



Tuesday, February 4, 2025, 7:30pm  
Zellerbach Hall

**Lise Davidsen, *soprano***  
**Malcolm Martineau, *piano***

PROGRAM

- Edvard GRIEG (1843–1907)   Dereinst, Gedanke mein, Op. 48, No. 2 (1884)  
Zur Rosenzeit, Op. 48, No. 5 (1884)  
Ein Traum, Op. 48, No. 6 (1884)
- Henry PURCELL (1659–1695)   “Thy Hand, Belinda... Dido’s Lament,”  
from *Dido and Aeneas* (c. mid-1680s)
- Giuseppe VERDI (1813–1901)   “Tu che le vanità,” from *Don Carlo* (1867)
- Richard STRAUSS (1864–1949)   “Es gibt ein Reich,” from *Ariadne auf Naxos*  
(1912)  
Befreit, Op. 39, No. 5 (1897–1898)

INTERMISSION

- Franz SCHUBERT (1797–1828)   Der Tod und das Mädchen, D. 531 (1817)  
Der Zwerg, D. 771 (c. 1822–1823)  
Du bist die Ruh, D. 776 (1823)  
Ellens Gesang III (Ave Maria), D. 839 (1825)
- Richard WAGNER (1813–1883)   “Allmächt’ge Jungfrau,” from *Tannhäuser*  
(1845)  
from *Wesendonck Lieder* (1857–1858)  
Der Engel  
Träume  
“Mild und leise” (“Liebestod”),  
from *Tristan und Isolde* (1857–1859)

*Cal Performances is committed to fostering a welcoming, inclusive, and safe environment for all—  
one that honors our venues as places of respite, openness, and respect.  
Please see the Community Agreements section on our Policies page for more information.*



Norwegian soprano **Lise Davidsen**, “opera’s newest star” (*The Economist*) has taken the classical music world by storm since winning the much coveted Operalia competition in 2015. Her resounding debuts in the most prestigious international venues have garnered overwhelming critical attention: “It’s been a long time since a singer has generated as much buzz,” wrote *Gramophone* in 2019 in its review of her debut album for Decca (which debuted at number one on the UK Classical charts), while in 2023, the *Telegraph* hailed her “the greatest soprano in the world.”

Davidsen opened her 2024–25 season with a much anticipated stage debut as Puccini’s *Tosca*, which she also performed at the Berlin State Opera, Vienna State Opera, Bavarian State Opera, and Metropolitan Opera. Other highlights this season include her return to the Royal Opera & Ballet as Sieglinde in Wagner’s *Die Walküre* in Barrie Kosky’s new Ring Cycle under the baton of Sir Antonio Pappano, a role she also performs in Bayreuth; Beethoven’s *Fidelio* at the Metropolitan Opera; and a further double appearance at the Vienna State Opera as Sieglinde and as the Marschallin in Richard Strauss’ *Der Rosenkavalier*. On the concert platform, Davidsen makes her debut as Isolde in a performance of the second act of Wagner’s *Tristan und Isolde* with the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra and Sir Simon Rattle; and as Senta in Wagner’s *The Flying Dutchman* with the Norwegian National Opera Orchestra and Edward Gardner. Other appearances include a concert with Matthias Goerne at the Gran Teatre del Liceu; Sieglinde in a performance of the first act of *Die Walküre* at the Tyrolean Festival Erl together with Jonas Kaufmann; her return to the Verbier Festival as Santuzza in Mascagni’s *Cavalleria rusticana*; and in recital appearances at the BroadStage Theatre in Los Angeles and at the Gstaad Festival.

Last season’s highlights included her star performance at the Last Night of the Proms;

a sold out solo recital on the stage of Metropolitan Opera; her triumphant company and role debut as Salome at the Opéra national de Paris; the much-coveted Summer Night Concert in Vienna together with the Vienna Philharmonic and Andris Nelsons before an audience of more than 100,000 people; a new production of Verdi’s *La forza del destino* at the Metropolitan Opera; and her Carnegie Hall debut with Wagner’s *Wesendonck Lieder* with the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra and Yannick Nézet-Séguin. Audiences around the world saw her in recital at the Vienna State Opera, Teatro de Zarzuela in Madrid, Wigmore Hall in London, Palau de les Arts Reina Sofia in Valencia, Gran Teatre del Liceu, and the Salzburg Easter Festival.

One of the most in-demand vocalists today, Davidsen regularly appears on such renowned stages such as the Metropolitan Opera (The Marschallin in *Der Rosenkavalier*, Eva in Wagner’s *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*, Lisa in *The Queen of Spades*, and the title role in Richard Strauss’ *Ariadne auf Naxos* and Chrysothemis in the composer’s *Elektra*; Royal Ballet & Opera, London (Elisabetta in Verdi’s *Don Carlo*, Elisabeth in Wagner’s *Tannhäuser*, and Leonore in *Fidelio*); Vienna State Opera (Sieglinde in *Die Walküre*, Ellen Orford in Britten’s *Peter Grimes*, *Ariadne auf Naxos*); Gran Teatre del Liceu, Barcelona (Giorgetta in *Il Tabarro*); Lyric Opera of Chicago (Janáček’s *Jenůfa*); Deutsche Oper Berlin; Bavarian State Opera; and Berlin State Opera (Elisabeth in *Tannhäuser*); Bayreuth Festival (Elisabeth in *Tannhäuser* and Sieglinde in the new Ring Cycle); Glyndebourne Festival (*Ariadne auf Naxos*); Festival d’Aix-en-Provence (*Ariadne auf Naxos*), and Teatro alla Scala Milan, where she reopened the theater after the Covid closure with a solo concert under the baton of Maestro Riccardo Chailly.

A multifaceted artist, Davidsen regularly performs with orchestras such as the Orchestre de Paris, Vienna Philharmonic, Oslo Philharmonic, London Philharmonic Or-

chestra and Philharmonia; Berliner Philharmoniker and Berliner Staatskapelle, to name a few, and she is also a dedicated recitalist. Davidsen has also held artistic residencies at the Barbican in London, Bergen International Festival, and with the Bergen Philharmonic Orchestra.

An exclusive Decca artist, her discography includes two solo orchestral recitals (*Lise Davidsen* and *Beethoven–Wagner–Verdi*); *Christmas From Norway*, which she toured across that country in December 2023; Grieg songs together with fellow Norwegian Leif Ove Andsnes; and the Grammy-nominated Concert for Ukraine together with the Metropolitan Opera. She has also recorded *Fidelio* and Weber's *Der Freischütz* on Pentatone and Sibelius' *Luonnotar* on Chandos.

Davidsen has graced the covers of numerous publications and her many prizes and awards include the 2022 *Opera News Awards*, 2021 Female Singer of the Year from the International Opera Awards, 2018 *Gramophone* Young Artist of the Year Award, Statoil Talent Bursary Award, Léonie Sonning Music Prize, and the 2015 Kirstin Flagstad Award. In August 2020, she was one of the first artists featured by the Metropolitan Opera as part of its celebrated Met Stars Live in Concert series. In 2021, the Norwegian Opera Company released the feature film *Lise*, set to music by Richard Strauss.

A 2014 graduate of the Opera Academy in Copenhagen, Davidsen studied under Susanna Eken, having previously earned a degree from the Grieg Academy of Music in Bergen. In 2015, she won both the Operalia and the Queen Sonja competitions. Her breakthrough performances won her the First Prize, the Birgit Nilsson Award, and the Audience Prize at the Operalia competition in London as well as the prize for the best performance of Norwegian music and the Ingrid Bjoner Scholarship at the Queen Sonja International Music Competition.

Lise Davidsen is represented by MWA worldwide.

Recognized at the highest international level as one of the UK's leading accompanists, **Malcolm Martineau** has performed worldwide alongside the world's greatest singers, including Sir Thomas Allen, Dame Janet Baker, Florian Boesch, Angela Gheorghiu, Susan Graham, Thomas Hampson, Sir Simon Keenlyside, Angelika Kirchschlager, Dame Felicity Lott, Anne Sofie von Otter, Günther Groissböck, and Sonya Yoncheva.

He has appeared at the world's principal venues including Alice Tully Hall, Barbican Centre, Berlin State Opera, Carnegie Hall, Concertgebouw, Gran Theatre del Liceu, Mariinsky Theatre, Metropolitan Opera, Paris Opera and Salle Gaveau, Royal Opera House, La Scala, Sydney Opera House, Teatro Real, Salzburg Mozarteum, Suntory Hall Tokyo, Vienna's Konzerthaus, Musikverein and State Opera, Walt Disney Hall, Wigmore Hall, and Zurich Opera, among others. Martineau has also appeared at the Aix-en-Provence, Vienna, and Salzburg festivals. He has presented his own series at the Wigmore Hall and at the Edinburgh Festival.

As a prolific recording artist, Martineau's discography of over 100 CDs includes the following Award-winning recordings: *The Vagabond* with Sir Bryn Terfel (*Gramophone* Award), *Songs of War* with Sir Simon Keenlyside (Grammy and *Gramophone* awards), Schumann and Mahler lieder with Florian Boesch (*BBC Music Magazine* Award), Mahler lieder with Christiane Karg (Diapason d'or), and *El Nour* with Fatma Said (*Gramophone* Award).

Highlights this season include recitals with Sonya Yoncheva, Elina Garanča, Sir Simon Keenlyside, Florian Boesch, Erin Morley, Fatma Said, and Patricia Nolz.

Martineau is a professor of piano accompaniment at the Royal Academy of Music and Honorary Doctor and International Fellow of Accompaniment at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. He was made an OBE in the 2016 New Year's Honors List for his services to music and young singers.