

THE
AMERICAN
OPERA
PROJECT
PRESENTS

in association with
Opera on Tap



Music
as the
Message

OUR STORIES ~ OUR VOICES

APRIL 25, 2021 • 4PM

PROGRAM

SUNDAY • APRIL 25, 2021 • 4PM

PROGRAM ORDER IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Music as the Message Theme Song** Drew Hemenger
Adrienne Danrich, Soprano
Drew Hemenger, piano

The Melodious Feast (Adrienne Danrich) ** Paul Moravec
Adrienne Danrich, Soprano
Pre-recorded:
Joelle Lamarre, Soprano
Dr. Tiffany Renée Jackson, Soprano
James Harkness, Baritone
Meg Zervoulis, Piano

The Next Time* Angi Sullins
Adrienne Danrich, Soprano
Joelle Lamarre, Soprano
Dr. Tiffany Renée Jackson, Soprano
Chantal L. Braziel, Soprano

Hey Yesterday James Harkness
James Harkness, Baritone

Longing to be Heard* Joelle Lamarre
Joelle Lamarre, Soprano

Lord, I Just Can't Keep from Cryin' arr. Margaret Bonds
Joelle Lamarre, Soprano
Meg Zervoulis, Piano

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PROGRAM

SUNDAY · APRIL 25, 2021 · 4PM

· CONTINUED ·

"Io son l'umile ancella (I'm But a Humble Servant)"* Arturo Colautti
from *Adriana Lecouvreur*, English Translation by Miriam Ellis
Adrienne Danrich, Soprano

Simple Song Leonard Bernstein
from *Mass*
Adrienne Danrich, Soprano
James Moore, Guitar

His Eye Is On The Sparrow (Civilla Martin) Charles H. Gabriel
Chantal L. Braziel, Soprano

A Horse With Wings Ricky Ian Gordon
Dr. Tiffany Renée Jackson, Soprano
Meg Zervoulis, Piano

My Way Paul Anka
Adrienne Danrich, Soprano
Meg Zervoulis, Piano

Believe in Yourself Charlie Smalls
from *The Wiz*
Adrienne Danrich, Soprano
Meg Zervoulis, Piano

*Spoken Word

**Commissioned by The American Opera Project for Music as the Message



POEMS AND LYRICS

THE MELODIOUS FEAST

Music by Paul Moravec

Text by Adrienne Danrich

I sit at the table of this melodious feast
and ravenously devour the sweet harmonies.
Trembling, I reach my heart to touch it, so fragile
I reach my heart to touch it, so fleeting.

I sit at the table of this melodious feast
and ravenously devour the sweet harmonies.
Trembling, I reach my heart to touch it, so fragile
I reach my heart to touch it, so fleeting.

Yet ever fulfilling,
swelling my soul to bursting,
sating my sorrow.
Joy rises in its wake,
Love infused with every strand,
Smiles pour from every scale.
Music is the food of love.
Of love.
Of love

LORD, I JUST CAN'T KEEP FROM CRYIN'

by Margaret Bonds

Lord, I just can't keep from cryin' some time
Lord, I just can't keep from cryin' some time
When my heart is full of sorrow
And my eyes are full of tears
Lord, I just can't keep from cryin' some time

Lord, I hold my arms and cry some time
Lord, I hold my arms and cry some time
When my heart is full of sorrow
And my eyes are full of tears
Lord, I just can't keep from cryin' some time

Lord, I hum and tune and cry some time
Lord, I hum and tune and cry some time
When my heart is full of sorrow
And my eyes are full of tears
Lord, I hum and tune and cry some time

THE NEXT TIME

by Angi Sullins

The next time you refuse to sing
Because you'll never fill a stadium
Or decline the joy of dance
For fear of looking ridiculous
Or you resist risking the new adventure
Because you're not entirely ready
Or you dim your shine
Because you're not completely
Healed and whole
The next time you hold yourself suspect
Because you're not entirely qualified

Just remember...

A bird doesn't sing because it's talented
A bird sings because it has a song

The moon doesn't only shine
When it's whole
It can show up with a single sliver of itself
And still light an entire night sky

Show up. Sing. Shine.
The world needs you
As you are.

LONGING TO BE HEARD

by Joelle Lamarre

You long for the days when every single
Question you ever asked to be answered.
You sit and wonder when your chance will come
for you to show the whole world that
you did or that you can do it and to only
find the world not even listening to your
cry for help.

"Someone, please help me,
I can't do it anymore, I don't want to
do it anymore!"

No one hears you because
The cry is the same for all.
We are all
Crying the same cry, so we don't hear
Each other



POEMS AND LYRICS

• CONTINUED •

IO SON L'UMILE ANCELLA (I'M BUT THE HUMBLE SERVANT)

from *Adriana Lecouvreur*

by Arturo Colautti

Translation by Miriam Ellis

I'm but the humble servant
Of the brilliant creator;
He offers me the words
That I impart to the heart...
I'm the verse's music,
The echo of human drama,
The fragile instrument,
Timid, joyous, terrible,
I'm called Faithfulness.

SIMPLE SONG

from *Mass*

by Leonard Bernstein

Sing God a simple song
Lau da lau de
Make it up, as you go along
Lau da lau de
Sing, like you like to sing
God loves all simple things
For God, is the simplest of all

For God, is the simplest of all
I will sing the Lord a new song
To praise Him, to bless
Him, to bless the Lord
I will sing his praises, while I live
All of my days

Blessed is the man who loves the lord
Blessed is the man who praises Him
Lau da lau da lau de
And walks in His way

I will lift up my eyes
To the hills from whence comes my help
I will lift my voice to the Lord
Singing lau da lau de

For the lord, is my shade
Is the shade upon my right hand
And the sun shall not smite me by day
Nor the moon by night.
Blessed is the man who loves the Lord

Lau da lau da lau de
And walks in His name
Lau da lau da lau de
Lau da lau da di da di day
All of my days

HIS EYE IS ON THE SPARROW

Music by Charles H. Gabriel

Text by Civilla Martin

Why should I feel discouraged,
Why should the shadows come,
Why should my heart be lonely,
And long for heaven, heaven and home,
When, when Jesus is my portion,
My constant Friend is He;
Oh, oh-oh, his eye is on the sparrow,
And I know He watched, watched it over me.
I sing because I'm happy (happy)
I sing because I'm free (free free free)
For His eye, his eye is on the sparrow,
And I know, I know He watches over me.

A HORSE WITH WINGS

by Ricky Ian Gordon

I wanna cry
I wanna feel the world around me whirling by
I wanna cry for those that live and those that die
You sing a lullaby
I wanna cry

I wanna pray
That all my wishes could come true after today
And should I put a word for you in? Should I say
An extra Kyrie?
I wanna pray

I wanna lie
I wanna think things are better than they are
I wanna think we've gotten further, and that far
Is just an inch away
I wanna lie

A horse with wings
I wanna think of things like that and other things
I want two brothers, one who laughs and one who sings
I hope the future brings
A horse with wings

I wanna know
The things they told me way back when were really so
I wanna make a little mark before I go;
Not barely just get by
I wanna fly



POEMS AND LYRICS

• CONTINUED •

MY WAY

by Paul Anka

And now, the end is near
And so I face the final curtain
My friend, I'll make it clear
I'll state my case, of which I'm certain

I've lived a life that's full
I've traveled each and every highway
And more, much more than this
I did it my way

Regrets, I've had a few
But then again, too few to mention
I did what I had to do
And saw it through without exemption

I planned each charted course
Each careful step along the byway
And more, much, much more than this
I did it my way

Yes, there were times, I'm sure you knew
When I bit off more than I could chew
But through it all, when there was doubt
I ate it up and spit it out
I faced it all and stood tall
And did it my way

I've loved, I've laughed and cried
I've had my fill; my share of losing
And now, as tears subside
I find that it all so amusing

To think I did all that
And may I say - not in a shy way
"Oh no, oh no, not me
I did it my way"

The record shows I took all the blows
And did it my way.

BELIEVE IN YOURSELF

from *The Wiz*

by Charlie Smalls

If you believe
Within your heart you'll know
That no one can change
The path that you must go
Believe what you feel
And know you're right, because
The time will come around
When you say it's yours
Believe there's a reason to be
Believe you can make time stand still
You know from the moment you try
If you believe
I know you will
Believe in yourself, right from the start
You'll have brains
You'll have a heart
You'll have courage
To last your whole life through
If you believe in yourself
If you believe in yourself
If you believe in yourself
As I believe in you

Believe that you can go home
Believe you can float on air
Yes, click your heels three times
If you believe
Then you'll be there
Believe in yourself

Right from the start
Believe in the magic
Right there in your heart
Believe all these things
Not because I told you to

But believe in yourself
If you believe in yourself
Just believe in yourself
As I believe in you

The following compositions and arrangements
were commissioned by The American Opera
Project for Music as the Message:

**MUSIC AS THE MESSAGE THEME SONG
THE MELODIOUS FEAST**

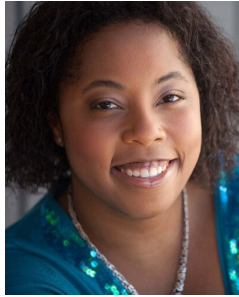


ARTISTS

CREATORS



Adrienne Danrich
Creator, Host,
& Executive Producer



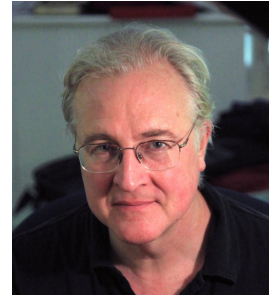
Kimille Howard
Series Producer



Meg Zervoulis
Piano



James Moore
Guitar



Paul Moravec
Composer

GUEST ARTISTS



Chantal L. Braziel
Soprano



James Harkness
Baritone



**Dr. Tiffany Renée
Jackson**
Soprano



Joelle Lamarre
Soprano

CREATIVE TEAM

Adrienne Danrich, Creator, Host, & Executive Producer
Kimille Howard, Series Producer
Jascha Narveson, Audio Engineer
Meg Zervoulis, Music Director, Orchestrator, & Piano
Paul Moravec, Commissioned Composer
Drew Hemenger, Composer of MaM Original Theme Song

Intuitive Production Management (IPM):

Robert Signom III, Director of Production
Scott H. Schneider, Production Manager
Marcie Friedman, Stage Manager
Rome Brown, Video Director
Julia Sprung, Tech Support Production Assistant



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Founded in 1988, The American Opera Project (AOP) has been at the forefront of contemporary opera for over 30 years. The Brooklyn-based producing organization commissions, develops and produces music-theatre projects, trains emerging composers and librettists, and creates personal connections within its community. Its works have received critical acclaim at opera companies and venues around the world, establishing a new musical canon that recognizes the operatic story in every life. AOP further expands the operatic field through its training programs The NYU Opera Lab, in partnership with NYU and for students and alumni in The NYU Tisch Graduate Musical Theatre Writing Program, and Composers & the Voice, AOP's in-house, two-year fellowship program for emerging composers and librettists.

More information can be found at www.aopopera.org



Opera on Tap (OOT) was born in 2005 at Freddy's Bar and Backroom in Brooklyn and incorporated in 2007 to promote opera as a viable, living and progressive art form and to support the developing artists who continue to keep the art form alive. What began as a small monthly gathering of ambitious, classically trained singers looking for more performance opportunities, has grown into a producing organization that has gained a loyal audience base and national recognition as an innovative force on the classical music scene. Through its Chapter program, which now has over twenty vibrant national (and international!) chapters, OOT has created a large network of performers, creators, and supporters. Our mission is to expose new audiences to opera and classical music by taking opera and classical music out of the concert hall and performing it in alternative venues, to aid young performers in their development by giving them the opportunity to perform and to promote and support them through our organization and to help promote new classical works of contemporary classical and operatic composers.

More information can be found at www.operaontap.org



Gift-Passion-Purpose Project, Inc. was founded by Dr. Tiffany Renée Jackson in April 2019. The primary purpose is to nurture the musical gifts of aspiring singers and instrumentalists from underrepresented communities, primarily in Connecticut, but not exclusively. The hope is to instill the value of self-discipline, determination, dedication to enhance one's gifts, and to inspire the importance of enriching the community through their gifts. The nature of the activities is to provide music scholarships, grants, and mentorships to children and young adults. We will encourage artists to seek applied music lessons (individual study), assist in the purchase of instruments and materials, fund attendance to music programs, and sponsor individuals, who exemplify extraordinary musical potential.

More information can be found at www.giftpassionpurposeproject.com

Past episodes of **Music as the Message** are available for viewing. To watch, or for more information, visit:
<https://www.aopopera.org/music-message-past>

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