

Lincoln Center's

January 22–February 29, 2020

American Songbook

Lead Support provided by Holland America Line

The Program

Thursday, January 30, 2020 at 8:30 pm

Stephanie Blythe Is Blythely Oratonio in *Blythely Ever After*

John Jarboe, *Co-Writer and Director*

Arrangements by Daniel Kazemi

Costumes by Machine Dazzle with Rebecca Kanach

Featuring Blythely Oratonio's band, The Fluffers

Drew Wutke, *Piano, Music Director, Lead Fluffer*

Jimmy Coleman, *Drums*

Mike Ian, *Guitar*

Andrew Nelson, *Bass*

Birdies: Messapotamia Lefae, Sav Souza

Flowers: Hailey McAvoy, Margaret Tigue

This evening's program is approximately 75 minutes long and will be performed without intermission.

This performance is being livestreamed; cameras will be present.

Please make certain all your electronic devices are switched off.

Endowment support provided by Bank of America

Corporate support provided by Morgan Stanley

This performance is made possible in part by the Josie Robertson Fund for Lincoln Center.

Steinway Piano

The Appel Room

Jazz at Lincoln Center's Frederick P. Rose Hall

American Songbook

Additional support for Lincoln Center's American Songbook is provided by Christina and Robert Baker, EY, Rita J. and Stanley H. Kaplan Family Foundation, The DuBose and Dorothy Heyward Memorial Fund, The Shubert Foundation, Great Performers Circle, Lincoln Center Patrons and Lincoln Center Members

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NewYork-Presbyterian is the Official Hospital of Lincoln Center

Artist catering provided by Zabar's and Zabars.com

Developed in collaboration with The Bearded Ladies Cabaret and Opera Philadelphia

UPCOMING AMERICAN SONGBOOK EVENTS IN THE APPEL ROOM:

Friday, January 31 at 8:30 pm

Cowboy Junkies

Saturday, February 1 at 8:30 pm

Joe Iconis

Wednesday, February 12 at 8:30 pm

iLe

Thursday, February 13 at 8:30 pm

Roomful of Teeth

Friday, February 14 at 8:30 pm

Brandon Victor Dixon

Saturday, February 15 at 8:30 pm

Our Lady J

Wednesday, February 26 at 8:30 pm

An Evening with Natalie Merchant

Thursday, February 27 at 8:30 pm

Kalani Pe'a

Friday, February 28 at 8:30 pm

Ali Stroker

Saturday, February 29 at 8:30 pm

Martin Sexton

For tickets, call (212) 721-6500 or visit AmericanSongbook.org. Call the Lincoln Center Info Request Line at (212) 875-5766 or visit AmericanSongbook.org for complete program information.

Join the conversation: @LincolnCenter

We would like to remind you that the sound of coughing and rustling paper might distract the performers and your fellow audience members.

In consideration of the performing artists and members of the audience, those who must leave before the end of the performance are asked to do so between pieces. The taking of photographs and the use of recording equipment are not allowed in the building.

Welcome to *Blythely Ever After*, a journey through the life of the tender, testosterone-filled tenor of the century, Blythely Oratonio. Drawing on the interdisciplinary roots of the cabaret form, Oratonio mixes opera, pop, rock and roll, and a fair amount of facial hair in this utterly true autobiographical evening. As he regales you with the roses and thorns of a life on the opera stage, he invites you to put down this program, turn off your phone (unless you are Instagramming him), relax, and revel in the vibrations of his voice.

Blythely Ever After*

Oratonio's Insomnia

Blythely Breaks Free

Where Can I Find a Tenor Like That?

Send in the Tenor!

Calling All Queens!

I Didn't Send You Flowers

Blythely Finds the Cure

Turn and Face the Tenor

Blythely Wins the World

**Note: The best way to enjoy Blythely Ever After is with a strong cocktail made to the following specifications:*

THE HIGH NOTE

Absinthe, to rinse

3/4 oz Gin

3/4 oz Orange liqueur

3/4 oz Lillet blanc

3/4 oz Fresh lemon juice

Rinse a chilled coupe or Martini glass with absinthe and set aside.

Add the remaining ingredients into a shaker with ice and shake.

Strain into the prepared glass.

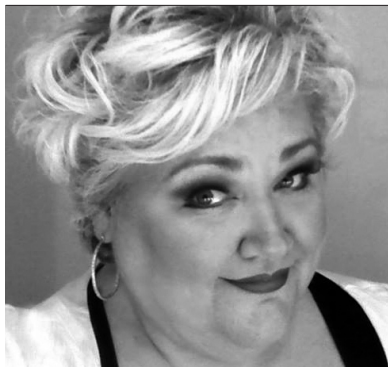
Meet the Artists



Blythely Oratonio (*Tenor*)

Dramatic tenor Blythely Oratonio was born in the basement of a church in Philadelphia. Discovered by brilliant dramaturg Jean Jarbeaux, Mr. Oratonio entered the world of opera, becoming a sensation. Though he has traveled the world singing in Paris, Milan, Helsinki, New York, Graz, Karlsruhe, Dortmund, Reykjavik, Lidköping, Buckinghamshire, Seattle, Manitoba, and West Palm Beach, his heart belongs to Philadelphia. When he is not singing one of his signature roles, such as Cavaradossi, Calaf, Radamès, Manrico, Canio, and Vasco de Gama, he can be heard on the concert stage from very far away. Mr. Oratonio occasionally moonlights as mezzo-soprano Stephanie Blythe.

Stephanie Blythe (*Mezzo-Soprano, Co-Writer*)



A renowned opera singer and recitalist, mezzo-soprano Stephanie Blythe is one of the most critically acclaimed artists of her generation. Her repertoire ranges from Handel to Wagner, German lieder to contemporary and classic American song. Ms. Blythe has performed on many of the world's great stages, such as Carnegie Hall, the Metropolitan Opera, Covent Garden, Paris

National Opera, and the San Francisco, Chicago Lyric, and Seattle Operas. She was named Musical America's Vocalist of the Year in 2009, received an Opera News Award in 2007, and won the prestigious Richard Tucker Award in 1999. Ms. Blythe is the artistic director of Fall Island Vocal Arts Seminar

and has recently been appointed director of the Graduate Vocal Arts Program at Bard College. Ms. Blythe occasionally moonlights as the dramatic tenor Blythely Oratonio.

Drew Wutke (*Piano, Music Director, Lead Fluffer*)

Drew Wutke is a New York City-based multidisciplinary artist, but his proudest current hyphenate is full-time Fluffer for Blythely Oratonio. Credits include Broadway, Off-Broadway, and international musicals, tours, concerts, cabarets, and general Sing-Out-Louisery. He has collaborated with Molly Pope, Martha Graham Cracker, Natalie Joy Johnson, Lea Salonga, and John Jarboe, among many others. Co-creator/MD/arr: Kevin Smith Kirkwood's *Classic Whitney Houston: Alive!* series, Joe's Pub; world premiere: *For Tonight*. Bebe Winans's *Born for This*. Resident MD: Jen Waldman Studio.

John Jarboe (*Co-Writer, Director*)

John Jarboe is a director, singer, writer, historian, and host serving you revolution, herstory, queer community making, and a whole lot of glitter. She is the founding artistic director of The Bearded Ladies Cabaret, transforming opera, cabaret, and live performance, making work that will make you sing, dance, and question. She has made original work for La Mama ETC, Joe's Pub, Opera Philadelphia, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, The Wilma Theater, and most recently directed Anthony Roth Costanzo's cabaret for the Guggenheim's Works & Process series.

Daniel Kazemi (*Arrangements*)

Daniel Kazemi is a composer, orchestrator, music director, pianist, performer, and educator. His original music has been performed at the World Festival of the Circus of Tomorrow in Paris, at the A.W.A.R.D. Show Philadelphia and in 213 Productions collaborations, *Untitled Project #213*, and *Your Attention Please!* As an associate artist at Milwaukee Rep, Mr. Kazemi has helped pioneer the Rep's new musical programming. He also garnered a Helen Hayes nomination for his work on the D.C. premiere of *The Musical of Musicals: The Musical*, a Barrymore nomination for *The Flea and The Professor* (Arden Theatre Company), and received a Barrymore Award for 11th Hour's *Avenue X*. At the Walnut Street Theatre, he musically directed, arranged, and performed in *The Irish and How They Got That Way* (two Barrymore nominations). Mr. Kazemi is also composer of a promising, hilarious new musical *The Tapioca Miracle*.

Machine Dazzle (*Costume Designer*)

Machine Dazzle (né Matthew Flower) moved to New York City in 1994 after attending the University of Colorado Boulder. Mixing odd jobs by day with art and dance clubs by night erupted in a unique lifestyle grounded in costume and performance art. Machine's DIY and transgressive nature comes face to face with his conceptualist-as-artist identity; the results can be seen on stages all over the world. Machine has worked with Taylor Mac, Justin Vivian Bond, Joey Arias, Julie Atlas Muz, Opera Philadelphia, Spiegelworld, Big Art Group, The Dazzle Dancers, and Stanley Love Performance Group, to name a few.

Rebecca Kanach (*Associate Costume Designer*)

Rebecca Kanach is proud to be resident costume designer of The Bearded Ladies Cabaret. As a graduate of Philadelphia University in fashion design, she received the Good Lad Award for Excellence in Children's Wear and went on to complete the costume apprenticeship at the Walnut Street Theatre; she is currently finishing her MFA in costume design from NYU. Ms. Kanach has worked with Bristol Riverside, Drexel University, Interact Theater Company, the Lantern Theater, Philadelphia Theater Workshop, Rutgers-Camden campus, Temple University, Walnut Street Theatre, Wilma, Arden Theatre, and various Philadelphia Mummers groups.

American Songbook

In 1998, Lincoln Center launched American Songbook, dedicated to the celebration of popular American song. Designed to highlight and affirm the creative mastery of America's songwriters from their emergence at the turn of the 19th century up through the present, American Songbook spans all styles and genres, from the form's early roots in Tin Pan Alley and Broadway to the eclecticism of today's singer-songwriters. American Songbook also showcases the outstanding interpreters of popular song, including established and emerging concert, cabaret, theater, and songwriter performers.

Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, Inc.

Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts (LCPA) serves three primary roles: presenter of artistic programming, national leader in arts and education and community engagement, and manager of the Lincoln Center campus. A presenter of thousands of free and ticketed events, performances, tours, and educational activities annually, LCPA offers a variety of festivals and programs, including American Songbook, Avery Fisher Career Grants and Artist program, David Rubenstein Atrium programming, Great Performers, Lincoln Center Emerging Artist Awards, Lincoln Center Out of Doors, Lincoln Center Vera List Art Project, LC Kids, Midsummer Night Swing, Mostly Mozart Festival, White Light Festival, the Emmy Award-winning *Live From Lincoln Center*, which airs nationally on PBS, and Lincoln Center Education, which is celebrating more than four decades enriching the lives of students, educators, and lifelong learners. As manager of the Lincoln Center campus, LCPA provides support and services for the Lincoln Center complex and the 11 resident organizations: The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, Film at Lincoln Center, Jazz at Lincoln Center, The Juilliard School, Lincoln Center Theater, The Metropolitan Opera, New York City Ballet, New York Philharmonic, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts, School of American Ballet, and Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts.

Lincoln Center Programming Department

Jane Moss, *Ehrenkranz Artistic Director*

Hanako Yamaguchi, *Director, Music Programming*

Jon Nakagawa, *Director, Contemporary Programming*

Jill Sternheimer, *Director, Public Programming*

Jordana Leigh, *Director, David Rubenstein Atrium*

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Mauricio Lomelin, *Producer, Contemporary Programming*

Walker Beard, *Production Manager*

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Luna Shyr, *Senior Editor*

Regina Grande Rivera, *Associate Producer*

Viviana Benitez, *Associate Producer, David Rubenstein Atrium*

Olivia Fortunato, *Associate Producer, Public Programming*

James Fry, *Technical Manager, Contemporary Programming*

Annie Guo, *Production Coordinator*

Shade Adeyemo, *Programming Coordinator, David Rubenstein Atrium*

Charmaine Marshall, *Assistant to the Artistic Director*

For American Songbook

Matt Berman, *Lighting Design*

Scott Stauffer, *Sound Design*

Paloma Estevez, *Company Manager, Contemporary Programming*

Roshni Lavelle, *House Seat Coordinator*

For Blythely Oratnio

Nicole Labadie-Bartz, *Stage Manager*

Matt Berman

Matt Berman is the resident lighting designer for Lincoln Center's American Songbook. He most recently designed the lighting for Kristin Chenoweth's *For the Girls* at the Nederlander Theatre. In the summer he designs in Provincetown for producer Mark Cortale's concerts and shows at the both the Art House and Town Hall. This past spring, Mr. Berman had the honor of designing the lighting and sound for South Florida Symphony Orchestra's remarkable production of *Porgy & Bess*, directed by Richard Jay-Alexander. This past summer he designed a small promotional tour of the U.S. with Meow Meow and Thomas Lauderdale of Pink Martini for their collaboration album, *Hotel L'Amour*. Additionally he has designed shows with Meow Meow for the London Philharmonic Orchestra and many other concert appearances.

Mr. Berman's international touring with stars such as Liza Minnelli, Kristin Chenoweth, Alan Cumming, Meow Meow, and Elaine Paige has allowed him to design for such iconic venues as Royal Albert Hall, the Paris Opera, Olympia Theater in Paris, Royal Theatre Carré in Amsterdam, the Sporting Club in Monte Carlo, The Acropolis, the famed amphitheater in Taormina, Sicily, Luna Park in Buenos Aires, the Sydney Opera House and, closer to home, the Hollywood Bowl, Alice Tully Hall, and Carnegie Hall. Other Broadway credits include Kristin Chenoweth's *My Love Letter to Broadway* at the Lunt-Fontanne Theatre, the Tony Award-winning *Liza's at the Palace*, *Bea Arthur on Broadway* at the Booth Theatre, Nancy LaMott's *Just in Time for Christmas*, and *Kathy Griffin Wants a Tony* at the Belasco Theater.

Scott Stauffer

Scott Stauffer has been the sound designer for Lincoln Center's American Songbook since 1999. His Broadway design credits include *A Free Man of Color*, *The Rivals*, *Contact* (also in London and Tokyo), *Marie Christine*, *Twelfth Night*, and *Jekyll & Hyde*. Off-Broadway Mr. Stauffer has worked on *Mother Freaking Hood*, *Subverted*, *Promises, Hereafter*, *A Minister's Wife*, *Bernarda Alba*, *Third*, *Belle Epoque*, *Big Bill*, *Elegies*, *Hello Again*, *The Spitfire Grill*, *Pageant*, and *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*. His regional credits include productions at the Denizen Theater, Manhattan School of Music, Capitol Repertory Theatre, University of Michigan, Hanger Theatre, Berkshire Theatre Festival, Chicago Shakespeare Theater, and Alley Theatre. His concert credits include many Lincoln Center galas, as well as the Actors Fund concerts of *Frank Loesser*, *Broadway 101*, *Hair*, and *On the Twentieth Century*. At Carnegie Hall he has worked with Chita Rivera and Brian Stokes Mitchell. As a sound engineer, Mr. Stauffer has worked on *The Lion King*, *Juan Darién*, *Chronicle of a Death Foretold*, *Carousel*, *Once on This Island*, and the original *Little Shop of Horrors*.