

Tenth Anniversary 2010

THE MARINA DEL REY SUMMER CONCERTS

present

THE MARINA DEL REY SUMMER SYMPHONY

Frank Fetta, Music Director and Conductor

A NIGHT AT THE OPERA

Wendy Bryn Harmer, Soprano

Narine Ojakhyan, Soprano

Matthew Plenk, Tenor

Donovan Singletary, Bass-Baritone

Your host for the evening:

Rich Capparella • KUSC Classical FM 91.5

Thursday, July 8, 2010, 7:00 pm

Burton Chace Park - Marina del Rey

Sponsors

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The Department of Beaches and Harbors

The Ritz-Carlton Marina del Rey

KUSC Classical FM 91.5

**This performance is funded in part by the
Recording Industries' Music Performance Fund**

ALL CONCERTS FREE TO THE PUBLIC

The Marina del Rey Summer Symphony

The Marina del Rey Summer Symphony, conducted by its Music Director Frank Fetta, has scored a great success since the inception of these free waterside concerts at Burton Chace Park with a pilot concert in the summer of 2000. For these concerts, the orchestra emphasizes performances of the late 19th century and 20th century symphonic repertoire. The orchestra is pleased to welcome, for the fourth year, its Media Sponsor, KUSC Classical FM 91.5.

The Symphony's parent orchestra, the Culver City Symphony Orchestra, with its Music Director Frank Fetta, has just completed its 47th winter season. In addition to a regular schedule of concerts at the Veterans' Memorial Auditorium in Culver City, the orchestra makes guest appearances at other venues and at various radio, festival and film projects. It sponsors the annual Parness Young Artist Concerto Competition, which has launched many talented musicians on the road to success in the classical music world.

The Loren L. Zachary National Vocal Competitions

Founded in 1972 by the late Loren L. Zachary and Nedra Zachary, the annual Loren L. Zachary National Vocal Competition for Young Opera Singers is one of the most prestigious and valuable singing competitions in the world. Five singers are selected from the New York regional auditions and five singers are chosen at the Los Angeles regional auditions. Ten finalists compete each year at the Grand Finals Concert in Los Angeles, with the orchestra conducted by Maestro Frank Fetta. Because of its prestige in the music world and its who's who of previous winners, the competition draws the finest young singers in the nation – many of them already on the rosters of major opera companies.

Previous winners of the Zachary Competition have included Thomas Hampson, Aprile Millo, Ruth Ann Swenson, Deborah Voight, Eduardo Villa, Sondra Radvanovsky, and Earl Patriarco.

The Program: A Night at the Opera

Wendy Bryn Harmer, soprano

Narine Ojakhyan, soprano

Matthew Plenk, tenor

Donovan Singletary, bass-baritone

The Marina del Rey Summer Symphony; Frank Fetta, conductor

Maestro Frank Fetta

Maestro Frank Fetta has been Conductor and Music Director of the Marina del Rey Summer Symphony since the inception of its Marina del Rey Summer Concerts in 2000.

In addition to his post with the Marina concerts, Maestro Fetta is permanent conductor of the Culver City Symphony Orchestra, the Torrance Symphony, the Redlands Bowl Music Festival, and he is principal conductor of the Nevada Opera Theatre. He also serves as conductor of the prestigious Loren L. Zachary Society National Vocal Competition. He is much in demand as a guest conductor; among the orchestras he has led are those of San Francisco, San Diego, Oakland, Pasadena, San Bernardino, Honolulu, and Riverside, as well as the Debut Orchestra of the Young Musicians Foundation and the United Chinese Musicians Orchestra.

Maestro Fetta's multi-faceted career has associated him with the Carmel Bach Festival, the Metropolitan Opera National Council, Music Academy of the West, Chautauqua Institute, and Columbia Artists' Community Concerts. He has conducted for such stellar artists as Leila Josefowicz, Beverly Sills, Anna Maria Alberghetti, Daniel Rodriguez, Jerome Hinds, Dame Rita Hunter, Xue Wei, Eugene Fodor, Julian Lloyd Webber, Ruby Hinds, Suzanna Guzmán, Rita Coolidge, Louis Lebherz, Eduardo Villa, Giorgio Tozzi, Mona Golabek, John Novacek, Vikki Carr, Lorna Luft, Cleo Laine, and Julianna Di Giacomo.

Frank Fetta also maintains an active teaching schedule in conducting and in operatic and song literature, and serves as organist/pianist at Corpus Christi Church in Pacific Palisades. Those who have followed his career agree that Frank Fetta richly merits the praise afforded him by the Los Angeles Times, which called him a conductor of "passion, wit, admirable theatrical sensitivity, and an interpretative individuality often extraordinarily mesmerizing." He is married to the inventor-artist Susan

Henninger and they are the parents of a son, Raphael, an actor who works and lives with his wife and son in New York.

Wendy Bryn Harmer, soprano

A graduate of the Metropolitan Opera's Lindemann Young Artist Development Program, Wendy Bryn Harmer recently appeared with the company as Freia in "Das Rheingold." She also appeared in the Met's production of "The Magic Flute," which was broadcast in HD in movie theatres worldwide. Other Met operas in which she appeared include "Le Nozze di Figaro," "War and Peace," Parsifal," "Die Agyptische Helena," and "Jenufa." She has also appeared in Opera Boston's production of "La Grande-Duchesse de Gerolstein" and recently in San Francisco Opera's production of "Die Walküre."

Narine Ojakhyan, soprano

A native of Armenia, soprano Narine Ojakhyan in 2009 won a grant from the George Solti Foundation to study at the Samling Masterclasses in England with Sir Thomas Allen. She is a graduate of the Royal Academy of Music's Opera Program in London, where she earned praise from the London Times for her role as Suzanna in the Academy's production of "Le Nozze di Figaro," conducted by Sir Colin Davis. She was also chosen to participate in the 2008 Solti-Te Kanawa summer Accademia. Currently, she lives in Glendale, California.

Matthew Plenk, tenor

Now in his third year of the Metropolitan Opera's Lindemann Young Artist Development Program, Matthew Plenk appeared as the Song Seller in the company's production of "Il Tabarro" and as Marcellus in its production of "Hamlet," which was broadcast around the world in HD. Next season, he will appear at the Met as Arturo in "Lucia di Lammermoor" and he will make his debut at the Atlanta Opera as Ferrando in "Cosi fan Tutte." He has appeared at the Boston Lyric Opera as Don Ottavio in "Don Giovanni" and Rodolfo in "La Bohème," as well as roles in other Boston Lyric Opera productions.

Donovan Singletary, bass-baritone

Now in his third year of the Lindemann Young Artist Development Program with the Metropolitan Opera, Donovan Singletary's upcoming engagements include Pinellino in the Met's production of "Gianni Schicchi." Last season he made his Metropolitan Opera debut in "Salome" and his Carnegie Hall

debut singing “Te Deum” by Mark Hayes. He returned to Carnegie Hall last spring to sing Fauré’s “Requiem” and Haydn’s “Paukenmesse.” Recently, he performed the title role in “Don Giovanni” at Aspen Opera Theatre. In 2008, Mr. Singletary appeared as Hermann in the Opera Theatre of St. Louis production of “The Tales of Hoffmann.”

THE PROGRAM

Richard Wagner (1813 – 1883)

Die Meistersinger: Prelude

The Orchestra

Richard Wagner

Die Walküre: Du Bist der Lenz

Wendy Bryn Harmer

In Act I, Siegmund stumbles for shelter into the unfamiliar house of Hunding and Sieglinde. Sieglinde confesses to Siegmund her unhappiness as the wife of Hunding. Ardently they embrace and he vows to free her from her forced marriage. As moonlight floods the room, Siegmund compares their feeling to the marriage of love and spring. In her aria, “Du Bist der Lenz” Sieglinde hails him as “Spring,”

Giuseppe Verdi (1813 – 1901)

I Vespri Siciliani: O tu Palermo

Donovan Singletary

This opera is concerned with the occupation of Sicily by French troops during the thirteenth century and the efforts of the Sicilians to dislodge them. Act II takes place outside the city, in a valley to which comes Giovanni da Procida, leader of the Sicilian patriots, who has been banished but secretly returns to stir up resistance. In this aria he salutes his beloved native land.

Giuseppe Verdi

Rigoletto: Caro Nome

Narine Ojakhyan

The opera deals with the amorous adventures of the Duke of Mantua, in which he is aided by Rigoletto, his jester, who is a hunchback. Rigoletto has a daughter, Gilda, whom he keeps in strict seclusion. But the Duke, not knowing who she is, has fallen in love with her. Disguised as a student, he manages briefly to be alone with her and to tell her of his love. After he has gone and recognizing that she loves him also, Gilda sings the lovely “Caro nome” (Dear name, my heart enshrines).

Gaetano Donizetti (1797 – 1848)**L'Elisir d'Amore: Una furtive lagrima****Matthew Plenk**

Rich and beautiful, the young Adina laughs at the embarrassed courting of the good and true peasant boy, Nemorino. She is annoyed that he lacks the courage to tell her of his feelings for her. Doctor Dulcamara, a quack, sells Nemorino a so-called “elixir” that will enable him to win Adina. The elixir, which is really a bottle of wine, makes Nemorino so lively and interesting to the girls of the village that he appears to be indifferent to Adina, who by now knows that she loves him. Noticing his indifference, Adina leaves him. Realizing this, Nemorino sings the aria (A furtive tear) expressing his sadness.

Carlisle Floyd (1926 --)**Susannah: Ain't it a pretty night****Wendy Bryn Harmer**

Based on the biblical story of Susannah and the Elders, the opera takes place in a rural community in the Tennessee Mountains, where an innocent girl is falsely accused of seduction by the town's Elders. In Act 1 Scene 2, Susannah's innocence is apparent as she gazes at the stars and dreams of a life she hopes for “beyond them mountains.”

Georges Bizet (1838 – 1875)**Les Pêcheurs de Perles: Au fond du temple saint****Matthew Plenk and
Donovan Singletary**

At the seashore, fishermen are holding a feast preparatory to choosing a chief. They choose Zurga as king, after which Nadir, a fisherman, who has long been away, appears and is greeted by Zurga. Both men had been friends but broke their friendship over a beautiful priestess, which both loved. Now they renew their friendship, singing this beautiful aria (In the depths of the temple).

Intermission**Giacomo Puccini (1858 – 1924)****Gianni Schicchi: O Mio Babbino Caro****Narine Ojakhyan**

The opera takes place in the bedroom of the wealthy Buoso Donati. The relatives are gathered in the room, where they whisper it is rumored that Donati has left his fortune to the monks. The relatives call for Gianni Schicchi to come with his beautiful daughter Lauretta. He is resourceful and cunning and will find a way to get around the Will. He arrives and is told the sad facts; he declares that they must all be disinherited. One of the dead man's relatives, Zita, snaps that Gianni Schicchi and his daughter

should go back to where they came from, because her nephew Rinuccio, who is in love with Lauretta, can never marry a poor nobody. Rinuccio prevents Schicchi from leaving and begs him to read the Will. Lauretta adds her plea to his, and finally her father relents. She sings to him this beautiful aria (O my beloved daddy).

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756 – 1791)

Don Giovanni: La ci darem la mano

Narine Ojakhyan and
Donovan Singletary

In the countryside near the palace of an amorous nobleman of Sevilla, Don Giovanni, the young and pretty Zerlina enters with her fiancé Masetto and a group of others. Don Giovanni, who has cast covetous eyes on Zerlina, arranges for the group to go to his palace, while managing to fascinate Zerlina into staying behind with him. They sing a duet – (You'll lay your hand in mine, dear) – which proves that his reputation as a seducer is well deserved.

Peter Ilitsch Tchaikovsky (1840 – 1893)

Pique Dame: 'Twill soon be midnight

Wendy Bryn Harmer

Gherman, a young Russian officer in St. Petersburg, is in love with Liza, the granddaughter of an elderly Countess, who has a secret method of gambling using a certain sequence of three cards that always wins. Gherman and Liza fall deeply in love, but Gherman, a gambler, is also fascinated by the Countess's secret. He goes to the old woman's quarters and, in trying to get her to give him her secret, he frightens her to death. Liza forgives him for her grandmother's death. She meets him by the canal and they talk of their future together. But Gherman says he must rush to the gaming house as her grandmother's spirit has revealed to him the secret of the cards. Liza begs him to stay with her, but he pushes her aside and rushes off. Realizing his obsession, she throws herself into the canal to her death.

Gaetano Donizetti (1797 – 1848)

La fille du Régiment: Ah mes amis

Matthew Plenk

As a young orphan, Marie was adopted as the daughter of the 21st Regiment. She admits to the Sergeant that she has been seen with a young man; she explains that he is Tonio, a local Tyrolean who once saved her life. Troops of the 21st arrive with a prisoner, this same Tonio. Marie steps in to save him. Tonio is ordered to follow the soldiers, but he escapes and returns to declare his love to Marie. Tonio enlists in the regiment so that he can marry Marie. He sings "Ah, mes amis".

Gaetano Donizetti

Lucia di Lammermoor: *Regnava nel silenzio* Narine Ojakhyan

Lord Henry Ashton of Lammermoor, in order to retrieve his lost fortune and extricate himself from political danger, arranges a marriage between his sister Lucy and Lord Arthur Bucklaw. Knowing nothing of this arrangement, Lucy has fallen in love with Edgar of Ravenswood, whose family has long been involved with Lord Henry's family in a deadly feud. In her family's park near a fountain, Lucy sits with her companion, Alice, and relates to her the legend of the fountain, "Regnava nel silenzio."

Giuseppe Verdi

Macbeth: *Come dal ciel de precipita* Donovan Singletary

Macbeth has become king of Scotland, following the murder of Duncan, the former king. Macbeth and his wife worry about a prophecy that Banquo's children will rule. The two now plan to kill Banquo and his son, Fleance. Outside the castle, assassins wait for Banquo, who appears with his son, warning him of strange forebodings (*Come dal ciel de precipita*). Banquo is killed, but his son escapes.

Jules Massenet (1842 – 1912)

Hérodiade: *Il est doux, il est bon* Wendy Bryn Harmer

In the palace courtyard of Herod, King of Galilee, servants are working under the direction of a Chaldean, Phaniel. Salome, Herod's daughter, enters. She is looking for the prophet John, for whom she has developed a strange passion. She tells the Chaldean that John is wondrously good and kind and that he saved her from the desert when she was a small child. She sings "Il est doux, il est bon."

Franz Lehár (1870 – 1948)

Land of Smiles: *Dein ist mein ganzes herz* Matthew Plenk

In Vienna, the heroine Lisa, a Countess, meets a Chinese prince at a reception, and, despite the warnings of her friends, returns with him to his homeland. She is very happy living with him in Beijing, until she finds out that he must take other wives. He sings of his love for her above all others "Dein ist mein ganzes herz," but to no avail.

Please join us Thursday, July 22 at 7 pm, when the brilliant 20-year-old American pianist Claire Huangci joins Maestro Frank Fetta and the Marina del Rey Summer Symphony in a performance of Serge Prokofiev's Concerto no. 3 in C major. You won't want to miss this young pianist, called by critics "one of this century's major talents." The orchestra is heard in Prokofiev's The Montagues and the Capulets from Suite no. 2 of Romeo and Juliet and Rachmaninoff's magnificent Symphony no. 2 in E minor.

Be with us on Saturday, July 17, for a return performance by Florence LaRue and The 5th Dimension, who have performed and recorded with their distinctive sound some of the greatest hits in American pop music history. Enjoy with us their performance of the many songs that have made them six-time Grammy award winners with fourteen gold records.

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- Technical Director of the Marina del Rey Summer Concerts is James Ciancaglini
 - Chief Sound Engineer is Martyn Claes.
 - Sound, power, backline, and lighting equipment provided by Auntie M Creative Consultants.
 - Tents and stages provided by AAA Rents and Events, Van Nuys, California.
 - Chairs are available for rent at the concert site. Call Hornblower Café at 310-823-8400 for advance rental orders.
 - Hornblower Café in the Park is open for sunset dining on concert nights, offering a varied selection of food and beverages.

We offer two methods of transportation directly to and from the concert site. The WaterBus, operating from seven locations throughout Marina del Rey, serves concert-goers exclusively on Classical Thursdays from 5 pm to midnight. On Pop Saturdays the WaterBus operates from 11 am to midnight. \$1.00 per person, each way.

You can also catch a ride on land with the free Beach Shuttle, which runs shuttle service directly to and from Chace Park on concert nights.

You can download Marina del Rey WaterBus and Beach Shuttle brochures from the Beaches and Harbors website at marinadelrey.lacounty.gov.

County Parking Lot 4, 13500 Mindanao Way, West of Admiralty Way, and County Lot 5, Bali Way, West of Admiralty Way, are open on concert nights. Fees are as posted.