

Sunday, October 13, 2024, 3pm
Hertz Hall

Lester Lynch, *baritone*
Kevin Korth, *piano*

PROGRAM

- Amy BEACH (1867–1944) “The Year’s at the Spring” from
Three Browning Songs, Op. 44 (1899–1900)
- Johannes BRAHMS (1833–1897) *Vier Ernste Gesänge*, Op. 121 (1896)
(On texts from the Luther Bible)
Denn es gehet dem Menschen
Ich wandte mich
O Tod, wie bitter bist du
Wenn ich mit Menschen und mit
- Franz SCHUBERT (1797–1828) An Sylvia, D. 891 (1826)
“Das Fischer­mädchen” from
Schwanengesang, D. 957, No. 10
(Op. posth.)
Nacht und Träume, D. 827 (1823)
Erlkönig, D. 328 (1815)

INTERMISSION

- Modest MUSSORGSKY (1839–1881) *Pesni i pljaski smerti (Songs and Dances of Death)*
Kolybel'naya (Lullaby) (1875)
Serenada (Serenade) (1875)
Trepak (Russian Dance) (1875)
Polkovodec (The Field Marshal) (1877)
- Traditional Irish folk song Danny Boy
arr. Gordon Getty (b. 1933)
- Traditional American folk song Shenandoah
arr. Getty
- Traditional Negro spiritual Sweet Home
arr. Dr. Uzee Brown, Jr. (b. 1950)
- Traditional Negro spiritual Joshua Fought the Battle of Jericho
arr. V. Simonson (b. 1974)/
L. Lynch (b. 1968)

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Above: Lester Lynch. Photo by Paul Gulea. **Below:** Kevin Korth. Photo by Corey Weaver.



Lester Lynch (*baritone*) has become recognized for his charismatic portrayals and commanding voice with rave reviews as some of opera's most important characters. In contemporary repertoire, he is known for his portrayals in pieces such as Dallapiccola's *Il Prigioniero*, Busoni's *Doktor Faust*, and Nico Muhly's *The Glitch*, for which he has garnered many accolades.

Lynch made his debut at the renowned Teatro alla Scala singing the role of Crown in *Porgy and Bess* and at the Royal Opera House as Shylock in *The Merchant of Venice*. Other appearances on major stages include Berliner Philharmoniker, Vienna Volksoper, English National Opera, Norway's Bergen National Opera, Semperoper Dresden, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Houston Grand Opera, LA Opera, Seattle Opera, Santa Fe Opera, and San Francisco Opera.

Recent performances include Zemlin-sky's *Symphonische Gesänge* under the baton of Sir Simon Rattle in Munich and Frankfurt, and at Carnegie Hall with the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra. Lynch also appeared as Escamillo in *Carmen* with Edmonton Opera and Bluebeard in a new production of *Bluebeard's Castle* with both the Edinburgh Festival and New Zealand Opera. He made his film debut in November 2021 as Merrivale in Gordon Getty's opera *Goodbye, Mr. Chips*, based on the popular 1934 novella by James Hilton.

Lynch's recording work is featured on Pentatone, and includes performances as Iago in Verdi's *Otello*, Michele in Puccini's *Il Tabarro*, Germont in *La Traviata*, and his 2017 debut solo album, *On My Journey Now*. His just-released *Full Circle* features Mussorgsky's *Songs and Dances of Death* and Brahms' *Vier ernste Gesänge*.

Lynch recently joined the faculty as Professor of Voice of at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music.

As an in-demand recitalist and coach, **Kevin Korth** (*piano*) has collaborated with such legendary artists as Isabel Leonard, Jake Heggie, Nadine Sierra, Frederica von Stade, Anthony Roth Costanzo, Sasha Cooke, Lise Lindstrom, Joel Krosnick, John Holiday, and Deborah Voigt. Praised by *Gramophone* for playing that is "superb" and "full of color and character," his debut album, *Out of the Shadows*, a recording of American art song with soprano Lisa Delan and cellist Matt Haimovitz on the Pentatone Classics label, was warmly received. As an avid interpreter of contemporary work, the album features premieres by Jack Perla, Gordon Getty, and David Garner, in addition to previously unrecorded works by Norman Dello Joio and John Kander. His latest recordings include an album of poet Robinson Jeffers settings by composer Christopher Anderson-Bazzoli with mezzo-soprano Buffy Baggott for the Delos label, and an album of songs by composer David Conte for the Arsis label. Recent performances include recitals for Festival Napa Valley, a concert appearance at Teatro di San Carlo in Naples, a performance for Marilyn Horne's 90th birthday celebration, and a collaboration with jazz legend Dee Dee Bridgewater. Korth currently holds a position on the vocal coaching faculty at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music.