SAN FRANCISCO
OPERA CENTER

# 2013 SCHWABACHER DEBUT RECITALS CONTINUE ON APRIL 21 WITH *FROM BEL CANTO TO CAN BELTO: SONGS BY ITALIANS AND ITALIAN-AMERICANS* PRESENTED BY NEW YORK FESTIVAL OF SONG'S STEVEN BLIER

## WITH ADLER FELLOWS MARINA HARRIS, LAURA KRUMM, A.J. GLUECKERT AND HADLEIGH ADAMS

SAN FRANCISCO (April 3, 2013)—The 31st season of the Schwabacher Debut Recitals continues on Sunday, April 21, 2013 at 5:30 p.m. with New York Festival of Song's Steven Blier presenting *From Bel Canto to Can Belto: Songs by Italians and Italian-Americans.* Blier will be joined on stage by current Adler Fellows Marina Harris (soprano), Laura Krumm (mezzo-soprano), A.J. Glueckert (tenor) and Hadleigh Adams (bass-baritone). The Schwabacher Debut Recitals are presented by San Francisco Opera Center and the Merola Opera Program.

The program features arias from Italian masters such as Gaetano Donizetti's duet from *Linda di Chamounix,* Giuseppe Verdi's *In solitaria stanza* and Franco Alfano's *Non nascondere il secreto*. The program will also include works by contemporary Italian-American composers including John Musto's "Nude at the Piano" and "Some Last Thoughts," Dominick Argento's "Spring," Norman Dello Joio's "There is a Lady Sweet and Kind" and Harry Warren's "I Only Have Eyes For You."

New York Festival of Song's artistic director and an eminent accompanist and vocal coach, Steven Blier co-founded the Festival in 1988. Since New York Festival of Song's inception, Blier has programmed, performed, translated and annotated more than 130 vocal recitals with repertoire spanning the entire range of American song, as well as art song from Schubert to Szymanowski and early vaudeville to Lennon-McCartney. Blier is on the faculty of the Juilliard School and has been active in encouraging young recitalists at summer programs, including the Wolf Trap Opera Company and the San Francisco Opera Center.

Second year Adler Fellow, Marina Harris made her San Francisco Opera debut in the March 2013 world premiere of *The Secret Garden*. The soprano was also chosen as a Western Regional Finalist for the Metropolitan Opera National Council auditions in 2010 and was the second place winner in the Finals. Mezzo-soprano Laura Krumm, also a second-year Adler Fellow, made her San Francisco Opera debut as Countess Ceprano in this fall's *Rigoletto* and created the role of Martha Sowerby in *The Secret Garden.* A.J. Glueckert is a first-year Adler Fellow and an alumnus of the 2012 Merola Opera Program, where he performed Mr. Owen in Argento's *Postcard from Morocco*. The tenor is also a two-time winner of the regional Metropolitan Opera National Auditions and appeared as the Drum Major in *Wozzeck* with San Francisco's Ensemble Parallèle in 2010. Bass-baritone Hadleigh Adams, a first year-Adler Fellow, made his debut with London's Royal National Theatre in 2011 as Christ in Bach's *St. Matthew Passion*. The New Zealand native was a member of New Zealand Opera from 2004 to 2008 and performed frequently as an oratorio soloist.

The Schwabacher Debut Recitals are endowed in perpetuity by the generosity of the late James Schwabacher and are sponsored by the Jack H. Lund Charitable Trust.

A celebrated Bay Area singer, recitalist, scholar and teacher, Schwabacher was a co-founder of the Merola Opera Program. The Schwabacher Debut Recitals have introduced the artistry of internationally recognized artists, including Susan Graham, Anna Netrebko, Deborah Voigt, Brian Asawa and Thomas Hampson. The recitals offer a rare opportunity to hear a wealth of song literature ranging from Baroque masterpieces and Romantic-era classics to newly commissioned works, all performed by gifted young artists in an intimate setting.

## Tickets & Information

All performances take place at Temple Emanu-El's Martin Meyer Sanctuary (Two Lake Street, at Arguello, in San Francisco). Single tickets for the Schwabacher Debut Recitals are $25; a three-recital subscription is $50. Tickets may be purchased by calling the San Francisco Opera Box Office (Mon. 10 am-5 pm, Tues.-Sat. 10 am-6 pm) at (415) 864-3330. Student Rush tickets are available for $15 at Temple Emanu-El 30 minutes prior to each recital (limit of two tickets per person; valid ID is required; subject to availability). Casting, programs, schedules and ticket prices are subject to change.

**2013 Schwabacher Debut Recitals**
**Presented by San Francisco Opera Center and the Merola Opera Program**
**Temple Emanu-El's Martin Meyer Sanctuary**
**2 Lake Street, San Francisco**

**Sunday, April 21, 5:30 p.m.**
**Steven Blier, piano**
**Marina Harris, soprano**
**Laura Krumm, mezzo-soprano**
**A.J. Glueckert, tenor**
**Hadleigh Adams, bass-baritone**
*From Bel Canto to Can Belto: Songs by Italians and Italian-Americans* presented by New York Festival of Song's Steven Blier with Marina Harris, Laura Krumm, A.J. Glueckert and Hadleigh Adams.

**Upcoming Schwabacher Debut Recitals**

**PROGRAM 1**: **Sunday, April 7, 5:30 p.m.**
**Philippe Sly, bass-baritone**
**Sun Ha Yoon, piano**
Bass-baritone and current Adler Fellow Philip Sly along with accompanist and Adler Fellow Sun Ha Yoon perform works by Duparc, Ravel, Ropartz, Schubert and Mahler.

**Sunday, May 5, 5:30 p.m**.
**Sarah Mesko, mezzo-soprano**
**Theo Lebow, tenor**
**Robert Mollicone, piano**
Mezzo-soprano Sarah Mesko and tenor Lebow with accompaniment by current Adler Fellow Robert Mollicone will perform works by Tchaikovsky, Britten and selections from Dvořák's *Gypsy Songs.*

## About the Artists

**Steven Blier** is artistic director of the New York Festival of Song (NYFOS), which he co-founded in 1988 with Michael Barrett. Since the Festival's inception, Blier has programmed, performed, translated and annotated more than 130 vocal recitals with repertoire spanning the entire range of American song, art song from Schubert to Szymanowski, and popular song from early vaudeville to Lennon-McCartney. NYFOS has also made in-depth explorations of music from Spain, Latin America, Scandinavia and Russia. Blier enjoys an eminent career as an accompanist and vocal coach. His recital partners have included Renée Fleming, Cecilia Bartoli, Samuel Ramey, Lorraine Hunt Lieberson, Susan Graham, Jessye Norman, and José van Dam in venues ranging from Carnegie Hall to Milan's La Scala. He is also on the faculty of the Juilliard School and has been active in encouraging young recitalists at summer programs, including the Wolf Trap Opera Company, Santa Fe Opera, and the San Francisco Opera Center. In keeping the traditions of American music alive, Mr. Blier has brought back to the stage many of the rarely heard songs of George Gershwin, Harold Arlen, Kurt Weill and Cole Porter. He has also played ragtime,

blues and stride piano evenings with John Musto. A champion of American art song, he has premiered works of John Corigliano, Paul Moravec, Ned Rorem, William Bolcom, John Musto, Richard Danielpour, Tobias Picker, Robert Beaser, Lowell Liebermann, Harold Meltzer, Lee Hoiby, and Mark Adamo, many of which were commissioned by NYFOS. His extensive discography includes the premiere recording of Leonard Bernstein's Arias and Barcarolles (Koch International), which won a Grammy Award.

**Marina Harris**, a second-year Adler Fellow, is a soprano from Los Angeles, California. She is an alumna of the 2011 Merola Opera Program, where she performed the role of Berta in *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*. A three time soloist with the Los Angeles Bach Festival, she has performed works such *Magnificat, Johannes-Passion,* and *Wachet, betet!* with the Festival Orchestra and Choir. In 2010, Harris was chosen as a Western Regional Finalist for the Metropolitan Opera National Council auditions and was the second place winner in the Finals. She was also a Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions Regional Finalist in 2009, and took home the Special Encouragement Award. Harris was selected as an Encouragement Award Winner at the Marilyn Horne Foundation Vocal Competition in 2010 for her performance of art song repertoire. Harris recently made her San Francisco Opera debut in the role of Susan Sowerby in the world premiere of Nolan Gasser and Carey Harrison's *The Secret Garden.*

A native of Iowa City, Iowa, mezzo-soprano **Laura Krumm** is a second-year Adler Fellow who made her San Francisco Opera debut in this fall's *Rigoletto* and created the role of Martha Sowerby in the March 2013 world premiere of Nolan Gasser and Carey Harrison's *The Secret Garden.* As a master's student at the University of North Texas, she was awarded the Bill and Margo Winspear Award and was winner of the 2011 Concerto Competition. Her recent repertoire includes Charlotte (*Werther*), Sesto (*La Clemenza di Tito*), Cherubino (*Le Nozze di Figaro*), Prince Orlofsky (*Die Fledermaus*), and the Second Lady (*Die Zauberflöte*). As a 2011 participant of the Merola Opera Program she was featured in scenes from *I Capuleti e i Montecchi* and *Rigoletto*. She has performed with La Musica Lirica in Novafeltria, Italy and OperaWorks in Los Angeles, and she was a finalist in the 2011 Dallas Opera Guild Competition.

Tenor **A.J. Glueckert** is a first-year Adler Fellow hailing from Portland, Oregon. He is an alumnus of the 2012 Merola Opera Program, where he performed Mr. Owen in Argento's *Postcard from Morocco.* As a resident artist with Minnesota Opera, he performed Arturo (*Lucia di Lammermoor*) and created the role of the Crown Prince in the world premiere of Puts's *Silent Night.* He is also a graduate of the young artists programs at the Santa Fe Opera and Utah Opera. A two-time winner of the regional Metropolitan Opera National Auditions, he holds a degree from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music and appeared as the Drum Major (*Wozzeck*) with San Francisco's Ensemble Parallèle.

Bass-baritone **Hadleigh Adams** is a first-year Adler Fellow and graduate of the 2012 Merola Opera Program. The New Zealand native was a member of New Zealand Opera from 2004 to 2008 and performed frequently as an oratorio soloist. He made his debut with London's Royal National Theatre in 2011 as Christ in Bach's *St. Matthew Passion.* Awards include a 2010 Joan Sutherland & Richard Bonynge Scholarship and first runner-up in the Australian Singing Competition. Upcoming engagements include Pollux (Rameau's *Castor et Pollux*) with Pinchgut Opera.

## About San Francisco Opera Center and Merola Opera Program

San Francisco Opera Center was created in 1982 by then-General Director Terence A. McEwen to oversee the operation and administration of the education and training programs initiated by Kurt Herbert Adler in 1954. Providing a coordinated sequence of performance and study opportunities for young artists, San Francisco Opera Center represents a new era in which young artists of major operatic potential can develop through intensive training and performance, under the aegis of a major international opera company. Now under the guidance of its fourth director, Sheri Greenawald, and San Francisco Opera General Director David Gockley, the Opera Center has trained and introduced many young stars from around the world to the international opera stage through its resident artist programs.

Initially founded as the San Francisco Opera/Affiliate Artists program in 1977, the Adler Fellowship Program is one of the nation's most prestigious performance-oriented residencies for the most advanced young singers and coach/accompanists. Each year, Adler Fellows are sponsored by individual donors to help cover the cost of their fellowship, and sponsors affiliated with the Adler Program have the opportunity to attend private studio classes with the Fellows and develop nurturing relationships with them. Alumni from the Adler Fellowship Program include sopranos Laura Claycomb, Nicolle Foland, Nancy Gustafson, Mary Mills, Patricia Racette, Ruth Ann Swenson and Deborah Voigt; mezzo-sopranos Zheng Cao and Dolora Zajick; countertenor Brian Asawa; baritones Mark Delavan and David Okerlund; and bass-baritones Monte Pederson and John Relyea.

One of the oldest and most acclaimed training programs of its kind, the Merola Opera Program for aspiring opera professionals offers up-and-coming singers, coach-accompanists and stage directors the opportunity of intense study and performance during an eleven-week summer program. Named for San Francisco Opera's first general director, Gaetano Merola, the program began during the 1954–55 Season and established its full training program in 1957. Alumni of the program include Joyce DiDonato, Sylvia McNair, Anna Netrebko, Patricia Racette, Ruth Ann Swenson, Carol Vaness, Deborah Voigt, Susan Graham, Dolora Zajick, Brian Asawa, Thomas Hampson, Rolando Villazón, and Patrick Summers. An independent non-profit organization, the Merola Opera Program operates in collaboration with San Francisco Opera Center and San Francisco Opera.

For more information on the San Francisco Opera Center and the Adler Fellowship and Merola Opera Program, visit sfopera.com and merola.org.

– SFO –

This press release and downloadable Schwabacher Debut Recital artist photographs are available at sfopera.com/press. For further press information, please contact:

San Francisco Opera Communications
Gelane Pearson [415.565.6470 / gpearson@sfopera.com]
Robin Freeman [415.565.6451 / rfreeman@sfopera.com]