ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Mezzo soprano Heather Johnson made her Dallas Opera debut this season as the Page in Salome. Other recent performances include the title role of Lizzie Borden for Boston Lyric Opera and Tanglewood Festival, and her Metropolitan Opera debut in a acclaimed new production of Parsifal. Other performances with Boston Lyric Opera include Hermin in A Midsummer Night’s Dream and Zerlina in Don Giovanni; she is frequent guest of Sarasota Opera where she performed title character La Cenerentola, Elizabeth Proctor in The Crucible, Hansel in Hansel and Gretel, Beppe in L’Amico Fritz and Maddalena in Rigoletto. Ms. Johnson’s numerous roles with New York City Opera include Meg Page in Falstaff, Flora in La Traviata, Mercedes in Carmen and Soraya in the world premiere of Charles Wuorinen’s Haroun and the Sea of Stories. Past performances include Dinah in Trouble in Tahiti with Moab Music Festival and Nashville Opera and Rosina in Il barbiere di Siviglia with Opera Southwest, Mill City Opera, and Opera New Jersey. Ms. Johnson’s performance at the Stillwater Music Festival of a world premiere arrangement of Grieg’s song cycle Haugtussa with the renowned string quartet Brooklyn Rider was featured on NPR’s “Performance Today”. Ms. Johnson received her Masters degree from Manhattan School of Music and Bachelors of Music degree from St. Olaf College. She is a native Minnesotan, currently residing in New

Tenor Michael Marcotte most recently performed with the All-Star Broadway Men’s Chorus in a one-night only benefit concert of Andrew Lippa’s new oratorio I Am Harvey Milk at Lincoln Center’s Avery Fisher Hall. He has also been fortunate to make his debut with the Los Angeles Philharmonic last season in the world premiere of Strip Mall, a ‘mini-opera’ from composer Matt Marks and librettist Royce Vavrek; his NY Philharmonic debut with Rodgers & Hammerstein’s Carousel (broadcast on PBS Live from Lincoln Center with three Emmy® nominations); and his 92Y Lyrics & Lyricists debut honoring the works of W.S. Gilbert. Other credits include Stephen Schwartz’s Séance on a Wet Afternoon at New York City Opera and Opera Santa Barbara; Encores! productions of Bells Are Ringing, Anyone Can Whistle, Music in the Air; and Gentlemen Prefer Blondes, (where he is featured on the cast album performing ‘Coquette’); and the Montclair State Peak Performances world premiere of David T. Little’s Dog Days with upcoming performances this spring at Fort Worth Opera and LA Opera.

Baritone Norman Garrett, a native of Lubbock, Texas, is a recent alumnus of the Domingo-Cafritz Young Artist Program at Washington National Opera. where he performed Riolobó in Daniel Catán’s Florencia in the Amazon, Papageno in The Magic Flute, a Steersman in Tristan und Isolde, Captain Gardiner in Jake Heggie’s Moby Dick, Masetto in Don Giovanni (Domingo-Cafritz Young Artist Performance), and as the Father in Hansel and Gretel. Mr. Garrett recently made his Lyric Opera of Chicago company debut as Jake in Porgy and Bess, For Wolf Trap Opera Mr. Garrett performed Escamillo in Carmen, Son Ami in a new production of Milhaud’s rarely-performed Le pauvre matelot, Ford in Verdi’s Falstaff and Il Barone di Trombonok in Rossini’s Il viaggio a Reims. He has been seen on stage with Kentucky Opera, Cincinnati Opera, and Philadelphia’s Center City Opera Theater, where he performed Marcello in La bohème, Almaviva in Le nozze di Figaro, Malatesta in Don Pasquale, and Guglielmo in Così fan tutte. He is a graduate of the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music and Texas Tech University.

Thursday, January 15, 2015 at 7:30pm

GEORGES GERSHWIN (1898-1937)

Swanee (1919) 
Performed by Mr. Marcotte

Love is Here to Stay from The Goldwyn Follies (1938) 
Performed by Ms. Uriarte Berry

Can’t Take that Away from Me from Shall We Dance (1937) 
Performed by Mr. Garrett

Strike Up the Band from Strike Up the Band (1927) 
Performed by the ensemble

But Not for Me from Girl Crazy (1930) 
Performed by Ms. Johnson

I Got Plenty o’ Nothing from Porgy and Bess (1934) 
Performed by Mr. Garrett

I Got Rhythm from Girl Crazy (1930) 
Performed by the ensemble
Music by LEONARD BERNSTEIN (1918-1990)

Symphony No. 1 “Jeremiah” (1942) (excerpt) Biblical text
Performed by Ms. Johnson

Simple Song from Mass (1971) lyrics by Stephen Schwartz
Performed by Ms. Johnson

To What You Said from Songfest (1977) text by Walt Whitman
Performed by Mr. Garrett

Maria from West Side Story (1957) lyrics by Stephen Sondheim
Performed by Mr. Marcotte

What a Movie from Trouble in Tahiti (1952) lyrics by Leonard Bernstein
Performed by Ms. Johnson

New York, New York from On the Town (1944) lyrics by B. Comden and A. Green
Performed by Mr. Marcotte and Mr. Garrett

I Can Cook Too from On the Town lyrics by Leonard Bernstein
Performed by Ms. Uriarte Berry

Candide's Lament from Candide (1956) lyrics by Richard Wilbur et al.
Performed by Mr. Marcotte

A Boy Like That from West Side Story lyrics by Stephen Sondheim
Performed by Ms. Uriarte Berry and Ms. Johnson

Tonight Quintet from West Side Story lyrics by Stephen Sondheim
Performed by the ensemble

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Maestro Gerald Steichen currently holds the positions of Music Director for Ballet West, Principal Pops Conductor of the Utah Symphony and Music Director of the Ridgefield Symphony (Connecticut). For fifteen seasons he served as Principal Pops Conductor of the New Haven Symphony Orchestra. Steichen is a frequent guest conductor for the Boston Pops and the New Jersey Symphony, and has appeared with the symphonies of Detroit; Indianapolis; Naples, Florida; Portland, Oregon; the Florida Orchestra in Tampa; Cincinnati; Columbus, Oklahoma City, Hartford and the New York Pops. International appearances include the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra, Tokyo City Symphony, the NDR Philharmonie Hannover at the Braunschweig Festival, and numerous appearances with the Norwegian Radio Symphony. During ten seasons with the New York City Opera, Maestro Steichen led performances including La bohème, L'elisir d'amore, Jake Heggie’s Dead Man Walking, Rachel Portman’s The Little Prince, Jonathan Miller’s production of The Mikado, The Pirates of Penzance, and Rodgers & Hammerstein’s Cinderella. He has also conducted Utah Opera, Virginia Opera, Anchorage Opera, New Jersey Opera Theater, Glimmerglass Opera, and Opera East Texas. Maestro Steichen toured nationally as the associate conductor of The Phantom of the Opera, The Secret Garden, and Peter Pan and conducted Cats in New York for two years. A gifted pianist, he performed on stage for the New York City Opera’s acclaimed productions of Porgy and Bess and Carmina Burana, and on Broadway as Manny the Accompanist in the Tony Award-winning Master Class. Originally from Tonkawa, Oklahoma, Maestro Steichen holds degrees from Northern Oklahoma College, Oklahoma City University and the University of Southern California. He currently resides in New York City.

Soprano Sarah Uriarte Berry starred on Broadway as Belle in Beauty and the Beast (opposite Donny Osmond); Franca in The Light in the Piazza at Lincoln Center, for which she received both a Drama Desk Nomination and an Outer Critics Circle Nomination; Nicola in Taboo (opposite Boy George); Eponine in Les Miserables; Diana in Next to Normal; stand-by for Judy Garland in End of the Rainbow; and in the City Center Encores! productions of The Boys from Syracuse as Luciana and Tenderloin as Laura. She appeared in the title role of Cinderella at New York City Opera (with Eartha Kitt). Ms. Berry starred as Julie Jordan in the First National Tour of Carousel (Dramalogue Award-Best Actress, Ovation nomination) and toured with Petula Clark as Betty Schaefer in Sunset Boulevard. Her regional credits include Magnolia in Show Boat, (CCC Award Best Actress) at Goodspeed Opera House; Sharon in Master Class at Papermill Playhouse; Petra in A Little Night Music for Baltimore’s CenterStage; Eliza in My Fair Lady, Sarah in Guys and Dolls, and Irene Malloy in Hello Dolly—all with Symphony Silicon Valley; Maria in The Sound of Music at AMT San Jose; and Anne in A Little Night Music in the 2002 Sondheim Celebration at the Kennedy Center. She appears on the cast recordings for The Light in the Piazza, Taboo, The Boys from Syracuse, Tenderloin, Bernstein’s Mass-Baltimore Symphony Orchestra. Sarah is a UCLA graduate, married to director Michael Berry, and mother of three.