



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
FACULTY OF MUSIC

Riki Turofsky Master Class in Voice
with
Joyce El-Khoury, soprano

Thursday, March 18, 2021 from 3 to 5:30 pm

PROGRAM

Caro nome che il mio cor (from *Rigoletto*, G. Verdi)
Heidi Duncan, soprano; Sandra Horst, piano

Bella siccome un Angelo (from *Don Pasquale*, G. Donizetti)
Alex Mathews, baritone; Andrea Grant, piano

Coeur sans amour (from *Cendrillon*, J. Massenet)
Alessia Vitali, mezzo-soprano; Sandra Horst, piano

Chi il bel sogno di Doretta (from *La rondine*, G. Puccini)
Juliana Krajčovič, soprano; Andrea Grant, piano

Vision fugitive (from *Hérodiade*, J. Massenet)
Danlie Rae Acebuque, baritone; Sandra Horst, piano

Alternate:

Lieben, hassen (from *Ariadne auf Naxos*, R. Strauss)
Nicholas Higgs, baritone; Andrea Grant, piano

A message from Riki Turofsky

When I was a student at Opera School, we did not have Master Classes with visiting artists. After graduation I participated in classes with exceptional artists like Lotte Lehmann, Pierre Bernac and Martial Singher. Those unique experiences are indelibly printed in my memory and were crucial to my development as a singer. It gives me great pleasure to fund this series of Master Classes in Voice, and to have the brilliant Joyce El-Khoury as our special guest this year. I plan to continue to sponsor other great artists in this series in the years to come.

Sincerely,
Riki Turofsky

BIOGRAPHIES

Soprano **Joyce El-Khoury** has an acclaimed reputation for bringing newly discovered/rarely performed works to life, most recently with the world premieres of Donizetti's *L'Ange de Nisida* (Royal Opera House (ROH)) and Franz Liszt's *Sardanapalo* (Weimar Staatskapelle) – both captured and released internationally. Her 2019/20 season opened at the Canadian Opera Company in Puccini's *Turandot* (Liù) and closed in a world premiere of Tobias Picker's anticipated opera *Awakenings* at the Opera Theatre of St. Louis (a role written for her after she impressed Picker in the title role of Emmeline in 2015 with the same company).

Her 2018/19 season brought her back home to the Canadian Opera Company (Tatyana, *Eugene Onegin*), to Opera Australia (Mimi, *La bohème*) for her company debut, and back to the Welsh National Opera for her continued exploration of Donizetti's bel canto queens (Elisabetta, Roberto Devereux). Additional recent highlights include performing Violetta (*La traviata*) at both Glyndebourne and the ROH, returning to ROH as Musetta in Richard Jones' *La bohème*, a production she revisited in her Teatro Real debut in December. In concert, she opened the NDR Symphony's season in a gala concert performance and debuted with the Moscow Philharmonic Orchestra.

Ms. El-Khoury's discography includes three rare Donizetti operas on the Opera Rara label (*Les Martyrs*, *Belisario* and *L'Ange de Nisida*) conducted by Sir Mark Elder – all to critical acclaim, *L'Ange* recently took home the 2019 Oper! Award for Best Opera Recording. She also has a Juno-nominated solo disc, *Écho* with The Hallé conducted by Carlo Rizzi. Additionally, Audite released the newly-discovered unfinished Liszt opera *Sardanapalo* in 2018.

Recent engagements include debuting with the London Philharmonic Orchestra in Rossini's *Stabat Mater*, and with Opéra National de Bordeaux as Leila in *Les Pêcheurs de Perles*. She also made role and house debuts with Opera Philadelphia as Liù in *Turandot*, and as Salome in Massenet's *Herodiade* with Washington Concert Opera. Violetta in *La traviata* with the Canadian Opera Company in Toronto, Musetta in *La bohème* with the Bayerische Staatsoper in Munich and with San Diego Opera in Jake Heggie's new opera *Great Scott* as Tatyana Bakst.

Ms. El-Khoury garnered raves when she starred in the title role of Maria Stuarda at Seattle Opera, replacing an ailing colleague in addition to giving her own scheduled performances, in some instances singing back to back performances. On the concert stage, Ms. El-Khoury debuted with the Orchestre de Paris in Rossini's *Stabat Mater*, under the baton of Jesús López-Cobos, and performed in concerts in Austria with Elina Garanča, and in Spain with Juan Diego Flórez.

Born in Lebanon and brought up in Canada, Ms. El-Khoury earned her Bachelor of Music at the University of Ottawa. She received her Artist Diploma from the Academy of Vocal Arts in Philadelphia, and is a graduate of the Metropolitan Opera's Lindemann Young Artist Development Program. She is a First Prize winner in many competitions including: the Loren L. Zachary Competition, the Opera Index Competition, the George London Foundation, and the Mario Lanza Vocal Competition.

joyceelkhoury.com

Riki Turofsky thrilled and captivated audiences in Canada, Europe and the United States as an opera and concert singer. After the death of her only daughter in 1985, she curtailed her performing career, and concentrated her efforts on supporting not only the arts, but also as a philanthropist in the health and social services sectors. Riki sponsors a Master Class Series in Voice at the University of Toronto. After years as President of the Alumni Association, she received the Arbor Award for Volunteerism. She was on the boards of The Canada Council for the Arts and Food Banks Canada.

In the fall of 2014, Riki's book *Aria: Song of a Life* was released, not only a memoir of her life as a performer, but also about facing adversity and overcoming it. Her life of tragedy, loss, love, survival and success are the themes. Many companies in the arts benefit from Riki Turofsky. She generously supports The Stratford Festival and Canadian Opera Company, to name but a few. She is also a major donor to Princess Margaret Hospital. When Riki turned 70, she started a blog called Suddenly70.ca that is targeted at seniors. Now that she is 75 and facing the vagaries of that chapter of her life, she continues to write regularly, and share the experiences that she faces with her age. A very active senior, Riki is married with three grandchildren, and loves to cook and entertain. She is a double recipient of the Queen's Jubilee medals.