

The Black Dog Steals

Joel Balzun, baritone
Kevin Garnica, piano

Saturday, January 14, 2023

7:30PM

Medley: As by the streames of Babilon...Author of Light

Thomas Campion (1567-1620)

Var det en dröm?, op. 37 no. 4

Jean Sibelius (1865-1957)

Dolce far niente, op. 61 no. 6

Drömmen, op. 13 no. 5

När jag drömmer..., op. 61 no. 3

Sommarnatten, op. 90 no. 5

An die Musik, D. 547

Franz Schubert (1792-1828)

Der Musikant (from *Eichendorff-Lieder*)

Hugo Wolf (1860-1903)

Der Sänger (from *Göthe-Lieder*)

Abschied (from *Mörrike-Lieder*)

INTERMISSION

Attente (Au pays de Provence)

Cécile Chaminade (1857-1944)

Chanson groënlandaise

Espoir

Tom Cipullo (b. 1950)

Black Dog

I. Performance

II. Interlude I: Fragment from Aristotle

III. A Reticence

IV. Interlude II: Fragment from William Blake

V. Panic Attack

VI. Interlude III: Fragment from Rilke

VII. Predawn in Health

But The World Goes 'Round

John Kander (b. 1927)

ABOUT THE ARTISTS



Praised as a "mature artist with a voluminous sound," baritone and composer **Joel Balzun** is establishing himself as a mature new voice in the future of music. His multi-faceted career has already led him to work with some of the world's most respected musicians and ensembles. Highlights of his 2022-2023 season include Marcello (*La bohème*) with Pacific Opera Project, the title role in Don Giovanni with West Bay Opera, his role debut as Scarpia (*Tosca*) with South Coast Symphony and the world premiere of *Arkhipov* with Jacaranda Ensemble. This summer, he joins the Apprentice Singer Program at Santa Fe Opera. The 2021-2022 season included his role and house debut as Giorgio Germont (*La traviata*) with Opera Santa Barbara, works of Ralph Vaughan Williams with San Luis Obispo Master Chorale and numerous recitals featuring the world premiere of *Black Dog* Tom Cipullo throughout Southern California. He was also named the winner of the 2021 Fulham Opera Robert Presley Memorial Verdi Prize, and prize-winner in Metropolitan Opera Laffont Competition (Los Angeles District and Western Region), Pasadena Vocal Competition and NATS Artist Awards, in addition to being a finalist in Orchestre symphonique de Montréal Concours.

In addition to his composition and performance activities, Mr. Balzun is a devoted and enthusiastic teacher. He has held teaching posts at Biola University, Fullerton College and Pepperdine University, in addition to teaching assistantships at University of Rochester and University of Southern California. He is frequently invited to present masterclasses to high schools and universities in Southern California and has taught for the Young Professional Artists Program at Pittsburgh Festival Opera. Recent masterclass presentations include those through the CS Music Convention and through events sponsored by National Association of Teachers of Singing, of which Mr. Balzun is an active member.

Mr. Balzun earned his Master's degree in Vocal Performance and Literature from Eastman School of Music under the tutelage of Jan Opalach and Benton Hess. He is an alum of the young artist programs of Opera Saratoga, Pittsburgh Festival Opera, Tanglewood Music Center and the Ravinia Steans Music Institute. He is grateful for the mentorship he has received from his teachers and coaches past present, including Reid Bruton, Jane Eaglen, Walter Huff, William Lock, Anthony Manoli, Brent McMunn, Lucas Meachem, Michelle Minke, Judith Natalucci, Laurie Rogers and Sanford Sylvan.

Pianist and composer **Kevin Garnica** is an active musician in the LA area. He received his Bachelors in Piano Performance and Masters in Music Composition from California State University, Fullerton, where he studied with Eduardo Delgado and the late Dr. Lloyd Rogers, respectively. As an undergraduate, he was awarded top prize in his class, and his chamber cantata based on the story of Joan of Arc, *Jehanne the Maiden*, was awarded Outstanding Graduate



Composition. He received his Doctorate of Music in Collaborative Piano from the University of Texas, Austin, with a full scholarship, under the tutelage of Anne Epperson.

In 1995, Garnica became one of the youngest winners of the ASCAP Composition Competition when his piano piece, Sonata for Scriabin, was chosen from over five-hundred entries. He was also awarded the John Williams Grant for composition. He is an alum of the NATS Mentoring Program for Composers, working with Steven Mark Kohn. His song, *The World of Flying Saucers*, was premiered by Cincinnati Song Initiative. He was also a finalist for the 2018 NATS Art Song Composition Award with his extended song *O Magnet-South*.

He has performed as a soloist throughout the United States, Central- and South-America, and Europe. As a chamber musician, He has performed with members of the Los Angeles Philharmonic, including Concertmaster Martin Chalifour, the Pacific Symphony, The Metropolitan Opera, Los Angeles Master Chorale and Pacific Chorale. Currently, he teaches at the Orange County Music & Dance Academy.

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