

2023/2024 SEASON

the dallas opera™



THE ROBERT E. AND JEAN ANN TITUS FAMILY RECITAL

LAWRENCE BROWNLEE, tenor

MYRA HUANG, pianist

JANUARY 21, 2024, AT 2:00 PM
MOODY PERFORMANCE HALL

A MESSAGE FROM QUINCY ROBERTS

CHAIR, THE DALLAS OPERA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Welcome to the Robert E. and Jean Ann Titus Family Recital. It is a delight to have you join us here in the heart of the Arts District at the Moody Performance Hall. This annual event hosted by The Dallas Opera has a rich history of presenting some of the world's finest opera stars. Today we continue that tradition in this most intimate setting with my very dear friend, Lawrence Brownlee.

Mr. Brownlee has been called the premier bel canto tenor of his generation. His career has led him to perform leading roles in nearly every major international opera house: La Scala in Milan, the Royal Opera Covent Garden in London, Paris Opera Bastille, and the Metropolitan Opera in New York City, just to name a few. Equally at home as a recitalist, Lawrence has been nominated for a 2024 Grammy Award in the category of Best Classical Solo Vocal Album for his recording of *Rising*, a recital program of songs set to poems of the Harlem Renaissance.

Joining him as pianist is two-time Grammy-nominated Steinway Artist Myra Huang. Myra and Lawrence have a long history of collaborating on the recital stage. They are both making their Dallas Opera debuts, and we are very lucky to have them! This afternoon's performance promises to be a versatile and virtuosic experience with this dynamic duo. I am thrilled to share this magical experience with you. Thank you for supporting The Dallas Opera with your presence today!

Sincerely,



QUINCY ROBERTS

Chair, The Dallas Opera
Board of Directors

the dallas opera™

presents

The Robert E. and Jean Ann Titus Family Recital

Lawrence Brownlee, tenor

Myra Huang, pianist

January 21, 2024, at 2:00 PM

Moody Performance Hall

“These past years have been a trial, both for humanity as a whole, and the African American population here in the United States. But through all these many challenges we have faced, I have also seen moments of strength, inspiration, hope, and great beauty. It is those themes of uplift, elevation, and rebirth that we have tried to focus on with this new project *Rising*, taking poems from the giants of the Harlem Renaissance, and working with some of today’s most talented African American composers, to create something that speaks not just to our struggles, but to our triumphs.”

— LAWRENCE BROWNLEE

LAND AND PEOPLE ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Creating a place of belonging for everyone to experience this art form is a vital part of inspiring generations of opera lovers and honoring those who came before us. As an opera company, we are storytellers of the full human experience, and that includes the narratives we share about this land and its people.

We are on the original land of the Caddo, Wichita, and Comanche sovereign nations, whose people faced horrible treatment and policies that forced their removal from the land.

People were also stolen from their homes in Africa, enslaved, dehumanized, and forced to build Dallas through free labor.

While none of us created these conditions, we have the opportunity, responsibility, and honor to uplift these communities through truth-telling, greater connection, and holistic celebration.

Thank you for joining us in acknowledging this land and these peoples.

COVER PHOTO: SHERVIN LAINEZ

DONOR SPOTLIGHT



IAN DERRER
WITH JEAN ANN TITUS

Every year we look forward to artists like Lawrence Brownlee and Myra Huang who bring such memorable recitals to Dallas. In 2014, our family established the annual Robert E. and Jean Ann Titus Family Recital to honor and remember our parents' lifelong love of music through art song.

My sister Amy, my mother, and our family are especially grateful to Ian and The Dallas Opera staff for consistently bringing this level of artistic excellence to North Texas audiences, year after year.

— SARAH TITUS, DALLAS OPERA TRUSTEE

“The Titus Family remains an artistic anchor for The Dallas Opera, and we are thankful for their passion for bringing world-class artists to the Dallas stage, year after year.” — IAN DERRER

PROGRAM

Desire, Op. 13

1. Desire
2. Dream
3. Juliet
4. Man

Robert Owens
(1925–2017)

April Rain Song
Lost Illusions
Southern Mansion

Jeremiah Evans
b. 1978

Silver Rain, Op. 11

1. In time of silver rain
2. Fulfillment
3. Night Song
4. Silence
5. Carolina Cabin
6. Songs
7. Sleep

Robert Owens

Nocturne
Selige Nacht
Die Elfe
Christbaum
Hat dich die Liebe berührt

Joseph Marx
(1882–1964)

INTERMISSION

Vocalise I

Carlos Simon
b. 1986

Peace
Invocation

Jasmine Barnes
b. 1991

I Know My Soul
The Dance of Love

Brandon Spencer
b. 1992

Vocalise II

Carlos Simon

Beauty That Is Never Old
The Gift to Sing
To America

Damien L. Sneed
b. 1979

Romance

Shawn E. Okpebholo
b. 1981

Vocalise III

Carlos Simon

Supplication
Compensation
My People

Joel Thompson
b. 1988

The program will be approximately 2 hours including one intermission.

LAWRENCE BROWNLEE

Lawrence Brownlee is a leading figure in opera, both as a singer on the world's top stages and as a voice for activism and diversity in the industry. He has been hailed as "an international star in the bel canto operatic repertoire" (*New York Times*), "one of the world's leading bel canto stars" (*Guardian*), and "one of the most in-demand opera singers in the world today" (NPR). Mr. Brownlee's 2023/2024 season includes Opera Rara's Donizetti Song Project, where he joined pianist Carlo Rizzi at Wigmore Hall for a recital and



recording of Donizetti's rarely performed repertoire, in addition to a gala concert at the 2023 George Enescu International Festival and duo recital with Levy Sekgapane at Grand Théâtre de Genève. Mr. Brownlee also traveled to Wiener Staatsoper to perform as Count Almaviva in *Il barbiere di Siviglia* before singing the role of Tonio in the Lyric Opera of Chicago's *La fille du régiment* in November. In December, he joined the Wiener Konzerthaus for its 2023 Christmas in Vienna Gala before reuniting with Michael Spyres for the *Game of Tenors* concert in Bratislava. After his appearance in the Titus Family Recital, Mr. Brownlee performs in recital with the La Jolla Music Society and brings his acclaimed *Rising* program to San Francisco Performances in February 2024 and the Concertgebouw in June 2024. He will also return to Milan's La Scala as Ernesto in *Don Pasquale* before ending his season

as Don Ramiro in Rossini's *La Cenerentola* at the Bayerische Staatsoper. In spring 2021, Mr. Brownlee joined The Juilliard School as a Distinguished Visiting Faculty Member. He serves as artistic advisor for Opera Philadelphia, where his responsibilities include increasing and expanding audience diversity, advocating for new works, and liaising with the general director from the perspective of a performing artist.

PHOTO: SHERVIN LAINEZ

MYRA HUANG

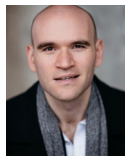
Acclaimed by *Opera News* as being “among the top accompanists of her generation,” and “a colouristic tour de force” by the *New York Times*, Grammy Award-nominated pianist Myra Huang is highly sought-after for her interpretation of lieder and art song as well as her depth of musicianship and impeccable technique. Ms. Huang is invited regularly to perform around the world, with tours including regular appearances at Carnegie Hall, Wigmore Hall, the Mostly Mozart Festival at Lincoln Center, the Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles, the Kennedy Center, and the 92nd Street Y. For her consummate artistry, Ms. Huang won the Samuel Sanders Collaborative Artist Award for 2019 from the Classical Recording Foundation. Regular collaborations include recitals with Fleur Barron, J’Nai Bridges, Lawrence Brownlee, Sasha Cooke, Ying Fang, Joshua Hopkins, Will Liverman, Angela Meade, John Matthew Myers, Eric Owens, Nicholas Phan, Susanna Phillips, Roderick Williams, and clarinetist Anthony McGill. Ms. Huang is head of music for the Lindemann Young Artist Development Program at the Metropolitan Opera, director of musical administration and head coach at the Aspen Music Festival, and a faculty member of the Collaborative Piano Department at the Manhattan School of Music, where she mentors and supports young opera singers and pianists of the next generation. She regularly adjudicates national competitions, including the Laffont Competition at the Metropolitan Opera, and administers masterclasses at institutions across the country. She is an avid recitalist and recording artist. She is a two-time Grammy nominee for her albums *Gods and Monsters* and *Clairières* with tenor Nicholas Phan on the Avie label. Ms. Huang is a Steinway Artist.



PAST TITUS RECITALISTS



Ying Fang, soprano
Craig Terry, pianist
January 15, 2023



Michael Fabiano, tenor
Laurent Philippe, pianist
January 22, 2017



Benjamin Appl, baritone
James Baillieu, pianist
January 30, 2022



Frederica von Stade,
mezzo-soprano
Jake Heggie, pianist
January 31, 2016



Angel Blue, soprano
James Baillieu, pianist
January 26, 2020



Matthew Polenzani, tenor
Julius Drake, pianist
January 11, 2015



Simon O'Neill, tenor
Terrence Dennis, pianist
January 27, 2019



Ian Bostridge, tenor
Wenwen Du, pianist
January 4, 2014



Nadine Sierra, soprano
Bryan Wagorn, pianist
January 28, 2018