FREE CONCERT SERIES
IN THE RICHARD BRADSHAW AMPHITHEATRE

PRESENTED BY
TD READY COMMITMENT

VOCAL SERIES **May 16, 2023, 12 p.m.**

LIFE OF A BARITONE

Roland Wood, baritone
Simone Luti, piano

THE PROGRAM

The Vagabond (*Songs of Travel)*.....Ralph Vaughan Williams

Schwanengesang, D.957, Liebesbotschaft. ..... Franz Schubert

Vedrò mentr'io sospiro (*The Marriage of Figaro*).....Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Come Paride vezzoso (*The Elixir of Love*) .....Gaetano Donizetti

When I Was One-and-Twenty .....John Jeffreys

My Lady .....Jeffreys

Alfin questo corsaro è mio prigione *(Il Corsaro)* .....Giuseppe Verdi

O du, mein holder Abendstern (*Tannhäuser*) .....Richard Wagner

Earth and Air and Rain, Op. 15, To Lizbie Browne ..... Gerald Finzi

Nemico della patria (*Andrea Chénier*) .....Umberto Giordano

Photography, video, and audio recording are strictly prohibited during the performance. You are welcome to take photos before and after the performance and are encouraged to share with us on:

FreeConcertSeries #FreeConcertSeries @CanadianOpera

Programming is subject to change. For complete up-to-date listings, and to sign up for email updates, visit **coc.ca/FreeConcerts**.

COMING UP NEXT AT THE FREE CONCERT SERIES

INSTRUMENTAL SERIES
Wed. May 17, 2023, 12–1 p.m.
Ishay Shaer, piano
Chopin and Variations
Having performed in numerous concerts throughout the world to great critical acclaim, Ishay Shaer is quickly becoming one of the leading pianists of his generation. In his Free Concert Series debut, Shaer will take audiences through works by some piano greats, including Bach, Debussy and, of course, Chopin.

VOCAL SERIES
Tue. May 30, 2023, 12–1 p.m.
Artists of the COC Ensemble Studio
Jonah Spungin, baritone
Vlad Soloviev, piano
Les Adieux
COC Ensemble Studio artists Jonah Spungin and Vlad Soloviev bid farewell to the young artist program with a graduating recital of art song that showcases the full extent of their musical and dramatic ranges.

YOU MIGHT ALSO LIKE...

VOCAL SERIES
Thu. Jun. 1, 2023, 12–1 p.m.
Artists of the COC Ensemble Studio
Ariane Cossette, soprano
Charlotte Siegel, soprano
Prayers, Hopes, and Letters
COC Ensemble Studio sopranos Charlotte Siegel and Ariane Cossette present a program of arias and duets, featuring the work of Schubert, Mendelssohn, Verdi, and Gounod.

THE COC ACADEMY
UNDERWRITTEN BY
THE CATHERINE AND MAXWELL MEIGHEN FOUNDATION

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Canada

The Free Concert Series in the Richard Bradshaw Amphitheatre is supported by the Free Concert Series Endowment Fund, established in honour of Richard Bradshaw by an anonymous donor

Roland Wood – baritone

Roland Wood was born in Reading and studied at the Royal Northern College of Music and the National Opera Studio. He won the Second Prize at the 2000 Kathleen Ferrier Awards and was a prize winner at the 2003 Cardiff Singer of the World competition.

His operatic roles include: the title role in *Rigoletto* (Staatsoper Stuttgart, Opera Theatre of St. Louis [OTSL], Detroit Opera); Scarpia in *Tosca* (Staatsoper Stuttgart, Canadian Opera Company [COC], Scottish Opera, Grange Park Opera, English National Opera [ENO]); Ford in *Falstaff* (Royal Opera House, Covent Garden; Santa Fe Opera); Roucher in *Andrea Chénier* (Royal Opera House, Covent Garden); Renato in *A Masked Ball* (COC, Scottish Opera, Welsh National Opera [WNO], Grange Park Opera, De Nationale Reisopera); the title role in *Gianni Schicchi* (COC, Scottish Opera); the title role in *Macbeth* (OTSL); Germont in *La Traviata* (Santa Fe Opera, WNO, Opera North, De Nationale Reisopera); Pilgrim/Bunyan in *The Pilgrim's Progress*; Alfio in *Cavalleria rusticana*; Paolo Albiani in *Simon Boccanegra*; Oedipus in *Thebans*; Zurga in *Les pêcheurs de perles*; Count Almaviva in *The Marriage of Figaro*; Marcello in *La Bohème* [ENO]; Papageno in *The Magic Flute* (ENO, Scottish Opera); Golaud in *Pelléas et Mélisande* (Scottish Opera, City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra); the title character in *Falstaff* (Scottish Opera, Edinburgh International Festival); Count di Luna in *Il Trovatore*; Robert Storch in *Intermezzo*; Dulcamara in *The Elixir of Love*; Kyoto in *Iris*; Escamillo in *Carmen* (Scottish Opera, where he spent two years as Company Principal Artist); Nottingham in *Roberto Devereux* (WNO); Nick Shadow in *The Rake's Progress* (Glyndebourne); Forester in *The Cunning Little Vixen* (City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra); Sonora in *The Girl of the Golden West*; Maximilian in *Candide* (Edinburgh International Festival); Ashton in *Lucia di Lammermoor* (De Nationale Reisopera); the title character in *Eugene Onegin* (English Touring Opera); Cecil in Gloriana (Endellion Festival).

Concert appearances include: *Belshazzar's Feast* (Philharmonia, Hallé Orchestra); Mahler 8th Symphony (Philharmonia, CBSO); *Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen* (Hallé); Forester in *The Cunning Little Vixen* (Concertgebouw); Beethoven 9th Symphony (Flanders Symphony); Handel's *Messiah* (Dunedin Consort, Helsinki Festival, Huddersfield Choral Society); Verdi's *Requiem* (Royal Philharmonic Orchestra); Bach's *St John Passion* (Aurora Orchestra); Brahms'

Requiem (Scottish Chamber Orchestra); Britten's *War Requiem* (Filharmonia Pomorska); Rachmaninov's *The Bells* (St. Petersburg Symphony Orchestra); *A Child of Our Time* (Southwell Festival, Hallé); *A Vida de Verdi* (Teatro National de São Carlos).

Recordings include: DVDs of *La Bohème* and *Andrea Chénier*; the title role in Elgar's *Caractacus*; Faure's *Requiem* and two discs of Vaughan Williams songs, *Stars of Night* and the Grammy-nominated *The Solent*.

Future plans include: Germont in *La Traviata* (ENO); Karl Marx in the UK premiere of Jonathan Dove's *Marx* in London with Scottish Opera and Michele in *Il Trittico* and the title character in *Gianni Schicchi* with Welsh National Opera.

Simone Luti - piano

A native of Lucca, Tuscany, orchestral conductor and pianist Simone Luti has gained recognition and acclaim for his musical instincts and sensitivity both on the podium and at the keyboard.

As part of his musical training, he studied piano with Gloria Belli, Konstantin Bogino and Fabrizio Papi while his formal studies in composition were overseen by Pietro Rigacci. During his compositional studies, his passion for opera blossomed and he went on to earn academic scholarships to study opera, firstly at the Teatro Verdi in Pisa, and afterwards in Milan at the Academy for performing Arts associated with the Teatro della Scala. He studied conducting with Vittorio Parisi at the Academy of Giuseppe Verdi in Milan, and at the Accademia Chigiana in Siena with Gianluigi Gelmetti.

In 2002, Luti began working as coach at the Teatro della Scala and main Italian Theatres, collaborating with the most significant directors, singers, and film directors in the operatic world. In parallel, he also collaborated with Mirella Freni, Luis Alva, and Luciana Serra in opera training academies, Luis Alva, and Luciana Serra, devoting himself to the musical training of young opera singers.

He has conducted on the podiums for such organizations as The Musical Festival in Ticino Locarno, Switzerland, the Gratchen Festival in Amsterdam, the Opera Studio Nederland, Opera National de Montpellier, in Albania at the Opera Theatre in Tirana, the Symphony Orchestra of Bacau, Romania, and the International Opera Theatre of Philadelphia (in Teatro

degli Avvaloranti, Città della Pieve; Teatro Mancinelli, Orvieto; and The University of Performing Arts, Philadelphia), Orchestra London & London Symphonia, and many more.

Mr. Luti also now shares his work with the next generation and as such become musical director of the Canadian Operatic Arts Academy, hosted at the University of Western Ontario and its Faculty of Music, and its sister program Accademia Europea Dell'Opera, in Milan, Amsterdam and Lucca where he conducted *Suor Angelica, Gianni Schicchi, Così fan tutte, Don Giovanni, The turn of the screw, Le nozze di Figaro, Butterfly, La Cenerentola* and *Die Zauberflote*, and *La Finta Giardiniera* amongst many others. He has been also musical director of the Summer Opera Workshop of Indiana University. He also currently serves as Music Director and Conductor of both Western University's Symphony Orchestra and Chamber Orchestra as well as holding the positions of Musical Director & Head Coach of the Opera Program, and Lecturer for the Art of Vocal Coaching.

Most recently, he had the immense pleasure to join the Canadian Opera Company as Assistant Conductor for their production of *La Bohème* (2019), Head Coach and Assistant Conductor of *The Barber of Seville* (2020), *Aida* (2020 and cancelled due to COVID), *Gianni Schicchi* (2021), *La Traviata* (2022), and will be returning as Head Coach and Assistant Conductor for the upcoming COC production of *The Marriage of Figaro* (2023) as well as *Macbeth* (2023). Also at the COC, he has worked with the ensemble for the past 4 years, and is honoured to be part of such a prestigious operatic training program.