

Sunday, February 8, 2009, 3pm
Hertz Hall

Danielle de Niese, *soprano*
Ken Noda, *piano*

PROGRAM

- George Frideric Handel (1685–1759) Two Arias from *Semele* (1743)
Endless Pleasure, Endless Love
Myself I Shall Adore
- Edvard Grieg (1843–1907) Selections from *Haugtussa*, Op. 67 (1895)
1. Det syng
3. Blåbær-Li
5. Elsk
7. Vond Dag
8. Ved Gjøtø-Bekken
- Hugo Wolf (1860–1903) Five Songs
Verborgenheit (*Mörike Lieder*, No. 12) (1888)
Gesegnet sei, durch den die Welt entstand
(*Italienisches Liederbuch*, No. 4) (1890)
Wie lange schon war immer mein Verlangen
(*Italienisches Liederbuch*, No. 11) (1891)
In dem Schatten meiner Locken
(*Spanisches Liederbuch*, No. 2) (1889)
Ich hab' in Penna einen Liebsten wohnen
(*Italienisches Liederbuch*, No. 46) (1896)

INTERMISSION

- Francis Poulenc (1899–1963) Selections from *Fiançailles pour rire* (1939)
3. Il vole
5. Violon
6. Fleurs
- Samuel Barber (1910–1981) Three Songs
Solitary Hotel, Op. 41, No. 4 (1969)
Sleep Now, Op. 10, No. 2 (1935–1936)
Nuvoletta, Op. 25 (1952)
- Georges Bizet (1838–1875) Three Songs
Chanson d'Avril (1873)
La coccinelle (1868)
Tarantelle (1872)

*Danielle de Niese appears by arrangement with IMG Artists, 152 West 57th Street,
Fifth Floor, New York, New York 10019, tel. (212) 994-3500.*

Ms. de Niese records exclusively for Decca/London.

Ms. de Niese is dressed by Thang de Hoo: www.thangdehoo.com.

The concert is part of the Koret Recital Series.

Cal Performances' 2008–2009 season is sponsored by Wells Fargo Bank.



Decca / Lorenzo Agnisi

Danielle de Niese's "sweet, gleaming soprano," "phenomenal musicality" and "sharply comic, yet utterly moving" acting, combined with youth and physical presence, have brought her to the edge of a spectacular career. At only 29 years of age, the Australian-born American singer regularly graces many of the world's most prestigious opera and concert stages, and has released her first solo album as part of her exclusive contract with Decca Records, *Handel Arias*.

Ms. de Niese's career got off to a prestigious start when, at age 18, she became the youngest singer ever to enter the Metropolitan Opera Young Artist Program. A year later, she made her house debut as Barbarina in a new Jonathan Miller production of *Le nozze di Figaro* in a cast featuring

Renée Fleming, Bryn Terfel and Cecilia Bartoli, and led by James Levine. Soon after came important operatic debuts with the Netherlands Opera, the Saito Kinen Festival, and the Paris Opera. But it was her portrayal of Cleopatra in a David McVicar production of Handel's *Giulio Cesare* for her 2005 Glyndebourne Festival debut that brought her to true international acclaim. *The New York Times* hailed Ms. de Niese's performance, writing, "Her singing is utterly delectable and completely assured...Sheer 'joie de vivre' and mastery come spilling across, to the eyes as well as the ears."

Since then, Ms. de Niese has enjoyed operatic successes on the stages of the Paris Opera, Zurich Opera, Netherlands Opera and Lyric Opera of Chicago, among many others. Orchestral engagements have included appearances with the New York Philharmonic, Cleveland Orchestra, National Symphony, San Francisco Symphony and the Academy of St. Martin in the Fields.

The 2008–2009 season finds Ms. de Niese making her house and role debut at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, as Galatea in *Acis and Galatea*, and she returns to Glyndebourne as Cleopatra in *Giulio Cesare*. In February, she will conduct a coast-to-coast recital tour, which begins at the Harriman-Jewell Series in Kansas City, Missouri, and includes Cal Performances and Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall. Earlier in the season, the soprano made her Austrian debut at the Theater an der Wien as Ginevra in *Ariodante* and returned to the Metropolitan Opera in the acclaimed Mark Morris production of *Orefo ed Euridice* opposite Stephanie Blythe.

Australian-born to parents of Sri Lankan and Dutch heritage, Danielle de Niese grew up in Los Angeles. The soprano has been captivating audiences since childhood, when she was a fixture of Los Angeles local television hosting a weekly arts showcase for teenagers, for which she won an Emmy Award. Trained in dance and piano as well as music at the famed Colburn School in Los Angeles, she participated in the Tanglewood, Aspen and Marlboro summer programs before coming to New York in 1997 to attend the Mannes School of Music.

Recently, the Netherlands Opera awarded Ms. de Niese their Prix d'Amis, which is an honor

bestowed upon the artist who their audience votes as the past season's favorite performer. Ms. de Niese is also the recipient of the 2008 Echo Award's New Artist of the Year, as well as the 2008 Orphée d'Or given by the Academie du Disque Lyrique for her debut album, *Handel Arias*.

Ken Noda (*piano*) is Musical Assistant to James Levine on the Artistic Administration staff of the Metropolitan Opera. He began working there in 1991, after he retired from a full-time performing career as a concert pianist.

Born to Japanese parents in October 1962, he studied with Daniel Barenboim and performed as a soloist with such orchestras as the Berlin, Vienna, New York, Israel and Los Angeles philharmonics; the London, Boston, Chicago, San Francisco, Montreal and National symphonies; and the Cleveland Orchestra, Orchestre de Paris and

Philharmonia Orchestra of London, under such conductors as Claudio Abbado, Daniel Barenboim, Riccardo Chailly, Rafael Kubelík, James Levine, Zubin Mehta, Seiji Ozawa and Sir André Previn. He has also collaborated as a chamber musician with Maestro Levine (at two pianos), Itzhak Perlman, Pinchas Zukerman, Nigel Kennedy and the Emerson Quartet; and as an accompanist to Kathleen Battle, Hildegard Behrens, Maria Ewing, Aprile Mollo, Kurt Moll, Jessye Norman, Dawn Upshaw and Deborah Voigt.

Since 1999, Mr. Noda has been a participant every summer at the Marlboro Music Festival and also teaches at the Renata Scotto Opera Academy at the invitation of Ms. Scotto. At the Met, he devotes much of his time to the training of young singers in the Lindemann Young Artist Development Program and also gives master-classes at Juilliard, Yale and the Ravinia Festival/Steans Institute.