



Johane Ansell *soprano*
Erica Iris Huang *mezzo*
Christopher Enns *tenor*
James Baldwin *baritone*

Stephen Ralls &
Bruce Ubukata *piano*

THE ALDEBURGH CONNECTION

Discovery Series - ¡ESPAÑA!

March 28, 2010

ABOUT THE ALDEBURGH CONNECTION - Aldeburgh is the small town on the east coast of England where Benjamin Britten, Peter Pears and Eric Crozier founded the Festival of Music which flourishes to this day. **Stephen Ralls** and **Bruce Ubukata** have visited and worked there for many summers, together with many of the singers who appear with the Aldeburgh Connection.

The **Discovery Series** presents talented young singers in the Faculty of Music's vocal programmes at the University of Toronto. Applications are invited in the spring and the participants are selected after auditions held jointly by the Faculty and the Aldeburgh Connection. The **Discovery Series** is presented through the generous support of **RBC Foundation's Emerging Artists Project**.

CONCERT PROGRAMME

PROGRAMME

FOUR SONGS (*Fernando Periquet*) (mezzo)

Enrique Granados (1867-1916)

Callejeo

La maja dolorosa

El majo tímido

El majo discreto

TWO SONGS TO FRENCH TEXTS

Guitare (*Victor Hugo*) (tenor)

Edouard Lalo (1823-92)

Séguidille (*Pierre-Jules-Théophile Gautier*) (soprano)

Manuel de Falla (1876-1946)

DON QUICHOTTE A DULCINEE (*Paul Morand*) (baritone)

Maurice Ravel (1875-1937)

Chanson Romanesque

Chanson épique

Chanson à boire

SPANISCHE LIEBESLIEDER, Op.138 (*Emanuel Geibel*)

Robert Schumann (1810-56)

with *Bruce Ubukata*, piano

PART 1

1. Prelude (in Bolero tempo)
2. Tief im Herzen trag' ich Pein (soprano)
3. Lied (tenor)
4. Duett (soprano/mezzo)
5. Romanze (baritone)

PART 2

6. Intermezzo – National Dance
7. Weh, wie zornig ist das Mädchen (tenor)
8. Lied (mezzo)
9. Duett (tenor/baritone)
10. Quartett (quartet)

~ *Intermission* ~

FIVE SONGS TO GERMAN TEXTS

Der Hidalgo, Op.30/3 (*Emanuel Geibel*) (tenor)

Schumann

Spanisches Lied Op.6/1 (*Paul Heyse*) (mezzo)

Johannes Brahms (1833-97)

In dem Schatten meiner Locken (*Paul Heyse*) (soprano)

Hugo Wolf (1860-1903)

Bedeckt mich mit Blumen (*Emanuel Geibel*) (soprano)

Wolf

Auf dem grünen Balkon (*Paul Heyse*) (tenor)

THREE SONGS IN RUSSIAN AND ENGLISH

Serenada Don Zhuana, Op.38/1 (*Tolstoy*) (baritone)

P.I. Tchaikovsky (1840-93)

Through gilded trellises (*Edith Sitwell*) (soprano)

William Walton (1902-83)

The Spanish Lady (*folksong*) (tenor)

trad., arr. Herbert Hughes (1882-1937)

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

JOHANE ANSELL (soprano) is quickly establishing herself as a versatile performer of both opera and concert repertoire. Johane made her European debut July 2008 in Novafeltria, Italy in Donizetti's *Don Pasquale*. Back at home, she joined the Saskatoon Opera in their school tour of Rossini's *Cinderella*. Other opera credits include Verdi's *Falstaff* (Summer Opera Lyric Theatre), Copland's *The Tender Land* (Opera NUOVA), and Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte* (Kitchener Opera).

In concert, Ms. Ansell has appeared as the soloist with the University of Saskatchewan Greystone Singers and with the University Chorus, she was the soloist in Mozart's *Requiem* and *Vesperae Solennes*, Vivaldi's *Magnificat*, Fauré's *Requiem*, Bruckner's *Te Deum*, and Haydn's *Creation*. This past summer Johane was a soloist in the Charpentier *Messe à Huit Voi* (Tafelmusik Baroque Summer Institute). Earlier in the year, she appeared as Esther in the University of Toronto Oratorio Ensemble's presentation of Handel's oratorio *Esther*. In January 2010, Ms. Ansell performed in Mozart's *Die Schuldigkeit des ersten Gebots* with the University of Toronto Oratorio Ensemble.

ERICA IRIS HUANG (mezzo-soprano) recently emerged into Toronto's music scene and has been described as having "a gorgeous big voice, seamless from top to bottom, dramatic, and highly expressive," (Howard Dyck). At her first attempt in the competition scene in 2007, she won first place at the Canadian Music Competition. In 2004, she made her operatic debut in Ward's *The Crucible* and then performed in Britten's *Albert Herring* and Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas*. She also performed in excerpts from Stravinsky's *The Rake's Progress*, Mozart's *Così fan tutte*, Massenet's *Werther* and Rossini's *L'italiana in Algeri* (Opera Laurier). She has received critical acclaim including extremely positive reviews from both Opera Today and The Globe and Mail. Erica is currently fulfilling her final year of Opera Diploma at the University of Toronto, where she recently performed the role of The Old Woman in Bernstein's *Candide*

CHRISTOPHER ENNS (tenor) is a graduate of the University of Manitoba (Vocal Performance) and is currently in his second year of the Opera Diploma Program at the University of Toronto. During the 2009/10 season, Christopher sang the role of Alfred in the Highland Opera Studio's production of *Die Fledermaus*. The season continued with the University of Toronto's fall production of Haydn's *Il Mondo della Luna*. Other operatic roles at the University of Toronto include Paulino in Cimarosa's *Il Matrimonio Segreto*, Gonsalve and Teapot in the Ravel double bill of *L'Heure espagnole* and *L'enfant et les sortilèges*.

In 2008, Christopher performed in Stauss' *Ariadne auf Naxos* (Toronto Summer Music Academy), *Die Fledermaus* (Opera NUOVA) and *The Barber of Seville* (University of Manitoba's Opera Apprentices). Christopher recently performed the title role in the University of Toronto's production of *Candide* and was a guest artist with the Aldeburgh Connection's concert *The Lady of the Lake*.

JAMES BALDWIN (baritone) is currently studying at the University of Toronto's Opera School. This year at the University of Toronto, James performed in Haydn's *Il Mondo Della Luna*, Bizet's *Carmen* and Bernstein's *Candide*. Upcoming performances at the school include scenes of Tchaikovsky's *Eugene Onegin* and the premiere of a new operatic scene written by Cecilia Livingston based on Shakespeare's *Hamlet*. Last year, James performed in the school's performances of *L'Heure Espagnole*, *L'Enfant et les Sortilèges* and *Hansel and Gretel*. He has also performed in *Ariadne auf Naxos* (Toronto Summer Music Academy) and as a chorus member with the Canadian Opera Company. In concert, James has appeared as a soloist with The Elora Festival Singers, The Amadeus Choir of Toronto, and the Metropolitan Festival Choir.

Stephen Ralls began his musical career in England with the English Opera Group, where he was selected as chief répétiteur for Britten's last opera, *Death in Venice* and played the important piano part in the first performances and on the Decca/London recording. This led to recital appearances with the tenor, Sir Peter Pears, at the Aldeburgh Festival and on the BBC, and to Mr Ralls's appointment to the staff of the Britten-Pears School in Aldeburgh. In 1978, he joined the Faculty of Music, University of Toronto, where he held the position of Musical Director of the Opera Division from 1996 to 2008. With Bruce Ubukata, he founded the concert organization, the Aldeburgh Connection, in 1982. He has worked with the Canadian Opera Company, the Banff Centre and the National Arts Centre. His recordings include *L'Invitation au voyage: songs of Henri Duparc* (CBC Records), several releases with the Aldeburgh Connection, including *Benjamin Britten: the Canticles*, *Schubert among friends* and *Our own songs*, and the Juno award winning *Songs of Travel* with baritone, Gerald Finley.

Bruce Ubukata has established a reputation as one of Canada's leading accompanists, appearing with many singers in recital and with Mary Lou Fallis in her successful one-woman shows, *Primadonna*, *Mrs Bach* and *Fräulein Mozart*, and appearing in many recital engagements with Catherine Robbin here in Canada and on tour in France, and on tour in British Columbia in recital performances with Catherine Robbin and soprano Donna Brown. In addition to a long association with the Canadian Children's Opera Chorus, his other musical activities have included performances with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, the Toronto Mendelssohn Choir, the Elmer Iseler Singers and the Canadian Opera Company, as well as regular summer engagements on the staff of the Britten-Pears School in Aldeburgh, England. His recordings include *Liebeslieder & Folk Songs* for CBC Records and the Britten *Canticles* on the Marquis Label. Mr Ubukata is also an accomplished organist and harpsichordist. He is co-artistic director of both the Aldeburgh Connection and the Bayfield Festival of Song, held each June in Bayfield, Ontario.

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