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Tickets & Information: www.nyfos.org

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NEW YORK FESTIVAL OF SONG (NYFOS)

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

presents

“MANNING THE CANON: *Songs of Gay Life*”

Two centuries of songs by and about gay men, starring
tenor **SCOTT MURPHREE** • baritone **JESSE BLUMBERG**
baritone **MATTHEW WORTH** • bass **MATT BOEHLER**

STEVEN BLIER, piano

**Music by Berg, Bernstein, Blitzstein, Bolcom, Britten, Coleman,
de Blasio, de Falla, Griffes, Lutvak, Porter, Poulenc,
Saint-Saëns, Szymanowski, Tchaikovsky, Wallowitch**

Tuesday, November 30 at 8:00PM

Thursday, December 2 at 8:00PM

No intermission

Merkin Concert Hall (129 West 67th St.)

Tickets: \$40–\$55

Student tickets: \$15

Steven Blier talks about *Manning the Canon*:

“This is a program I’ve been longing to do for about two decades. It explores two centuries of gay composers and gay-themed songs, and presents a wide variety of characters: experienced guys on the prowl for a good time; sensitive men grappling with their sexuality; hyper-males and drag queens; ecstatic lovers and those just awakening to their erotic nature. The composers come from seven countries and span 190 years, but they have one thing in common: they are all masters of words and music, and present a vital and engaging portrait of our gay heritage. The joys of gay brotherhood, the lacerating wit of our most brilliant writers, the subtle signals we’ve created to locate one another, and the crises we’ve faced and survived: these are the subjects of *Manning the Canon*.”

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

[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*)—presents ***MANNING THE CANON: Songs of Gay Life*** on **Tuesday, November 30 and Thursday, December 2 at 8:00PM at Merkin Concert Hall.**

Sexual exploration and awakening, joy and pain, fear and fulfillment are some of the currents that pulse through the songs of *Manning the Canon*. From the German *lied* represented by Franz Schubert’s “Der Gondelfahrer” (set to a text by his roommate and probable paramour, Johann Mayrhofer) to John Wallowitch’s hilarious cabaret song “Bruce,” filled with fashion tips for a befuddled drag queen, *Manning the Canon* is a musical portrait of life, love, lust, and loss in the world of gay men.

NYFOS is known for its daring programming, and *Manning the Canon* is a classic example. It offers an enormous range of repertoire in myriad styles, exhaustively researched and brilliantly programmed by Artistic Director Steven Blier, and performed by some of the best and brightest singers to be heard anywhere.

Program for *MANNING THE CANON: Songs of Gay Life*

{MAN TO MAN}

MARC BLITZSTEIN: Purest Kind of a Guy

CHRISTOPHER BERG: Is It Dirty?

STEVEN LUTVAK: Exit Right

{OUR GAY HERITAGE IN ART SONG: FULFILMENT}

FRANZ SCHUBERT: Der Gondelfahrer

CHARLES TOMLINSON GRIFFES: Evening Song

FRANCIS POULENC: Montparnasse

KAROL SZYMANOWSKI: Moje serce

{DRAG ACTS}

JOHN WALLOWITCH: Bruce

WILLIAM BOLCOM: Boardwalk Scene

{OUR GAY HERITAGE IN ART SONG: MIXED SIGNALS}

MANUEL DE FALLA: Polo

PYOTR ILYICH TCHAIKOVSKY: At the Ball

CAMILLE SAINT-SAËNS: Si vous n’avez rien à me dire

BENJAMIN BRITTEN: Night covers up the rigid land

{LOCKER ROOM ENCOUNTER, CRISIS, LIBERATION, CELEBRATION}

CY COLEMAN: Tennis Duet

CHRIS DE BLASIO: Walt Whitman in 1989

LEONARD BERNSTEIN: To What You Said

COLE PORTER: You’re the Top

UPCOMING NYFOS SHOWS AT MERKIN CONCERT HALL:

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,
TWO CONCERTS ON THE MOVADO HOUR SERIES:**

Presented by Baryshnikov Arts Center
Howard Gilman Performance Space, 450 West 37th Street betw 9th & 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

LINKS

STEVEN BLIER

http://www.nyfos.org/bios/Blier,_Steven.php

JESSE BLUMBERG

<http://www.jesseblumberg.com>

MATT BOEHLER

<http://www.mattboehler.com>

SCOTT MURPHREE

<http://steinhardt.nyu.edu/music/voice/people/faculty/murphree>

MATTHEW WORTH

http://www.nyfos.org/bios/Worth,_Matthew.php

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“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

“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

“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

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The NYFOS Merkin Hall Concert Series is made possible, in part, with public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts.

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

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