

aleba gartner associates
134 henry street • new york, ny 10002
tel: 212/206-1450 • e-mail: a@alebagartner.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tickets & Information: www.nyfos.org

Press Contact:

Aleba Gartner, 212/206-1450; a@alebagartner.com

NEW YORK FESTIVAL OF SONG (NYFOS)

Steven Blier, Artistic Director • Michael Barrett, Associate Artistic Director

opens its 2010-2011 season with

“BEGINNER’S LUCK: The Passion and Promise of Youth”

showcasing two NYFOS favorites at the thresholds of exciting careers:

mezzo-soprano SASHA COOKE & tenor PAUL APPLEBY

Steven Blier & Michael Barrett, pianists

Music by Berg, Blitzstein, Bolcom, Britten, Busoni, Dylan, Fauré, Gershwin, Grieg,
Guettel, Ives, Schubert, Sondheim, Wolf, Vaughan Williams

Tuesday, October 19 at 8:00PM

Thursday, October 21 at 8:00PM

Merkin Concert Hall (129 West 67th St.)

\$40–\$55 for single tickets; \$140–\$200 for 4-concert subscription

*

NYFOS takes this program to the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC

Sunday, October 24, 2:00PM under the auspices of Vocal Arts D.C.

Steven Blier talks about *Beginner’s Luck*:

“I have several great jobs. One of them is sitting on my butt in a studio at the Juilliard school and coaching singers who walk through the door. Two such were Paul Appleby and Sasha Cooke: Paul, one of the most naturally engaging and breathtakingly stylish balladeers I have ever heard, and Sasha, who seems to be the love-child of Lorraine Hunt Lieberson and Janet Baker. It’s been a privilege to be part of their artistic development, and I am so proud of the way the musical world has already embraced them. Michael Barrett and I are thrilled to present them in a duo-concert. It seemed obvious that we should choose songs that celebrate their youth and tremendous promise. They are at a magical—and precarious—moment as they set out on their careers and young adulthood.”

NEW YORK FESTIVAL OF SONG—the group that “charms audiences with programs that combine meticulous research with an infectious strain of vocal hedonism” (*The New York Times*)—opens its 2010-2011 season with ***BEGINNER’S LUCK: The Passion and Promise of Youth*** on **Tuesday and Thursday, October 19 and 21 at 8:00PM** at **Merkin Concert Hall**.

This lovingly curated program stars two young singers on the precipice of big careers: mezzo-soprano **SASHA COOKE** and tenor **PAUL APPLEBY**. Sasha and Paul did brilliant work together once before, when NYFOS premiered *Bastianello* and *Lucrezia*, the operas it commissioned from John Musto and Bill Bolcom (and which Bridge Records releases as a [double disc](#) in October). Many songs on the *Beginner’s Luck* program were written by composers at a similar stage of their lives, and explore the excitement and challenge of starting out in life.

NYFOS is known for nurturing and growing young artists. Singers step into their full power with the organization, which is why so many of them consider NYFOS their home. Led by founders [Steven](#)

[Blier](#) and [Michael Barrett](#), armed with just two pianos, gorgeous voices, a sense of humor, and a love of words and music—not to mention a deep knowledge of musical culture savvy enough to find the 18th-century gem that speaks to today’s sensibilities—NYFOS plunders music’s most remote precincts to create evenings of the deepest pleasure.

Program for *BEGINNER’S LUCK: The Passion and Promise of Youth:*

{PROLOGUE}

NED ROEM: A Journey

{FIRST SONGS}

GABRIEL FAURÉ: Mai

FERRUCCIO BUSONI: Wer hat das erste Lied erdacht?

FRANZ SCHUBERT: Geheimnis

{FIRST LOVE}

JOHANNES BRAHMS: Mädchenlied

ROBERT SCHUMANN: Der Nussbaum

EDVARD GRIEG: Die verschwiegene Nachtigall

HUGO WOLF: Begegnung

ALBAN BERG: Die Nachtigall

{COMING TO NEW YORK}

CHRISTOPHER BERG: I’m Going to New York

STEPHEN SONDHEIM: Take Me to the World

{THE FIRST TIME I HEARD THEM SING}

FAURÉ: Paradis, from *Chanson d’Ève*

RALPH VAUGHAN WILLIAMS: Silent Noon, from *The House of Life*

{BOYZ 2 MEN}

REYNALDO HAHN: A Good Boy

CHARLES IVES: Memories

WILLIAM BOLCOM: I Knew a Woman

ADAM GUETTEL: Awaiting You

BOLCOM: The Right Thing

{BEGINNER’S LUCK}

GEORGE GERSHWIN: Beginner’s Luck

JASON ROBERT BROWN: Audition sequence: “When I Come Home to You” (from *The Last Five Years*)

MARC BLITZSTEIN: In the Clear

THAD JONES: A Child is Born

BOB DYLAN: Forever Young

*

“Reading a season flier for the New York Festival of Song is like examining the product of some mad mapmaker’s brain, where Spain lies right next to Harlem and borders on Norway.” — Newsday

“New York Festival of Song reinvented the song recital.” — The New Yorker

“Evenings that can feel like dream dinner parties—the kind where a group of fascinating strangers come together to have wonderfully unexpected conversations.” — Opera America

“An entirely new recipe for the recital.” — Opera News

“NYFOS recitals are exactly what a musical evening should be—full of wonder, beauty and intense sense of discovery. And, equally important, a source of great hope for the future of classical music.” — NY Daily News

“Every detail was designed to give the evening seamless coherence, and you left the hall feeling enriched, enlightened, entertained and grateful for the experience.”— The Washington Post

UPCOMING NYFOS SHOWS AT MERKIN CONCERT HALL:

Tuesday, November 30 and Thursday, December 2, 2010

MANNING THE CANON: Songs of Gay Life

Two centuries of songs by and about gay men

Poulenc, Tchaikovsky, Griffes, de Falla, Bernstein, Cole Porter, Blitzstein, Schubert, Saint-Saëns
Scott Murphree, tenor • Jesse Blumberg, Matthew Worth, baritones • Matt Boehler, bass

Tuesday, February 15 and Thursday, February 17, 2011

NIGHT & DAY/USA: Americans Working and Dreaming

The American dream, on and off the job

Music by Ned Rorem, Kurt Weill, Lee Hoiby, Leiber and Stoller, and many others
Sari Gruber, soprano • Liza Forrester, mezzo-soprano • James Martin, baritone

Tuesday, March 15 and Thursday, March 17, 2011

SPANISH GOLD: Songs of the Iberian Peninsula

Sung in Ladino, Catalan, Basque, Galician, and Spanish

Music by Sor, Toldrà, Montsalvatge, Mompou, Yradier, Moreno Torroba, Granados, and many others
Introducing members of Caramoor's 2011 Vocal Rising Stars

**AND DON'T MISS NYFOS NEXT, A NEW MINI-SERIES PRESENTED BY THE
MOVADO HOUR:**

Baryshnikov Arts Center's Howard Gilman Performance Space

450 West 37th Street betw 9th and 10th Avenues

FREE

Tuesday, November 16, 2010, at 7:00PM

NYFOS Next: Gabriel Kahane & Friends

Tuesday, May 3, 2011, at 7:00PM

NYFOS Next: Phil Kline & Friends

Beginner's Luck is funded, in part, by the A. L. and Jenny L. Luria Foundation.

Paul Appleby appears with the cooperation of The Metropolitan Opera Lindemann Young Artist Development Program.

The NYFOS Merkin Hall Concert Series is made possible, in part, with public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency, and from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council.

For further information, press tickets, photos, and to arrange interviews,
please contact Aleba Gartner Associates at 212/206-1450 or a@alebgartner.com.

#