



**Master Class with Jessye Norman, soprano**

*John R. Stratton Visitor in Music*

Friday, February 15, 2019 from 3 to 6 pm  
Walter Hall, 80 Queen's Park

**PROGRAM**

Matthew Cairns, tenor and Brandon Tran, piano

Träume

Che gelida manina (*La Bohème*)

Richard Wagner

Giacomo Puccini

Katy Clark, soprano and Lara Dodds-Eden, piano

Nature, the gentlest mother

Caro nome (*Rigoletto*)

Aaron Copland

Giuseppe Verdi

Nicholas Higgs, baritone and Kevin Stolz, piano

Halt! (*Die schöne Müllerin*)

Bella siccome un angelo (*Don Pasquale*)

Franz Schubert

Gaetano Donizetti

Stéphanie McKay-Turgeon, soprano and Frances Armstrong-Douglas, piano

Ich trage meine Minne

Il est doux, il est bon (*Hérodiade*)

Richard Strauss

Jules Massenet

Korin Thomas-Smith, baritone and Joy Lee, piano

The Lynching

Avant de quitter ces lieux (*Faust*)

Robert Owens

Charles Gounod

Shantelle Przybylo, soprano and Lara Dodds-Eden, piano

Donde lieta (*La Bohème*)

Zueignung

Giacomo Puccini

Richard Strauss

**Alternate:**

Alexandra Hetherington, mezzo-soprano and Frances Armstrong-Douglas, piano

Mignon (Kennst du das Land) Op. 98a, No.1

Que fais-tu, blanche tourterelle (*Roméo et Juliette*)

Robert Schumann

Charles Gounod



## JESSYE NORMAN

The breath and width of Jessye Norman's eclectic repertoire share equal richness with that of her innovative programming and scholarship. She brings her great passion for singing to all that she surveys on the opera and concert stages of the world, as well as her newest expansion in the realm of jazz performances. Truly an artist to be found once in a generation, she enlivens the music world with vigor and her all-encompassing joy of portraying a character, sharing a song in the music of Bach and Mozart, to Beethoven, Berlioz, Brahms, Mahler, Wagner, Schoenberg, Berg, Stravinsky, Ravel, Gershwin, Rodgers and Hammerstein, Duke Ellington and so many more.

Miss Norman's collaborations with some of today's most exciting and creative artists of many different disciplines add still more depth to her own exploration of the arts in all its glorious forms. For example, she has performed songs of John Cage with Meredith Monk and Joan LaBarbara under the auspices of the

San Francisco Symphony and conductor Michael Tilson Thomas. This fully-staged production of the Cage songs presented an opportunity for Miss Norman to scale new heights and broaden her artistic palette while enjoying a wonderful experience with artists whose work she finds inspired and surely inspiring.

Miss Norman's work with composer Laura Karpman in creating the fully-orchestrated, multimedia presentation of Twelve Poems on Jazz of Langston Hughes entitled: ASK YOUR MAMA, first performed at Carnegie Hall in 2009, resulted in the recording of this work earning a Grammy Award. That year, Miss Norman curated a 52-event festival for Carnegie Hall called: HONOR! - a celebration of the stunning contributions of African Americans to the world of the arts and humanities. This outpouring of gratitude, praise and humble acknowledgement included dozens of musical performances, panel discussions, poetry and dance, with such participants as: Michael Eric Dyson, The Philadelphia Orchestra, James Carter, Branford Marsalis, Shirley Ceasar and members of the Dance Theater of Harlem, among many other performers and speakers.

Her latest project calls to the fore the name and legacy of the first African American opera singer to perform, in 1893, on the main stage of Carnegie Hall: Madame Sissieretta Jones. The project - CALL HER BY HER NAME! - was launched in December 2018 at National Sawdust in Brooklyn, New York and will continue into 2022. Future plans include collaborations with various colleges, conservatories and universities in preparing an historical overview and creating a syllabus for a six-weeks course of study of the life and times of Madame Jones, 1868-1933 and her stunning accomplishments. Also highlighted will be the achievements of her contemporaries as Scott Joplin and Eubie Blake.

### **John R. Stratton Visitor in Music**

Named for a great collector of vocal music and historical recorded sound, the Stratton Visitor brings distinguished specialists in the field of voice and collaborative piano, recent among them Dawn Upshaw, Warren Jones, Stephanie Blythe, Catherine Wyn-Rogers, Barbara Hannigan, Stephen Wadsworth, Judith Forst, Sir Thomas Allen and Marilyn Horne. As the Faculty of Music celebrates its 100th anniversary, we are thrilled to welcome internationally acclaimed, Grammy Award winning dramatic soprano, Jessye Norman, as the 2018-2019 John R. Stratton Visitor in Music.

*\*Please note that photography and recording are strictly prohibited during the performance. Kindly turn off all electronic devices as a courtesy to the performers and your fellow patrons.*

## STUDENT BIOGRAPHIES

**Frances Armstrong** earned her Bachelor's Degree in Piano Performance with distinction from the University of Victoria where she studied with Bruce Vogt. She is a second year Master's student in the Collaborative Piano program at the University of Toronto, studying with Prof. Steven Philcox. Frances enjoys playing chamber music and discovered a particular passion for working with singers when she was a teenager. She has studied at prestigious programs including Vancouver International Song Institute, Orford Summer Academy, Franz Schubert Institute, Stratford Vocal Academy, Opera NUOVA, Toronto Summer Music, and St. Andrews Opera Workshop. Frances will join the Atelier Lyrique at the Opéra de Montréal this September.

Toronto-based tenor **Matthew Cairns** received his Bachelor of Music in Voice Performance from the University of Toronto and is currently pursuing his MM in Operatic Performance, studying with Dr. Darryl Edwards. He is the First Prize/Chair's Prize winner of the COC's 2018 Ensemble Studio Competition and recipient of the CBC's *Young Artist Development Prize*. Roles with U of T Opera include Don Ottavio (*Don Giovanni*), Sam Kaplan (*Street Scene*), John P. Wintergreen (*Of Thee I Sing*) and Sam Sharkey/German Lumberjack (*Paul Bunyan*). With the Centre for Opera Studies in Italy he performed Don Ottavio, Gherardo (*Gianni Schicchi*), Marcelo/Daniel (*Miracle Flight 571*), Colonel Fairfax (*Yeomen of the Guard*), General Krebs (*Führerbunker*), and Francesco (*The Gondoliers*). He captured first prize in the Sigma Alpha Iota Competition at the Chautauqua Institute.

Soprano **Katy Clark** is a first year DMA student at the University of Toronto, where she studies with Nathalie Paulin. She has sung with the Amici Chamber Ensemble, Shoestring Opera, The Canadian Opera Company Chorus, The Elora Singers, Opus 8, and Village Opera, which she founded in 2017. Favourite roles include The Queen of the Night, Cunegonde, Despina, and Stephanie in Peter Tiefenbach's reimagined *Cappuccino Cantata*. She was a 2017-2018 Rebanks Family Fellow at the Royal Conservatory, and received the 2018-2019 Greta Kraus Graduate Fellowship at the University of Toronto. Katy has also won prizes in the Harold Haugh Light Opera Competition, and at the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions.

Australian pianist **Lara Dodds-Eden** moved to Toronto after a season as Artistic Associate at Banff and seven years in London. Winner of the 2014 Gwendolyn Koldofsky Accompaniment Prize, she has performed in diverse settings including Toronto's Burdock, London's Wigmore and Royal Festival Halls, Amsterdam's Concertgebouw and a Danube river boat, with leading singers and instrumentalists of her generation. She is a doctoral candidate in collaborative piano at University of Toronto, researching the implications of art song sung in translation. [www.laradodds-eden.com](http://www.laradodds-eden.com) @laraplayspiano @translatingsongs

**Alex Hetherington** is a mezzo-soprano in her fourth year of the Undergraduate Vocal Performance Program. She was honoured this year to have received the Women's Musical Club of Toronto Centennial Scholarship. Past scholarships from the University of Toronto include the Lois Marshall Memorial Scholarship, Lobodowsky Choral Award, Mary Morrison Award in Voice Performance, and the Richard and Donna Holbrook Scholarship. As a soloist, Alex has performed with many organizations around Toronto, including the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, Orpheus Choir, Tapestry Opera, and the Camera Ensemble. She currently studies with Monica Whicher and is absolutely delighted to be participating in the Stratton Visitor Program.

**Nicholas Higgs** is a fourth year baritone in the undergraduate Voice Performance program studying with Professor Lorna MacDonald. Nicholas sang the role of Abraham Kaplan in U of T Opera's *Street Scene* and in July 2018, he sang the role of Guglielmo in Long Reach Opera Workshop's production of *Così fan tutte*. He is the recipient of the Mary Morrison Award in Voice and is a former recipient of the Luciano Pavarotti Scholarship, both from U of T. Nicholas would like to thank Mr. Stephen Clark and the Estate of Mr. John R. Stratton for this wonderful opportunity.

Canadian pianist **Joy Lee** holds a MMus in Piano Performance (U of Toronto) and a MMus in Collaborative Piano (U of Michigan) studying with leading pianists in both fields. She is currently in the DMA program (U of Toronto) studying with Professor Steven Philcox. Joy teaches at Tyndale University College and Claude Watson School for the Arts, and performs with the Toronto Children's Chorus and in the Tyndale Community Choir. Participation in summer festivals include the Banff Centre, Centre d'arts Orford, and Domaine Forget. With soprano Maeve

Palmer, Joy earned second-prize in the 2017 Eckhardt-Gramatté National Competition. She is this year's winner of the Gwendolyn Williams Koldofsky Prize in Accompanying at the University of Toronto and will perform the winners' recital with baritone Korin Thomas-Smith in Walter Hall on March 28.

**Stéphanie McKay-Turgeon**, soprano, holds a Bachelor's degree from the Conservatoire de Musique de Montréal. In 2017, she joined Wendy Nielsen's studio at the University of Toronto, where she is completing a Master's degree in Voice Performance - Vocal Pedagogy. The refinement of her interpretation of the French mélodies made her the recipient of grants from the Académie Francis Poulenc in Tours, France, and of the Art Song Foundation of Canada. At the U of T, she was awarded the Richard Bradshaw Graduate Fellowship in Opera (2018), and the Richard March Graduate Fellowship (2017).

**Shantelle Przybylo** is a graduate of Washington National Opera's Domingo Cafritz Young Artist Program. At WNO, she sang Pamina and Papagena (*Die Zauberflöte*) Giannetta (*L'Elisir d'Amore*), Gretel (*Hansel and Gretel*), and Zerlina in *Don Giovanni*. Recent engagements include Mimì with Highlands Opera Studio, and Fiordiligi with Nederlandse Reisopera. Przybylo has also sung Arminda (*La Finta Giardiniera*), Adalgisa in *Norma*, Miss Titmouse in *Too Many Sopranos*, and Natalya in *Oksana G*. She is a winner of the Prix Jeune Espoir Lyrique Canadien in the Jeunes Ambassadeurs Lyriques competition. Shantelle is pursuing her DMA in Vocal Pedagogy at the University of Toronto in the studio of Prof. Lorna MacDonald.

Born in the mountains of upstate New York, **Kevin Stolz** completed undergraduate studies in jazz and contemporary keyboards at Humber College in Toronto, receiving his Bachelor of Music with Honours in 2014. After graduation, Kevin was active in the contemporary scene, including producing the acclaimed jazz big band album *The Twilight Fall* by Chelsea McBride's Socialist Night School. In 2018, returning to his original passion of classical performance, Kevin was accepted into the Master's program in Collaborative Piano at University of Toronto, with support from the Garth and Marjorie Beckett Fellowship. He is now in his first year, in the studio of Steven Philcox.

Baritone **Korin Thomas-Smith** studies at the University of Toronto in the Master of Opera Performance program and holds his BMus from the same institution. In the 2018-2019 season, Korin sings Harry Easter in Kurt Weill's *Street Scene* and Nardo in Mozart's *La Finta Giardiniera*. Previous roles include Conte Almaviva in *Le Nozze di Figaro*, Schaunard in *La Bohème* and Don Alfonso in *Così fan tutte*. In 2018, Korin won First Prize, and the Operatic Aria award at the George Shirley Vocal Competition. A lover of art song, Korin premiered the orchestral arrangement of light fragments, by Canadian composer Liam Ritz. Korin is the 2018 recipient of the Norcop Prize in Song and presents the winners' recital with pianist Joy Lee on March 28 as part of the Faculty of Music's Thursdays at Noon series.

**Brandon Tran** is currently pursuing his Diploma in Operatic Performance as the répétiteur for the University of Toronto's opera division. He completed his Master of Collaborative Piano with Michael McMahon at McGill and also holds a Bachelor in Piano Performance from Wilfrid Laurier. Brandon has accompanied Wilfrid Laurier's concert choir, Laurier Singers, Opera Laurier, and Opera McGill. He has participated in programs such as the Canadian Operatic Arts Academy, Opera NUOVA, and at the Collaborative Piano Institute. He has also performed in masterclasses for Judith Forst, Martin Katz, Kathleen Kelly, Chantal Lambert, Rosemary Landry, Marie-France Lefebvre, Liz Upchurch, and Howard Watkins.

