



SAVANNAH VOICE FESTIVAL

OPERA • MUSICAL THEATRE • SONG

VIRTUALLY LIVE 2020

Emily Yocum Black, soprano

Cindy Miller, piano

CELEBRATING MOTHERS EVERYWHERE

Sunday, May 10 at 5:30pm EST

Facebook Live

Sponsored by Daniel C. Cohen

“Nature, the gentlest mother” from *Twelve Poems of Emily Dickinson*
Aaron Copland

“Bee! I’m Expecting You!”
Ricky Ian Gordon and Emily Dickinson

“Everything Changes” from *Waitress*
Sara Bareilles

“Goodnight, Moon”
Eric Whitacre and Margaret Wise Brown

Described as a “sleek and glistening vocal talent” (San Francisco Chronicle), soprano **Emily Yocum Black** is quickly emerging as a versatile and accomplished performer of multiple genres of music. Known for her sparkling, clear tone and particular gifts as a communicator, she feels at home in art song, chamber music, oratorio, opera, and musical theatre. Emily has performed major works with orchestras and chamber ensembles across the U.S. including the Savannah Philharmonic, the Louisville Orchestra, the Paducah Symphony Orchestra, the Jackson Symphony, American Bach Soloists, Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra, Spire Chamber Ensemble, Madison Bach Musicians, and Bourbon Baroque. Competitions include the 2019 Silver Medal and 2018 Sherrill Milnes Opera Award at the American Traditions Vocal Competition, First Place in the American Prize for Art Song-Professional Division, 1st Place in the Mid-South NATSAA Competition, 2nd Place in the 7th Annual Handel Aria Competition, and 1st Place in the Kentucky Bach Choir Audrey Rooney Vocal Competition. A graduate of the University of Louisville, Emily currently resides in her hometown of Paducah, Kentucky. When she isn’t traveling and performing, she teaches private voice at her own studio and in Paducah Middle School and Paducah Tilghman High School. She is also co-founder of the choral ensemble, the Paducah Singers along with her husband, Fowler.



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Peter Lake, tenor and guitar

THESE DAYS WITH PETER LAKE

Saturday, May 9 at 6:00pm EST

Facebook Live

Sponsored by Dr. and Mrs. Michael Zoller

“Wagon Wheel”

Bob Dylan and Keith Secor

“The Once and Future Carpenter”

Seth Avett & Scott Avett (The Avett Brothers)

“These Days”

Jackson Browne

“The Book of Love”

Stephen Merritt

Savannah audiences will remember **Peter Lake** from his recent turn as Jinx in *Forever Plaid* and his crooning tribute Old Blue Eyes during the 2019 Festival. Peter Lake is an internationally performing lyric-tenor who made his role debut as Alfredo in Mobile Opera's *La Traviata* last October. In April Peter made his house and role debuts with Pacific Opera Project and Opera in the Heights! as Pinkerton in their ground breaking English-Japanese production of *Madame Butterfly*. In May of 2019 Peter made is role debut as Rodolfo in Natchez Music Festival's production of *La Bohème*. In the spring of 2020 Peter made his house debut with Gulfshore Opera as Rodolfo in *La Bohème* and will make another role debut as Lensky in *Eugene Onegin* as he returns to Opera in the Heights! for his second year with the company. In the summer of 2018 he made his role debut as Faust in Natchez Festival of Music's production of *Faust*, and sang Pang in Mississippi Opera's *Turandot*. After performing as a soloist for Festival South's "Reel Big Movie Concert" he traveled to the inaugural season of Savannah Opera for his second summer with the Savannah VOICE Festival where he covered the role of Alfredo in their production of *La Traviata* and sang Gastone.



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Jessica Ann Best, mezzo-soprano

Matt Marco, piano

A LOVELY NIGHT!

TALES FROM CINDERELLA

Friday, May 8 at 6:00pm EST

Facebook Live

Sponsored by Pinellas Opera League

Medley: "Una Volta," from *La Cenerentola* and

"A Dream Is A Wish Your Heart Makes" from Disney's *Cinderella*

Giacomo Rossini and Mack David, Al Hoffman, and Jerry Livingston
arranged by Jessica Ann Best and Matt Marco

"A Lovely Night" from *Cinderella*

Richard Rodgers & Oscar Hammerstein II

"Impossible" from *Cinderella*

Richard Rodgers & Oscar Hammerstein II

"Non piu mesta," from *La Cenerentola*

Giacomo Rossini

Jessica Ann Best is a diverse cross-disciplinary artist, performing nationwide in opera, musical theater, concert, oratorio, recital and jazz. Known for her interpretations and versatility; Best has premiered many new works including: *Mrs. Otis* and Madeline Gordon Getty's *The Canterville Ghost* and *Usher House* at LA Opera, The Stepmother in Anton Coppola's *Lady Swanwhite* with Opera Tampa, *International Carol Suites* by Mark Hayes at Carnegie Hall, the roles of Bessie and Mary Rivers in Louis Karchin's *Jane Eyre*, with The Center for Contemporary Opera, and the title role in *Alice Ryley*, by Michael Ching, at the Savannah VOICE Festival. Ms. Best appears in two roles on the Naxos recording of *Jane Eyre*. Best opened the 2020 season in a Broadway concert with the New Jersey Festival Orchestra under the director of Maestro David Wroe. Best joined the Miami Classical Music Festival on their Musical Extravaganza At Sea as their leading guest artist. She made her debut with Syracuse Opera as the Old Woman in *Candide* this February, and joined the New York State Ballet for An Evening of Duke Ellington. Best recently made her Birdland debut in *The Lineup* with Susie Mosher and has toured with the gypsy jazz ensemble, Velvet Caravan, and has been a featured artist with the Savannah Music Festival and the Savannah VOICE Festival. Last summer she performed the First Prioress in *Dialogues of the Carmelites* at the Savannah VOICE Festival under the baton of Maestro Andrew Bisantz and direction of Fabrizio Melano. She has performed with the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, the Florida Orchestra, Santa Fe Opera, Opera Tampa, Gotham Chamber Opera, Nickel City Opera, and Finger Lakes Opera.



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Melanie Spector, soprano and piano

SOPRANO SERENADE

Thursday, May 7 at 6:00pm EST

Facebook Live

Sponsored by Kathie and Les Anderson

"Deh vieni, non tardar," from *Le nozze di Figaro*
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

"Sul fil d'un soffio etesio," from *Falstaff*
Giuseppe Verdi

"La ci darem la mano," from *Don Giovanni*
with Andres Cascante, baritone
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

"I Could Have Danced All Night," from *My Fair Lady*
Alan Jay Lerner and Frederick Loewe

Melanie Spector is a coloratura soprano from New York City whose repertoire ranges from Baroque to present day. Some of her recent accomplishments include performing as part of Warren Jones' Singer and Pianists' Seminar at Manhattan School of Music, singing the role of Sister Constance in Poulenc's *Dialogues of the Carmelites* at the Savannah VOICE Festival and being a winner of the 2019 Shirley Rabb Winston Scholarship competition in Classical Voice. Other highlights include Miss Wordsworth in Britten's *Albert Herring* at MSM, for which Operawire praised her for her "beaming soprano"; and covering Nannetta in Verdi's *Falstaff* with Martina Arroyo's Prelude to Performance program. Previous credits also include *Die Zauberflöte* (Königin der Nacht), *Così fan tutte* (Despina), and *The Impresario* (Madame Goldentrill). Upcoming performances include soloing in Schubert's *Mass in Eb* conducted by Maestro Kent Tritle and performing the role of La Fée in Massenet's *Cendrillon* at MSM. She is currently pursuing her Master of Music degree at Manhattan School of Music under the tutelage of Mark Oswald. In addition to singing, Ms. Spector can be heard as a panelist on the Toll Brothers Metropolitan Opera Quiz during Saturday matinées.



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Zachary Sebek, tenor

Music provided by Appcompanist

THE YOUTHFUL TENOR

Wednesday, May 6 at 6:00pm EST

Facebook Live

Sponsored by Middy Larson

“Dein Ist Mein Ganzes Herz,” from *The Land of Smiles*
Franz Lehár

“Begin the Beguine”
Cole Porter

“Poème D’un Jour”
1. Recontre
2. Toujours
3. Adieu
Gabriel Fauré

“Non ti scordar di me”
Ernesto De Curtis

Tenor **Zachary Sebek** is a junior at The Mannes School of Music. Over the past three years, Zachary made solo debuts in Italy at The Brancaleoni International Music Festival as well as Carnegie Hall. Zachary’s summer festivals include IVAI New York, CVAI Montreal, and the Savannah VOICE Festival. Recently, Zachary was the understudy for the role of Don Ottavio with Bare Opera. Earlier this year, Zachary debuted in a new opera titled, *The Art of Change* with Mannes Opera. This summer, Zachary will be performing Tamino with the Vienna Summer Music Festival. Zachary will also be performing the role of Don Ottavio with the Savannah VOICE Festival. An Eagle Scout, Zachary still volunteers his time including singing for events in his hometown.



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Liz Lang, soprano

Michael Ferrera, piano

REFLECTIONS OF BROADWAY

IN THE CHALLENGING TIME

Tuesday, May 5 at 6:00pm EST

Facebook - *Pre-recorded recital*

Sponsored by Nancy and Gary Radke

"Lonely House" from *Street Scene*

Kurt Weill and Langston Hughes

"Take Me To The World" from *Evening Primrose*

Stephen Sondheim

"In My Own Little Corner" from *Cinderella*

Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II

"Trouble in Mind"

Richard M. Jones

Opera News has applauded American soprano **Liz Lang** for her "comedic timing and clear resonant tone." This March, Liz made her Lincoln Center debut in a new production of *La Traviata* with the Philharmonic Orchestra of New York. She will also take part in a Japanese tour with the production in 2019. In April 2016, Liz made her professional debut as Iris in Opera Omaha's production of Handel's *Semele*. In this new production directed by James Darrah, designed by the creative members of Chromatic, and conducted by Grammy® award winner Stephen Stubbs, "Liz Lang stole her scenes as a spritely Iris with her iridescent soprano" (Omaha World Herald) and "provided some much welcome comic relief" (Wall Street Journal). Liz is an active recitalist, having performed a recital tour throughout Tuscany, at The Riverside Church, and various New York venues, including the Juilliard School. Some other favorite operatic roles include Papagena (*Die Zauberflöte*), Adina (*Elixir of Love*) Frasquita (*Carmen*), and the Foreign Woman (*The Consul*).



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Nan Qin, baritone

Lily Qin, piano

THE BELOVED BARITONE, AT HOME

Monday, May 4 at 6:00pm EST

Facebook Live

Sponsored by Ron and Peg Morris

"Mamma"

Cesare Andrea Bixio

"Buona Sera"

Carl Sigman and Peter de Rose

"Everybody Loves Somebody"

Sam Coslow, Irving Taylor, Ken Lane

"Vous qui faites l'endormie," from *Faust*

Charles Gounod

Nan Qin, bass-baritone, is a native of Yucheng city, Shandong Province, China. Mr. Qin got his Master's degree in Vocal Performance from University of North Texas, where he performed the roles of Balli in *Werther*, Leporello in *Don Giovanni*, Raimondo in *Lucia di Lammermoor*, Capulet in *Roméo et Juliette*, Devin in *Le Devin du Village*, and Pandolfe in *Cendrillon*. He is the finalist of Classical Singer Competition and Lois Alba Aria competition.