



Metropolitan Opera Tenor
BRYAN HYMEL with **IRINI KYRIAKIDOU**
in Concert with **LAURA WARD**

SUNDAY, MAY 6, 2018 AT 3:00 PM
Church of the Holy Trinity, Rittenhouse
www.lyricfest.org

Dear Robert,

Lyric Fest invites you to a thrilling grand finale to our 15th-anniversary season, as we present international operatic superstar Bryan Hymel and his wife, international soprano Irini Kyriakidou, with pianist Laura Ward. This is the couple's first-ever recital performance in Philadelphia.

BRYAN HYMEL AND IRINI KYRIAKIDOU
IN CONCERT WITH PIANIST LAURA WARD
Sunday, May 6th, 2018 at 3:00 PM
Church of the Holy Trinity, Rittenhouse Square

In the beautiful setting of Holy Trinity on Rittenhouse Square, this special program opens with Bryan singing Ralph Vaughan Williams' *Four Hymns for Tenor, Viola and Piano*. Violist from the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, Mark Holloway, will join for these songs of praise. Irini sings Ravel's effervescent *Five Popular Greek Melodies* in her native language. The first half concludes with *Chansons de Diane* by Lyric Fest's Composer in Residence, Benjamin C.S. Boyle (see below).

The second half gives way to Bryan's quintessential repertoire that has catapulted him to international stardom, including operatic arias and duets from *La Gioconda*, *Adriana Lecouvreur*, *L'amico Fritz*, *La Bohème* and *Otello*.

General seating is \$35, with \$10 student tickets available at the door. Or enjoy premium seating and an elegant, intimate reception with Bryan & Irini following at 5:00 PM at the Academy of Vocal Arts, 1920 Spruce Street for \$150.

[Click here for tickets.](#)

*Yours with a song,
Suzanne and Laura*

Lyric Fest sends heartfelt thanks to the Apgar-Black Foundation for sponsoring the appearance of Bryan Hymel and Irini Kyriakidou on Lyric Fest's 15th-anniversary season.



Between rehearsals earlier in the week, Lyric Fest's Co-Artistic Director Laura Ward [engaged in a wide-ranging conversation](#) with Bryan Hymel and Irini Kyriakidou in advance of the grand finale to Lyric Fest's 15th-anniversary season.

"It is a special delight to play for my dear friends, Bryan and Irini," said Laura. "Our audiences are in for a treat! Last season we crafted a program to present in Bryan's hometown, New Orleans, and then had the opportunity to bring that program to Lyric Fest with the help of our 15th-anniversary season sponsors, Randy Apgar and Allen Black. To hear these two artists together, with their consummate musicianship, operatic virtuosity and nuanced performance of art song is a very special opportunity that Lyric Fest is thrilled to offer to Philadelphia. Bryan and Irini are going to raise the roof with their glorious singing for this concert!"



Bryan Hymel is among the world's elite tenors, singing on the top international stages and receiving consistent critical acclaim: "unflagging stamina and impetuous abandon" (The New York Times review of his Metropolitan Opera debut in Berlioz's *Les Troyens*) and "range of expression and vocal power combined with the subtle art of characterization" (Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung). His career began when he won the Olivier Award for Outstanding Achievement in Opera and the Metropolitan Opera's Beverly Sills Artist Award. He has since triumphed

at the Opéra national de Paris, Teatro alla Scala, Vienna Staatsopera and Lyric Opera of Chicago, among many others. Also celebrated on the concert stage, he has sung Verdi's *Requiem* with the Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra under Yannick Nézet-Séguin. Bryan's thrilling debut album *Héroïque* made the Billboard Classical Music chart and won the Académie Nationale du Disque Lyrique's Georges Thill Prize and Newcomer of the Year Award from ECHO Klassik.

He has close ties to Philadelphia, having studied at the Academy of Vocal Arts. The Philadelphia Inquirer raved: "Academy of Vocal Arts grad Bryan Hymel sang the leading tenor role of Rodolfo showing his high notes are easily among the best in the business. The rest of his voice is so attractive, and his presence so winning...."

Click on the picture above for Bryan's thrilling interpretation of La donna è mobile from Verdi's Rigoletto!

Benjamin C.S. Boyle on His Chansons de Diane

I grew up (mostly) in Maryland and memorized as much E.A. Poe as I could get my hands on. There was a statue of him near my house, which may have deepened the kinship. Poe was also a contemporary of the early Romantic composers Chopin and Schumann, whose music I adored growing up and continue to revere to this day. It's said that Poe once attempted to contact Chopin when it was rumored that the latter may have been weighing a concert tour of America. If only we had correspondence between these two.... Chopin, in his frail health, never made the trip. The two men both died within eight days of one another in 1849.

With influences like this, it's not difficult to trace a forward affinity with Baudelaire. The beautifying of the arcane and the mysterious.



with Baudelaire: the secularizing of the arcane and the mysterious, the worship and ritual of the religious while free of dogma, the trust in high ideals such as love and fidelity to transcend any and all barriers (including death): these are concepts that Poe immortalized and Baudelaire expanded. Chansons de Diane, written in 2008, is my third cycle of songs on Baudelaire's poetry.



[Read Benjamin's complete blog here...](#)



Best Collaborative Pianist Award

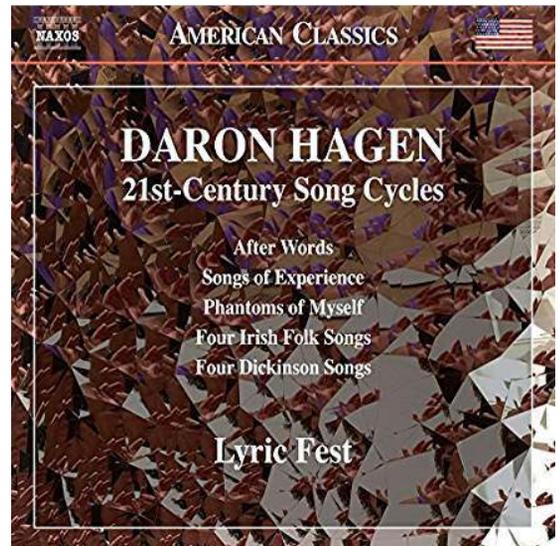
Earlier this week, Co-Artistic Director Laura Ward received the Best Collaborative Pianist award at the Joy in Singing competition at Lincoln Center, the first time in 30 years that this has been awarded. Jean Bernard Cerin, the baritone whom she accompanied, won the first-ever Gerard Souzay French Mélodie award presented to him by Dalton Baldwin.

Pictured from left: Jean Bernard Cerin, Dalton Baldwin and Laura Ward

Now Available... Daron Hagen: 21st-Century Song Cycles

Hagen casually evokes sexy hints of Schubert, Broadway and serialism, before the music bursts into innocent lyrical love. There are similarly striking tracks and moments throughout the recital....
—Gramophone magazine

Lyric Fest presents its first CD, released by Naxos Records and now available—Daron Hagen: 21st Century Song Cycles. [Click here](#) for an excerpt, “The Rain Stick,” performed by soprano Justine Aronson, tenor Joseph Gaines and pianist Laura Ward. [Check out this podcast](#) with Daron as he talks about the album, life as a composer, poetry, writing songs and much more....



Happy Birthday Irving Berlin!



Wednesday, June 13th at 7 PM

Shadyside Presbyterian Church
Pittsburgh, PA

Raise a glass to a great American musical treasure, Irving Berlin. Part of the newly established Music for Midsummer Nights series, this short concert features Berlin's timeless songs and a brief biography of his amazing life story. With mezzo-soprano Suzanne DuPlantis, baritone Randall Scarlata and pianist Laura Ward. (A free-will offering will be taken at the door.)

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