Artist Partner Program presents

GORDON HAWKINS, BARITONE

WITH JUSTINA LEE, PIANO
Thursday, November 12, 2015 . 8PM
Joseph & Alma Gildenhorn Recital Hall

This performance will last approximately **1 hour and 30 minutes, with one 15-minute intermission**.

Video or audio recording of the production is strictly prohibited.

Gordon Hawkins is critically acclaimed throughout the world for his in-depth interpretations and lush baritone voice. A dramatic baritone with an international reputation as a "Rigoletto specialist," Hawkins has delighted audiences as the tragic Verdi underdog in more than 170 performances. He is now earning critical acclaim as a Wagner specialist: "Alberich was superbly realized by baritone Gordon Hawkins, in his [Los Angeles Opera] début. Despite wearing a grotesque puppet head and clunky boots that hobbled his movements, Hawkins delivered a sterling vocal characterization of the power-mad Nibelung." (*Opera News*). He has been engaged as Alberich in Wagner's *Der Ring des Nibelungen* at esteemed international companies including San Francisco Opera, Los Angeles Opera, Washington National Opera, Seattle Opera, the Deutsche Oper Berlin, Teatro de la Maestranza de Sevilla and the BBC Orchestra at Royal Albert Hall in London.

This season, he is performing the title role in Vancouver Opera's production of *Rigoletto*, Porgy in *Porgy and Bess* in concert at Toledo Opera, Scarpia in *Tosca* with the Cincinnati Opera, a recital entitled *War and Remembrance* at The Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center and Alberich in *The Ring Cycle* at Washington National Opera. In recent seasons, he performed the title role in *Nabucco* with Seattle Opera and Opera Carolina, sang Alvaro in Daniel Catán's contemporary Spanish-language opera *Florencia en el Amazonas* at Los Angeles Opera, appeared as Scarpia in *Tosca* at Lyric Opera of Kansas City, Amonasro in *Aïda* with St. Louis Symphony and reprised the role of Porgy in *Porgy and Bess* for Jacksonville Symphony and Festspillene i Bergen in Norway.

Hawkins' career is shaped by performances of opera's most popular baritone roles at leading companies around the world. Recent career highlights include *Rigoletto* with such companies as Washington National Opera, Arizona Opera and Opera Colorado; Thoas in *Iphigénie en Tauride* at the Metropolitan Opera; Alfio in *Cavalleria Rusticana* with the Washington National Opera; Telramund in *Lohengrin* at the Deutsche Oper Berlin; Caspar in *Der Freischütz* at Teatro de la Maestranza in Seville; Amonasro in *Aïda* with Lyric Opera of Chicago, Houston Grand Opera, Cincinnati Opera, Michigan Opera Theatre and The Atlanta Symphony; Tonio in *Pagliacci* at Seattle Opera, Michigan Opera Theatre, Manitoba Opera and Atlanta Opera; Scarpia in *Tosca* at Vancouver Opera and Arizona Opera; Renato in *Un ballo in maschera* with Opéra de Montréal and New Orleans Opera; the title role in Verdi's *Macbeth* and Count di Luna in *Il trovatore* with Seattle Opera; and the Villains in *Les contes d'Hoffmann* at New National Theatre Tokyo.

One of his signature roles, Porgy in Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess,* has brought him to the most esteemed companies in the U.S. including most recently the Lyric Opera of Chicago, Washington National Opera, Seattle Opera, Michigan Opera Theatre, Dallas Opera, Cincinnati Opera, Colorado Symphony and San Francisco Symphony.

In concert, Hawkins recently sang a Gala Concert for Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg in Washington DC. Additional engagements include Vaughan Williams' *A Sea Symphony* with The Washington Chorus at The Kennedy Center; the world première of Jake Heggie's *A Great Hope Fell* with the Eos Orchestra of New York; Beethoven's *Ninth Symphony* with The Atlanta Symphony and St. Louis Symphony; concert selections from American musicals with Welle WDR 4 in Cologne, Germany; and additional repertoire with the Chicago Symphony, National Symphony, the Baltimore Symphony, The Cincinnati Orchestra, National Theatre Orchestra of Prague and Vienna Symphony.

Hawkins has been heard on the live BBC Radio broadcast as Alberich in *Götterdämmerung* with the BBC Symphony Orchestra at the Royal Albert Hall, and Live from the Metropolitan Opera broadcasts

earlier in his career as Marcello in *La bohème* with Plácido Domingo and Mirella Freni, and Silvano in *Un ballo in maschera* with Luciano Pavarotti and Aprile Millo. He can be heard as George Milton on the first recording of Carlisle Floyd's *Of Mice and Men* with the Houston Grand Opera on Albany Records, and on the New Zealand International Festival of the Arts' recording of *Simon Boccanegra* in the title role.

Hawkins was a winner of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, the Luciano Pavarotti International Vocal Competition and was awarded the Washington National Opera's "Artist of the Year" award.

Widely regarded as one of today's foremost collaborative pianists, **Justina Lee** has served as assistant conductor, pianist and coach in such important venues as the Metropolitan Opera, Washington National Opera, Seattle Opera, Houston Grand Opera, Opera Theatre of St. Louis, the Glimmerglass Festival, the Wolf Trap Opera Company and the Castleton Festival. Internationally, she has worked with the Centro Studi Italiani in Urbania, Italy and with the Prague Summer Nights Music Festival. In recital, Lee has accompanied acclaimed tenor Lawrence Brownlee, also appearing with him on NPR's Tiny Desk Concert series. She has also collaborated in recital with other artists including Dimitri Pittas, Alex Richardson, Jennifer Black and Linda Mabbs. She has appeared under the auspices of the Marilyn Horne Foundation residency program, and on such recital series as *On Wings of Song*, the Harriman-Jewell Series and with the Manchester Music Festival. Lee is an alumna of the distinguished Lindemann Young Artist Development Program at the Metropolitan Opera, and holds degrees from the University of California, Los Angeles, and the Manhattan School of Music. She joined the University of Maryland faculty in 2008 where she currently serves as principal coach of the Maryland Opera Studio.

THE CLARICE AND THE COMMUNITY

The Clarice is building the future of the arts by training, mentoring and presenting the next generation of artists and creative innovators. As artists develop their craft as performers, they must become instigators of meaningful dialogue, creative research and audience connection. These skills are developed through engagement activities both on and off campus. Engagement at The Clarice is characterized by facilitated audience interactions with artists, scholars and community leaders that are focused on process and research rather than product and performance. The Clarice supports artists in their quest for a connection with audiences through its engagement work.

ENGAGEMENT EVENTS

- On Wednesday, Gordon Hawkins visited with hundreds of students who were part of the 14th Annual High School Choir Invitational, sponsored by the School of Music, and spoke about his life and his career as a singer.
- Hawkins also taught a master class for students in the Voice Division of the School of Music, performing for and coaching both graduate and undergraduate students.