, Sir Andrew Davis, Dutoit, Eschenbach, Haitink, Herbig, Järvi, Levine, Maazel, Mackerras, Marriner, Masur, Mehta, Muti, Ozawa, Salonen, Sawallisch, Slatkin, and Sinopoli, among others. Professor Mentzer cites as particularly inspirational Jean-Pierre Ponnelle and Giorgio Strehler. She can be heard on numerous recordings on Decca, Erato, Philips Classics, Telarc, Teldec, EMI, Koch, and International labels. She continues a long collaboration with pianist Craig Rutenberg. She has taught at DePaul University and the Aspen Music Festival.

Susanne Mentzer holds Bachelor and Master of Music degrees from The Juilliard School, and was trained in the Houston Opera Studio. She studied with Rose Bampton and Norma Newton. She serves on the Board of Trustees of The W.M. Sullivan Foundation in New York, which supports young singers. She also regularly adjudicates the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions and The George London Foundation Competition.

TIMOTHY PITTS has distinguished himself as one of the most versatile double bassists of his generation. As a soloist, chamber and orchestral musician, he has been heard in many of the world's greatest concert halls. Mr. Pitts' orchestral career began as a member of the Cleveland Orchestra after which he was appointed principal bass of the Houston Symphony, a position he held for seventeen years. Mr. Pitts also served as principal double bass of Boston's Handel and Haydn Society and the Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra under the direction of John Williams.

An active chamber musician, Mr. Pitts has appeared as a guest artist with Bay Chamber Concerts, the Mainly Mozart Festival, Boston Musica Viva, the Pacific Music Festival in Sapporo, Japan, and the Skaneateles Festival in New York as well as with the Los Angeles Piano Quartet and the St. Lawrence, Jupiter, and Vermeer Quartets. He has collaborated with such artists as Menahem Pressler, Arnold Steinhardt, Christoph Eschenbach, Heinz Holliger, Robert McDuffie, and Roberto Diaz. As a member of the Houston Symphony Chamber Players, Mr. Pitts toured Germany and Japan, and appeared at Chicago's Ravinia Festival.

Mr. Pitts has appeared as soloist with the Houston, Greenville, Savannah, Albany, and Mainly Mozart Festival Orchestras. In 2006, he gave the United States premiere of John Harbison's **Concerto for Bass Viol** with Hans Graf conducting the Houston Symphony.

A dedicated educator, Mr. Pitts' students can be found among the ranks of the world's finest ensembles. Formerly on the faculty of the Oberlin Conservatory, he is currently a Professor of Double Bass at The Shepherd School of Music. During the summer, he is on the artist faculty of the Beijing International Music Festival and Academy at the Beijing Central Conservatory of Music. Mr. Pitts lives in Houston with his wife, violinist Kathleen Winkler, and two daughters, Nina and Kiri, both aspiring cellists.

Since 2002 CHARLES TAUBER has been Staff Pianist at The Shepherd School of Music. A graduate of The Juilliard School, where he studied with eminent pianists Jerome Lowenthal and Joseph Kalichstein, Mr. Tauber has performed throughout the United States and abroad in such distinguished venues as the La Jolla Chamber Music Festival, the Vancouver Recital Society, Dumbarton Oaks, and the Kammermusiksaal der Berliner Philharmonie. As a proponent of modern music he has performed at the FOCUS! Festival at Juilliard, Summergarden at the Museum of Modern Art, the New York Guild of Composers in Merkin Hall, and the Charles Ives Center for Contemporary Music, where he participated in the premieres of six new piano trios. Prior to his current appointments, Mr. Tauber worked as Staff Pianist at The Juilliard School, The Quartet Program, Bowdoin Summer Music Festival, Music Academy of the West, and the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts.

The artistry of KATHLEEN WINKLER has earned her the plaudits of critics and audiences alike worldwide since her solo debut at the age of seventeen with the Philadelphia Orchestra. She has been heard with such orchestras as the Detroit Symphony (with which she has toured on many occasions), the Pittsburgh Symphony, the Danish Radio Orchestra, the Odense Byorkester, the Polish Slaska Philharmonic, the Grand Rapids Symphony, the Savannah Symphony, and the Phoenix Symphony, to name a few. She has toured throughout the United States and Canada as well as having performed in Sweden, Poland, Germany, Spain, and the Canary Islands. The recipient of numerous awards, Ms. Winkler took first prize in the First International Carl Nielsen Violin Competition which led to her sponsored debuts in Alice Tully Hall at Lincoln Center, London's Queen Elizabeth Hall and Purcell Room, the Kennedy Center and the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., and numerous radio broadcast performances on the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) and the International Voice of America.

Through a national search, Kathleen Winkler was selected by the United States Information Agency to represent the U.S. as an Artistic Ambassador on concert tours throughout the world. Her initial tour took her to Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Korea, and New Zealand. Another extended tour saw Ms. Winkler's performances representing our country in Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Syria, Algeria, Tunisia, Nigeria, and Kenya. A third tour took Ms. Winkler throughout Australia and South America.

The Philadelphia-born artist attended Indiana University where she received her Bachelor of Music degree, magna cum laude, as well as the coveted Performer's Certificate. She also attended the University of Michigan, where she received her Master of Music degree, summa cum laude. Formerly on the faculty of the Oberlin Conservatory, she is currently Professor of Violin at The Shepherd School of Music and a recipient of Rice University's Julia Miles Chance Prize for Excellence in Teaching. Additionally, she is a visiting professor at the Middle School of the Beijing Central Conservatory in China. During the summer she is on the artist faculty of the Music Academy of the West in Santa Barbara, California, where she holds the Léni Fé-Bland Chair in Violin, and in China on the artist faculty of the Beijing International Music Festival and Academy in Beijing and Shanghai.

Ms. Winkler is married to Timothy Pitts, Principal Bassist of the Houston Symphony Orchestra, and is mother to eleven-year-old Nina and nine-year-old Kiri.



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