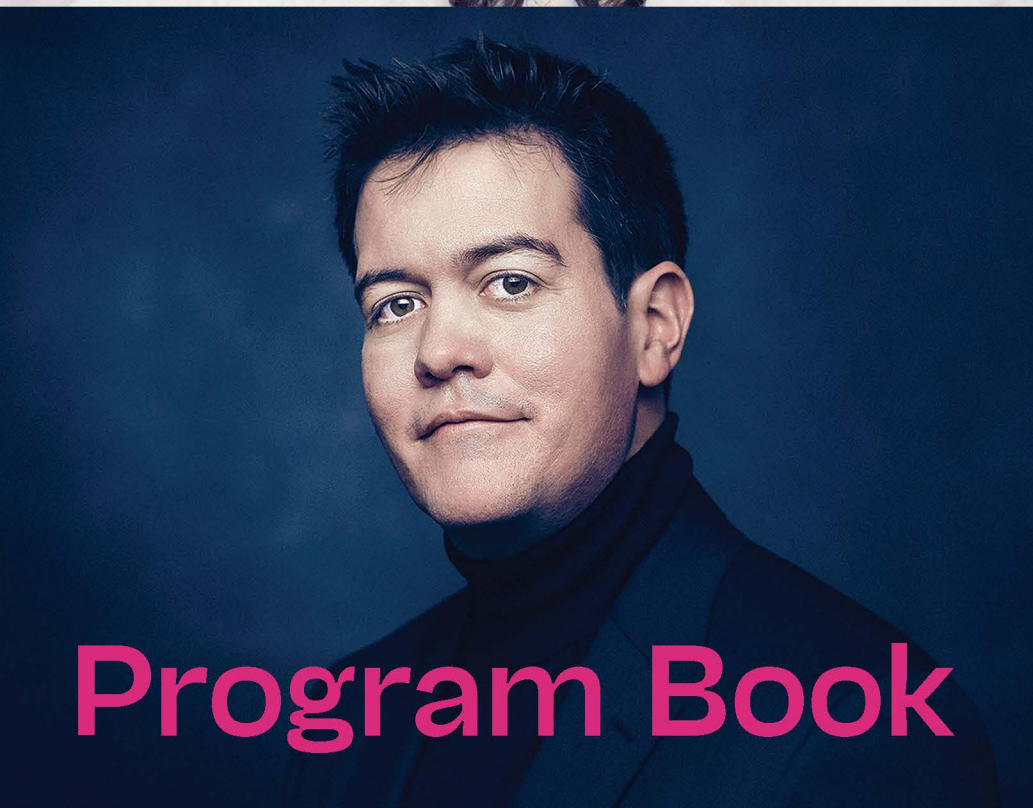




Program Book

Thursday, November 19, 2026, 7:30pm
Zellerbach Hall

Lise Davidsen, *soprano*
James Baillieu, *piano*

PROGRAM

Richard STRAUSS (1864–1949)	"Cäcilie," from 4 Lieder, Op. 27 (1894)
Johann Sebastian BACH (1685–1750)/ Charles GOUNOD (1818–1893)	Ave Maria (1859)
Max REGER (1873–1916)	Maria Wiegenlied (1903)
Traditional (German carol sung in Norwegian)	Det Hev ei rose sprunge
Richard WAGNER (1813–1883)	*Wesendonck Lieder* (1857–58) Der Engel Stehe still! Im Treibhaus Schmerzen Träume

INTERMISSION

Felix MENDELSSOHN (1809–1847) arr. Douglas	Hark! The Herald Angel Sing
Traditional arr. Henderson	The First Noel
Franz Xaver GRUBER (1787–1863)	Silent Night (1818)
BACH	Jesu bleibet meine Freude (1723)
Traditional	O Come, All Ye Faithful (c. 1743-44)
Traditional	Mitt hjerte alltid vanker
Giuseppe VERDI (1813–1901)	"Ave Maria," from *Otello*
Traditional	Deilig er jorden
Traditional	Auld Lang Syne
Adolphe ADAM (1803–1856)	O Helga natt (1847)

Major support for this performance is provided by Priscilla and Keith Geeslin.
This performance is made possible in part by the Norway House Foundation.

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Norwegian soprano **Lise Davidsen**, hailed as "a one-in-a-million voice" and "the outstanding Wagner soprano of her generation" (*Financial Times*), regularly performs at the world's leading opera houses, festivals and concert halls.

Highlights of Davidsen's 2026–27 season include opening the Metropolitan Opera's season with her staged role debut as Lady Macbeth in *Macbeth* in a new production; her highly anticipated role debut as Brünnhilde in *Die Walküre* at the Salzburg Easter Festival as part of their new Ring cycle, with further performances in Berlin and concert highlights at the Palau de les Arts Reina Sofía; Leonora in *La forza del destino* at the Staatsoper Berlin; and Elisabetta in *Don Carlo* at Zurich Opera House. Her concert appearances include a charity event with the Ukrainian Freedom Orchestra at David Geffen Hall in New York, a star-studded 60th anniversary gala at the Metropolitan Opera, an open-air concert at the Zurich Opera House, and Tove in Schoenberg's *Gurre-Lieder* at the Norwegian National Opera. Davidsen embarks on the final leg of her Schubert recital tour with James Baillieu, with appearances at the Schubert Club International Artist Series, Wiener Musikverein, Zurich Opera House, Grand Théâtre de Genève and Paris Opera. Further highlights include the anticipated *Christmas with Lise Davidsen* arena concerts at the DNB Arena in Stavanger and at the Oslo Spektrum.

Recent successes include her Isolde debut at the Gran Teatre del Liceu and subsequent Metropolitan Opera performances, Lady Macbeth in concert with Sir Antonio Pappano, Leonore in *Fidelio* at the Met, and Tosca in Vienna, Munich, Berlin, and New York.

Davidsen's concert highlights include the Last Night of the BBC Proms, Vienna's Summer Night Concert with the Vienna Philharmonic, and a sold-out solo recital at the Metropolitan Opera. She has held artistic residencies at London's Barbican, the Bergen International Festival, and with the Bergen Philharmonic Orchestra.

An exclusive Decca artist, Davidsen released *Verdi* in September 2026 with the London Philharmonic Orchestra. Her recordings also include *Live at the Met* with Baillieu, *Der fliegende Holländer*, Strauss' *Four Last Songs*, Grieg songs with Andsnes, and a bestselling Christmas album.

Described as "in a class of his own" (*The Daily Telegraph*), **James Baillieu** is one of the leading song and chamber music pianists of his generation. Born in South Africa, he studied at the University of Cape Town and Royal Academy of Music in London, finding his natural musical home in collaboration, where storytelling and shared interpretation lie at the heart of his work.

Baillieu performs worldwide with leading singers and instrumentalists, including Benjamin Appl, Jamie Barton, Ian Bostridge, Allan Clayton, Louise Alder, Dame Kiri Te Kanawa, Timothy Ridout, Adam Walker, and Pretty Yende. Highlights of the 2026–27 season include extensive European and US tours with Lise Davidsen, a US tour with Benjamin Appl, his Taiwanese debut at the Kaohsiung Festival with Timothy Ridout, and several appearances at Wigmore Hall.

An imaginative programmer, Baillieu has curated festivals and series for Wigmore Hall, BBC Radio 3, and the Verbier and Brighton festivals. He is a frequent guest at Carnegie Hall and the Concertgebouw, Vienna Musikverein and Konzerthaus, Berlin Konzerthaus, Pierre Boulez Saal, and Barbican; and at festivals including Aix-en-Provence, Edinburgh, and Aldeburgh. Baillieu's own Wigmore Hall series was shortlisted for the Royal Philharmonic Society's Chamber Music and Song Award.

Baillieu is Associate Director of the Britten Pears Young Artist Program, Senior Professor at the Royal Academy of Music, and Head of the Song Program at the Verbier Festival Academy. His award-winning discography includes *Forbidden Fruit*, *Winterreise* and *Heimat* with Benjamin Appl, and C. P. E. Bach's complete original works for violin and keyboard with Tamsin Waley-Cohen.