



October 9, 2020

12:10 p.m.

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Friday Noonday Concert

Lyric Opera Stage Artists

Desirée Hassler, soprano • Carla Janzen, soprano • Pamela Williams, mezzo-soprano
with **Lisa Kristina, piano**

- Habanera from *Carmen* *Georges Bizet (1838–1875)*
- O mio babbino caro from *Gianni Schicchi* *Giacomo Puccini (1858–1924)*
- Io son l'umile ancella from *Adriana Lecouvreur*. *Francesco Cilea (1866–1950)*
- To a Wild Rose. *Edward MacDowell (1860–1908)*
- Det Syng. *Edvard Grieg (1843–1907)*
- Clair de Lune *Gabriel Fauré (1845–1924)*
- Clair de Lune *Claude Debussy (1862–1918)*
- Joy *Ricky Ian Gordon (b. 1956)*
- So in Love from *Kiss Me, Kate* *Cole Porter (1891–1964)*
- Dream a Little Dream of Me *Fabian Andre (1910–1960) and Wilbur Schwandt (1904–1998)*
- Dream with Me from *Peter Pan*. *Leonard Bernstein (1918–1990)*
- Speak Low from *One Touch of Venus* *Kurt Weill (1900–1950)*
- Somewhere over the Rainbow from *The Wizard of Oz* *Harold Arlen (1905–1986),
arr. Mark Hayes (b. 1953)*
- Climb Every Mountain from *The Sound of Music* *Richard Rodgers (1902–1979),
Oscar Hammerstein II (1895–1960)*

Lyric Opera Stage Artists (LOSA)

are members of the American Guild of Musical Artists who work, create, and perform at the Lyric Opera of Chicago. With artists ranging from singers, dancers, and actors to stage managers, directors, and choreographers, they strive daily to not only produce and perform opera at its highest level but to also further the significance of this magnificent art form in the City of Chicago and their communities. By extending their talents and love of opera beyond the stage, they hope to bring the potential of music and theater to the lives of all those who need its lasting beauty and power.



Soprano Desirée Hassler sings in the full-time chorus at Lyric Opera of Chicago and has also sung and covered roles at Lyric in *Cendrillon*, *Tannhäuser*, *Oklahoma!*, *Manon*, *Macbeth*, *Boris Godunov*, *Show Boat*, *Elektra*, and *Der Rosenkavalier*. Recent performances include soprano soloist in the Mozart *Requiem* with the Eastern Illinois Symphony; Bach's *B Minor Mass* with Chicago Bach Project (John Nelson, conductor); Violetta in Verdi's *La Traviata* with the Lake Geneva Symphony Orchestra; Ellen in *Oklahoma!* at Lyric Opera of Chicago; Kondja in *The Rose of Stambul* with Chicago Folks Operetta; soprano soloist in the Brahms' *Requiem* (Los Angeles); Barber's *Knoxville, Summer of 1915* with the Prairie Ensemble; Vaughan Williams' *Sea Symphony*; and Haydn's *Lord Nelson Mass* with the Wichita Symphony.

Desirée's voice can be heard on everything from commercial and film soundtracks to oratorio, opera, and operetta, and even progressive heavy-metal albums. Highly sought after as a master clinician, she is currently an associate professor of music and media arts at Moody Bible Institute in Chicago.



Soprano Carla Janzen has spent the last fifteen years singing in opera, concert, and recital performances throughout the United States. According to *Opera News*, Carla "invested [her] words with weight and feeling and effectively drew in the listener . . . with her measured, affecting style."

Carla has performed extensively throughout the Chicago area, including performances with the Skokie Valley Symphony, Evanston Symphony, and as a featured soloist with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. Most recently she sang the role of Soldier in the Midwest premiere of *The Falling and the Rising* at Petite Opera Productions in Park Ridge, Illinois. Carla has also performed solos in Mahler's Symphony No. 2, the Mozart *Requiem*, and the Fauré *Requiem* as well as in concerts of opera and operetta excerpts throughout the United States and Germany. In addition to her solo work, Carla sings in the choruses of Lyric Opera Chicago, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, the Grant Park Symphony, and in the professional Morning Choir at Fourth Church.



Pianist Lisa Kristina earned music degrees from DePaul University, the Manhattan School of Music, and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She appeared in Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Phantom of the Opera* on Broadway and on tour in the United States and in Germany, and she has played concert tours in China, Lithuania, and Canada as well as keyboard for Chicago Opera Theater, New Philharmonic, Elgin Symphony Orchestra, Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra, and Northwest Indiana Symphony. Lisa continues to keep as busy as possible these days as a singer, pianist, and voice teacher, even after winning some money in 2017 as a two-time *Jeopardy!* champion. She is always delighted to work with the lovely and talented ladies of LOSA!



Mezzo-soprano Pamela Williams has a lengthy and impressive repertoire of recitals, concerts, and operas. Pamela, a native of Atlanta, Georgia, has been a member of the Lyric Opera of Chicago chorus since 1999, where she has performed and understudied numerous roles in operas and musical theater works. Additionally she has sung as a soloist with Nashville Opera, Opera Memphis, Columbia Chorale, Armstrong Choral Union, and Natchez Opera Festival. Among her concert credits are multiple performances of Handel's *Messiah*. She has also been a featured alto soloist in performances of Haydn's *Lord Nelson Mass*, Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, Mozart's *Requiem*, Karl Jenkins' *The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace*, Verdi's *Requiem*, Durufle's *Requiem*, and Beethoven's *Symphony No. 9*. She appears regularly in concerts and recitals throughout the Midwest and in the Chicago area.

Most recently Pamela, along with a committed group of singers from the Lyric Opera Chorus, established the outreach committee for Lyric Opera Stage Artists, bringing live concerts to senior-living facilities in and around Chicago.



*Our free Friday Noonday Concert Series is enabled by two generous gifts:
one in memory of Pamela L. McGaan, devoted wife and mother, lover of music, and longtime member of
Fourth Presbyterian Church, and one from the estate of Ann Dow Weinberg, also a longtime member of
Fourth Church and a lover of music as well as a faithful attender of these Friday Noonday Concerts.*

Our ability to offer high quality music programming for the community depends on your financial support. Gifts in support of our music program can be made online at www.fourthchurch.org/give-online

If you would like to sponsor a Friday Noonday Concert in honor of a friend, loved one, or music mentor or to observe a special occasion or anniversary, please contact Katy Frey Bever at 312.981.3380 (kbever@fourthchurch.org).

Join us online for these upcoming Noonday Concerts!

Online every Friday at 12:10 p.m.

Friday, October 16 Michael Gagne, organ

Friday, October 23 Heather Wittels, violin

Friday, October 30 John W. W. Sherer, organ

Friday, November 6 Nicole Besa, soprano; Beth Parker, piano

Friday, November 13 David Griffin, horn; Mio Nakamura, piano



To receive weekly updates about concerts and music opportunities at Fourth Church, simply add your name to our “Music Notes” distribution list at www.bit.ly/fpcmusicnotes

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