

Sunday, March 1, 2009, 3pm
Hertz Hall

Nicole Cabell, *soprano*
Spencer Myer, *piano*

PROGRAM

- Franz Liszt (1811–1886) Es muss ein Wunderbares sein (1839)
Die Lorelei (1841)
Oh! quand je dors (1844)
Enfant, si j'étais (1844)
- Fernando Obradors (1897–1945) Five Songs from *Canciones Clásicas Españolas*
(1914–1915)
- Al Amor
Corazón, porque pasáis
Del cabello más sutil
La mi sola, Laureola
Chiquitita la novia
- Carlos Guastavino (1912–2000) Hermano (c. 1941)
Piecitos (1941)
La rosa y el sauce (1942)
Bonita rama de sauce (c. 1941)

INTERMISSION

Leonard Bernstein (1918–1990) *I Hate Music*, a Cycle of Five Kid Songs (1943)

My Name Is Barbara
Jupiter Has Seven Moons
I Hate Music!
A Big Indian and a Little Indian
I'm a Person Too

Ricky Ian Gordon (b. 1956) Selections from *Genius Child* (1992)

Genius Child
Kid in the Park
To Be Somebody
Troubled Woman
Border Line
My People
Joy

Three Spirituals Oh, What a Beautiful City
My Lord, What a Morning
Ride On, King Jesus

Personal Management for Nicole Cabell: Michael Benchetrit/CAMI Vocal.

The concert is part of the Koret Recital Series.

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



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Nicole Cabell, the 2005 Winner of the BBC Singer of the World Competition in Cardiff and Decca recording artist, is fast becoming one of the most sought-after lyric sopranos of today. Her solo debut album, *Soprano*, was named “Editor’s Choice” by *Gramophone* and has received an incredible amount of critical acclaim and several prestigious awards: the 2007 Georg Solti Orphée d’Or from the French Académie du Disque Lyrique and an Echo Klassik Award in Germany.

Ms. Cabell’s current season brings her to the Metropolitan Opera for her much-anticipated house debut in two of her most acclaimed roles: Pamina in *The Magic Flute*, followed by Adina in *L’Elisir d’Amore*. With her home company, the Lyric Opera of Chicago, she can be heard in a new role, Leïla, in Bizet’s *Les Pêcheurs de Perles*, as well as at the very beginning of the season in an *Opera Concert* at Millennium Park conducted by the company’s music director, Sir Andrew Davis. Other opera engagements this season will include two role debuts: the Countess in Mozart’s *Le Nozze di Figaro* with the Cincinnati Opera and *Micaëla* in *Carmen* with the Deutsche Oper Berlin. In concert, Ms. Cabell will be heard in Copenhagen, Prague, Munich, Frankfurt, Dortmund, Ottawa,

Indianapolis and Raleigh. Ms. Cabell will appear in recital at Carnegie Hall for Marilyn Horne’s 75th birthday gala concert, as well as in Toronto, Berkeley and Cincinnati. A more unusual event in the soprano’s season will be a series of cabaret concerts at the Orange County Performing Arts Center. Future engagements include leading roles with the Metropolitan Opera, the Lyric Opera of Chicago and the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden.

Ms. Cabell’s 2007–2008 season began and ended with performances of the role of Musetta in *La Bohème* with the Lyric Opera of Chicago, the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, and the Washington Opera. Other notable opera appearances included Pamina with Opera Pacific and a concert of Donizetti’s *Don Pasquale* with the Bayerischer Rundfunk. Nicole Cabell was heard in concert in London, Munich, Lyon, Oslo and Pittsburgh, as well as in Christmas concerts with the New York Pops at Carnegie Hall. She appeared in recital in Atlanta’s Spivey Hall, Omaha, St. Louis and Tryon.

Other recent engagements included many exciting debuts, most notably with the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden as Eudoxie in concert performances of *La Juive*, the Orchestra of St. Luke’s at Carnegie Hall in Poulenc’s *Gloria*, the Santa Fe Opera as Musetta in *La Bohème*, the Opéra de Montpellier as Adina in *L’Elisir d’Amore*, the Deutsche Oper Berlin as Juliette, Ilia in *Idomeneo* and Pamina in *Die Zauberflöte*, as well as the release of her first solo CD for Decca, *Soprano*. Another important recording project was the title role of Donizetti’s *Imelda de’ Lambertazzi* for Opera Rara, which she also performed in concert in London. Notable concert appearances included *Carmina Burana* and *Honey and Rue* with the Oslo Philharmonic and Andre Previn, an all-Bernstein evening at Harvard with Judith Clurman, Górecki’s Third Symphony with the Minnesota Orchestra and Osmo Vänskä, and a return to the Indianapolis Symphony for a concert of opera arias with Mario Venzago. Ms. Cabell also appeared in recital in London, Tokyo, Hammond, Los Angeles, and for the opening of the new hall at Mount Vernon, Virginia.

Prior to that, Nicole Cabell made a number of debuts, especially in opera with the Palm Beach and Madison Operas for Pamina in *Die Zauberflöte*, with Michigan Opera Theater as Musetta in *La Bohème* and, last but not least, with the Spoleto Festival USA for Juliette in Gounod’s *Roméo et Juliette*. She appeared in recital in New York City as part of Marilyn Horne’s birthday gala at Carnegie’s Zankel Hall as well as in Chicago, Buffalo and Bradford, Pennsylvania. On the concert stage, Ms. Cabell was heard in Louisville in both the Poulenc *Gloria* and Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony with Raymond Leppard, in Milwaukee in a program of Shakespeare-themed pieces with Nicholas McGegan, in crossover concerts with the Pasadena Pops and in Montreal Opera’s annual gala. She also sang in a “Classical Christmas” program with the Indianapolis Symphony. Later in the season, Ms. Cabell returned to Rome for concerts of Britten’s *Les Illuminations* and Mahler’s Fourth Symphony with James Conlon and the Accademia di Santa Cecilia. In the summer, Ms. Cabell made her London concert debut at the Proms in Britten’s *Les Illuminations* with the BBC Symphony Orchestra and Sir Andrew Davis; she returned to the Ravinia Festival for a crossover concert with James Conlon, to the Bard Music Festival for a recital of Franz Liszt *Lieder* and a concert of music by Halévy and to the Pasadena Pops for evenings of music from around the Mediterranean. She also made her St. Louis debut with more crossover concerts with the Compton Heights Band.

While a member of the Lyric Opera of Chicago’s Lyric Opera Center for American Artists (now known as Ryan Opera Center), Nicole Cabell had the opportunity to sing the title role in Janáček’s *The Cunning Little Vixen* in student matinees as well as to cover the roles of Marzelline in *Fidelio* and Rita Billingsly in the world premiere of William Bolcom’s *A Wedding*. Ms. Cabell made her extremely successful Orchestra Hall debut with the Chicago Symphony in concerts of Tippett’s *A Child of Our Time* with Sir Andrew Davis conducting. She also made her European debut in concerts of Brahms’s *Ein deutsches Requiem* with the Accademia di Santa Cecilia in Rome with

Antonio Pappano and Thomas Hampson; she appeared with the Florida Orchestra as the soprano soloist in Mahler’s Fourth Symphony with the Florida Orchestra and Stefan Sanderling and in Villa-Lobos’s *Bachianas Brasileiras* No. 5 with the Baltimore Symphony. She was also heard in recital in Little Rock, Arkansas.

The preceding year, Ms. Cabell sang Barbarina and covered Susanna in *Le Nozze di Figaro* and appeared as Isabel in *The Pirates of Penzance* at the Lyric Opera, having sung with the same company the role of Crobyle in *Thaïs* in fall 2002. In concert, she made her debut with the Oregon Symphony as the soprano soloist in Mahler’s Symphony No. 2 with Carlos Kalmar and repeated Barbarina with the Chicago Symphony and Daniel Barenboim at the Ravinia Festival. That summer, Ms. Cabell was also heard live on *A Prairie Home Companion* in a celebration of Ravinia’s 50th season and sang the role of Lauretta in *Gianni Schicchi* with the Grant Park Festival.

In concert, Ms. Cabell was a featured soloist in Ravinia’s all-Gershwin concert with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra under the baton of David Alan Miller, and participated in Ravinia’s opening-day concert, accompanied by Welz Kauffman. Ms. Cabell has appeared as a soloist in Chicago’s Grant Park Festival and Lyric Opera Center for American Artists Rising Stars in Concert.

Past roles include La Princesse in Ravel’s *L’Enfant et les Sortilèges*, La Femme in Poulenc’s *La Voix Humaine*, Miss Jessel in *The Turn of the Screw*, Arsamenes in *Xerxes* and La Ciesca in *Gianni Schicchi*.

Her awards include first place in both the Palm Beach Opera Vocal Competition and the Women’s Board of Chicago Vocal Competition. Ms. Cabell was a semi-finalist in the 2005 Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions and earned first place in the American Opera Society competition in Chicago. She is the 2002 winner of the Union League’s Rose M. Grundman Scholarship and the 2002 Farwell Award with the Woman’s Board of Chicago. Nicole Cabell holds a bachelor’s degree in vocal performance from the Eastman School of Music.



Roger Mastroianni

Lacombe, Jahja Ling, Maurice Peress, Klauspeter Seibel, Arjan Tien and Victor Yampolsky. In May 2005, his recital/orchestral tour of South Africa included a performance of the five piano concerti of Beethoven with the Chamber Orchestra of South Africa. Mr. Myer made his debut at the famed festival of the Blossom Music Center during the summer of 2007.

Mr. Myer's recital appearances have been presented in New York City's Weill Recital Hall, the 92nd Street Y and Steinway Hall, Philadelphia's Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts and London's Wigmore Hall, as well as in Chicago, Cincinnati, Fort Worth, Knoxville, Logan and China, while many of his performances have been broadcast on WQXR (New York), WHYY (Philadelphia), WCLV (Cleveland) and WFMT (Chicago). An avid chamber musician, he has also performed with the Blair and Pacifica string quartets. In January 2007, Mr. Myer performed Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* at the Inaugural Festivities of Ohio's Governor Ted Strickland and Lieutenant Governor Lee Fisher.

In 2004, Mr. Myer captured First Prize in the 10th UNISA International Piano Competition in Pretoria, South Africa, as well as special prizes for the best performances of Bach, the commissioned work, the semifinal round recital and both concerto prizes in the final round. He is also a laureate in the 2007 William Kapell, 2005 Cleveland, 2005 Busoni (where he was also awarded the Audience Prize) and 2004 Montreal International Piano Competitions. Winner of the 2006 Christel DeHaan Classical Fellowship from the American Pianists Association, Mr. Myer also received both of the competition's special prizes in Chamber Music and Lieder Accompanying. He is also the winner of the 2000 Marilyn Horne Foundation Competition, and subsequently enjoys a growing reputation as a vocal collaborator. Mr. Myer has been a member of Astral Artistic Services' performance roster since winning that organization's 2003 national auditions.

An enthusiastic supporter of the education of young musicians, Mr. Myer has been a frequent guest artist at workshops for students and teachers, including Indiana's Goshen College Piano Workshop and the Texas Conservatory for Young

Artists in Dallas, and has served on the faculty of the Baldwin-Wallace College Conservatory of Music. He is also an advocate of contemporary music and inter-arts collaboration, and has worked with the Chicago- and New York-based ICE (International Contemporary Ensemble), Indianapolis's Dance Kaleidoscope, Ohio Dance Theatre, New York's New Triad for Collaborative Arts and The Juilliard School's *Composers and Choreographers* series.

Mr. Myer is a graduate of The Juilliard School, where he studied with Julian Martin. His other teachers include Peter Takács, Joseph Schwartz and Christina Dahl. He spent two summers at the Music Academy of the West, studying piano with Jerome Lowenthal and, later, vocal accompanying with Warren Jones and Marilyn Horne. During the

course of his undergraduate studies at the Oberlin Conservatory, he was the recipient of numerous awards from that institution, while, in 2000, he was named a recipient of a four-year Jacob K. Javits Memorial Fellowship from the U.S. Department of Education. His Doctor of Musical Arts degree was conferred by Stony Brook University in 2005.

Spencer Myer can be heard on the Dimension Records label, performing music of the late Cleveland composer Frederick Koch and on a composer-conducted Naxos CD in performances of three concerti from Huang Ruo's *Chamber Concerto Cycle*. His debut CD for Harmonia Mundi USA—music of Busoni, Copland, Debussy and Kohs—was released in fall 2007. Mr. Myer is a Steinway Artist.

Gold Medalist of the 2008 New Orleans International Piano Competition, **Spencer Myer** is garnering stellar audience and critical acclaim from around the globe, rapidly establishing himself as one of the most outstanding pianists of his generation.

Following a summer that included debuts at the Cape Cod Chamber Music Festival and the Meadowlark Music Festival, Mr. Myer's current season is highlighted by debuts with the Bozeman, Knoxville, Richmond (Indiana) and Wyoming symphony orchestras and return engagements with the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra and Southeast Iowa Symphony Orchestra, as well as solo and collaborative recitals throughout the United States.

Mr. Myer's orchestral, recital and chamber music performances have been heard throughout North America, Canada, Europe, Africa and Asia. He has been soloist with the Cleveland Orchestra, the Indianapolis, New Haven, Phoenix and Santa Fe symphonies, the Dayton and Louisiana philharmonics and Beijing's China National Symphony, collaborating with, among others, conductors Nicholas Cleobury, Neal Gittleman, Jacques