



Sunday, September 27, 2026, 3pm
Hertz Hall

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

with
René Mandel, *violin*
Florin Parvulescu, *violin*
Katarzyna Bryla, *viola*
Anne Richardson, *cello*

PROGRAM

Samuel BARBER (1910-1981) *Dover Beach*, Op. 3 (1931)

featuring
René Mandel, *violin*
Florin Parvulescu, *violin*
Kaya Bryla, *viola*
Anne Richardson, *cello*

Franz SCHUBERT (1797-1828) Selected Songs
An Silvia, Op. 106, No. 4, D. 891 (1826)
"Das Fischermädchen" from
Schwanengesang, No. 10, D. 957 (1828)
"Kriegers Ahnung" from
Schwanengesang, No. 2, D. 957 (1828)
Litanei auf das Fest Aller Seelen, D. 343 (1816)
Der Erlkönig, Op. 1, D. 328 (1815)

Giuseppe VERDI (1813-1901) "Pari Siamo" from *Rigoletto* (1850-1851)

Giacomo PUCCINI (1858-1924) "Te Deum" from *Tosca* (1898)

INTERMISSION

Gustav MAHLER (1860–1911)	<i>Rückert Lieder</i> (1901–1902) Ich atmet' einen linden Duft Blicke mir nicht in die Lieder! Liebst du um Schönheit Ich bin der Welt abhanden gekommen Um Mitternacht
arr. Gordon GETTY (b. 1933)	O Danny Boy (Traditional Irish) Shenandoah (Traditional American)
Dr. Uzee BROWN, Jr. (b. 1950)	Sweet Home (Traditional Spiritual)
arr. Victor SIMONSON/ Lester LYNCH	Joshua Fought the Battle of Jericho (Traditional Spiritual)

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ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Lester Lynch is a globally recognized baritone celebrated for his rich, powerful voice and commanding stage presence. Originally from Ohio, Lynch's journey began in a church choir before he pursued formal training at Baldwin Wallace University, the New England Conservatory of Music, and the Juilliard School. Over a distinguished 30-year career, he has performed at premier venues including Teatro alla Scala, the Royal Opera House, San Francisco Opera, Lyric Opera Chicago, Houston Grand Opera, and with the Berlin Philharmoniker. His vast repertoire features iconic roles such as Conte Di Luna in *Il Trovatore*, Tonio in *Pagliacci*, Wotan in *Das Rheingold*, Porgy in *Porgy and Bess*, Iago in *Otello*, and the title roles in *Macbeth*, *Rigoletto*, *Nabucco*, and *Doktor Faust*.

As an accomplished concert artist, Lynch has collaborated with the New York Philharmonic and the Cleveland Orchestra, among many others. An exclusive Pentatone recording artist, his discography includes major Verdi and Puccini operas alongside his solo album, *On My Journey Now: Spirituals and Hymns*. In 2024, he joined the faculty of the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, where

he channels his extensive stage experience into mentoring the next generation of musicians. His dedication to education is further reflected in his master classes at institutions like Oberlin College, Washington University, and Temple University.

Lynch's recent and upcoming engagements include an appearance with the Young People's Chorus of New York City for an MLK celebration, the title role in *Bluebeard's Castle* with New Zealand Opera, and highly anticipated concerts with Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra of Elgar's *The Dream of Gerontius* under Sir Simon Rattle.

Beyond his musical achievements, Lynch is a recipient of the Metropolitan Opera National Council and George London Foundation awards.

Kevin Korth, an in-demand recitalist, coach, and pianist, has collaborated with such legendary artists as Isabel Leonard, Jake Heggie, Nadine Sierra, Frederica von Stade, Anthony Roth Costanzo, Sasha Cooke, Davóne Tines, 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 songs 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 and David Garner, in addition to previously unrecorded works by Norman Dello Joio and John Kander. Last fall brought the release of Korth's newest album for the Pentatone Label, a collection of chamber music by composer David Conte. Other recent recordings include an album of Brahms, Mussorgsky, and Schubert songs with baritone Lester Lynch for Pentatone, and an album of Robinson Jeffers settings by composer Christopher Anderson-Bazzoli with mezzo-soprano Buffy Baggott for the Delos label. A frequent recital artist for Festival Napa Valley, other recent performances include a concert appearance at Teatro di San Carlo in Naples, a concert 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.

Violinist **René Mandel** has built a career spanning orchestral performance, chamber music, and arts leadership. He performed with the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra from 1983 to 1994 and was a founding member and the principal second violinist of the New Century Chamber Orchestra. Mandel has appeared with numerous orchestras, and from 1985 to 2009 worked extensively in Hollywood film, television, and recording sessions. He has also held prominent arts management posts, including Executive and Artistic Director of the Berkeley Symphony and Director of Artistic Operations and Executive Producer of the Montreal Symphony Orchestra.

Violinist **Florin Parvulescu** was a member of the St. Louis Symphony from 1996 to 1998. In 1998, he joined the San Francisco Symphony. He has appeared as a soloist and chamber musician at many recital series, both in this country and internationally, and as a soloist with the Xiamen Philharmonic in 2009 and 2010. Parvulescu has played chamber music concerts with pianists Kiril Gerstein and Anton Nel, and performed Thomas Ades' Piano Quintet with the composer at the piano.

Violist **Katarzyna Bryla** joined the San Francisco Symphony viola section beginning with the 2022–2023 season. In 2019, she became a member of St. Luke's Chamber Ensemble and a co-principal violist with Orchestra of St. Luke's in New York City. She was also a member of the New York City Ballet Orchestra and the New York Pops. Bryla was a soloist with the Baltimore Chamber Orchestra during its tour of China in 2010, and was soloist for the noted Maazel/Vilar Conducting Competition in Cracow in 2001. She has performed at numerous renowned music festivals and her teachers include Christian Tetzlaff, David Cerutti, Herbert Greenberg, Hongang Li, Jadwiga Kaliszewska, and her father, Bartosz Bryla.

Anne Richardson is Associate Principal Cello of the San Francisco Symphony, a position she has held since 2024. She made her Lincoln Center solo debut at the age of 19 with the Juilliard Orchestra at David Geffen Hall. As a soloist, she has also appeared with several American orchestras and at various music festival and has performed extensively as a chamber musician. A native of Louisville, Kentucky, Richardson was previously an academy fellow with the Bavarian Radio Symphony in Munich, Germany, and has performed with the Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, Mainly Mozart Orchestra, Verbier Festival Orchestra, and Pittsburgh Symphony.