

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND
SCHOOL OF MUSIC PRESENTS



MEMORIAL CONCERT
HONORING THE CAREER
AND LEGACY OF

CARMEN BALTHROP

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNA,
RENOWNED SOPRANO AND PROFESSOR
OF VOICE AND OPERA

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2022 • 3PM

DEKELBOUM CONCERT HALL

AT THE CLARICE SMITH PERFORMING ARTS CENTER



University of Maryland School of Music Presents

Memorial Concert Honoring the Career and Legacy of Carmen Balthrop

Scot Reese

Host

“Che sento? Oh Dio!” from *Giulio Cesare*George Frideric Handel
(1685–1759)

Carmen Balthrop, *soprano*
1975 Metropolitan Opera Laffont Competition Winning Broadcast

Linda Zhogby, *colleague and friend*

Myra Merritt, *composer, colleague and friend*

Special Tribute

Wayne S. Brown, *President & CEO, Detroit Opera*

“Signore Ascolta” from *Turandot*Giacomo Puccini
(1858–1924)

“Song to the Moon” from *Rusalka*Antonin Dvorak
(1841–1904)

Shaina Martinez-Azzopardi, *soprano*
Jose Caceres, *piano*

Frank Proto, *composer*

John Chenault
*Director of Anti-Racism Initiatives,
Undergraduate Medical Education,
University of Louisville School of Medicine*

Leslie Burrs, *composer, colleague and friend*

Excerpts from *La bohème*Puccini

“Che gelida manina”
“Sì, mi chiamano Mimì”
“O soave fanciulla”

Kira Neary, *soprano*
Lawrence Barasa, *tenor*
Pei-Hsuan Lin, *piano*

Martha Randall & Gran Wilson, *School of Music Faculty*

Video Collage of Students, Colleagues and Friends

Harolyn Blackwell, *colleague and friend*

“Votre Toast” from *Carmen* Georges Bizet
(1838–1875)

Kevin Short, *bass-baritone*
Dr. Lester Green, Jr., *piano*

INTERMISSION

Video Collage of Students, Colleagues and Friends

Dr. Rev. Fr. James Bradley
Assistant Professor of Canon Law,
Catholic University

Gaelic Blessing John Rutter
(b. 1945)

Thy Perfect Love Rutter

O Taste and See Ralph Vaughan Williams
(1872–1958)

St. Luke’s Parish Singers

Dennys Moura, *director*

Daniel Heifetz, *Founder, Heifetz International Music Institute*

Video Collage of Students, Colleagues and Family

Kéramos James Mulholland
(b. 1935)

University of Maryland Chamber Singers

Jason Max Ferdinand, *conductor*

Bonnie Thorton-Dill, *Dean of the College of Arts and Humanities, retired*

Gregory E. Miller, *Director, School of Music*

Patrick Delaney, *husband*

“A Real Slow Drag” from *Treemonisha* Scott Joplin
(1868–1917)

Dr. Lester Green, Jr., *piano*

SCOT REESE is the Head of Theatre Performance at the University of Maryland, College Park whose focus is Black theatre, directing and musical theatre. His theater credits include productions from Los Angeles to New York including include Bells are Ringing, Purlie and the world premiere of Blues Journey at the Kennedy Center; Once On This Island and Crumbs from the Table of Joy at the Round House Theatre; Pretty Fire and From the Mississippi Delta for the African Continuum Theatre Company; The Heidi Chronicles and Barefoot in the Park (with Laura Linney and Eric Stoltz) at LA Theatre Works, blackballin ' for Arena Stage's Old Vat, To Be Young Gifted, and Black, Urinetown, The Colored Museum and Jane Eyre: The Musical at the University of Maryland; A Raisin in the Sun at Olney Theatre Center. Television credits include daytime dramas, situation comedies, variety specials, commercials and an my Award foremindividual achievement in performance.

SHAINA MARTINEZ has been hailed by the Washington Post for her “piercing, muscular soprano” and recognized by Opera News for having “an attractive soprano.” She has performed Violetta (*La Traviata*) with West Bay Opera; performed Giannetta and covered Adina (*L'Elisir d'Amore*) with Opera Maine; Countess (*Le Nozze di Figaro*) with SAS Performing Arts Co.; Violetta (*La Traviata*), Susannah (*Susannah*) and Donna Elvira (*Don Giovanni*) with Lighthouse Opera Company; the title role in Viardot's *Cendrillon* with City Lyric Opera; Violetta (*La Traviata*) with MassOpera; Cio Cio San and Kate Pinkerton (*Madama Butterfly*) and Donna Anna (*Don Giovanni*/cover) with Florida Grand Opera; Fiordiligi (*Così fan tutte*) and Saffi (*Der Zigeunerbaron*) with Manhattan School of Music; Salud (*La Vida Breve*) with The In Series and *Zweite Dame (Die Zauberflöte)* with the Siena Music Festival. As an active competitor she has received first place from the 2022 Lyra New York International Art Song Competition, the 2022 Dorothy Lincoln-Smith Voice Award (D.C. Chapter), the 2022 SAS Performing Arts Vocal Competition, the 2021 National Federation of Music Clubs Young Artist Competition, the 2019 Eisenberg-Fried Concerto Competition, the 2019 Russell C. Wonderlic Competition and the 2019 Talents of the World International Competition; 2nd place from the 2022 Southern Illinois Young Artist Competition, the 2019 Opera NEO Voice Competition and the MIOpera Vocal Competition; 3rd place from the Washington International Competition, the XXI Concurso Internacional de Canto Lirico and the Alan M. & Joan Taub Ades Competition; and was a finalist in the 2022 Loren L. Zachary Society Vocal Competition, the 2022 Vero Beach Opera Rising Stars Competition, the 2022 Camille Coloratura Awards and the 2022 and 2019 Opera at Florham Vocal Competition. She was a semifinalist in the 2021 Met Council Auditions and the 2022 Elizabeth Connell Prize. Martinez also has a love for art song which has been expressed in her performances in the Opera America Emerging Artist Recital with Craig Rutenber and in her performance of Joaquin Turina's *Poema en forma de canciones* with the MSM Philharmonia, under the baton of Perry So. Apprenticeships include Martina Arroyo's Prelude to Performance, Grant Park Music Festival's Project Inclusion Fellowship, The Thirteen Vocal Fellowship and Florida Grand Opera. She holds a bachelor's degree from University of Maryland, College Park and a master's degree from the Manhattan School of Music. Upcoming engagements include reprising the role of Donna Elvira in West Bay Opera's production of *Don Giovanni* in 2023.

Pianist **JOSÉ CÁCERES** has appeared throughout the United States, Central and South America, the Caribbean and Europe. Some of the numerous venues in which he has performed in recital include the Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall, the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, the Palace of Fine Arts in Mexico City and the Fine Arts Center in San Juan, Puerto Rico. He has been heard with major orchestras including the National Symphony Orchestra, the American Youth Philharmonic, the Fairfax Symphony and the Puerto Rico Symphony.

His passion to perform as collaborator in chamber and art song recitals has led him to appear as guest artist in festivals and venues such as the Irving S. Gilmore International Keyboard Festival, the San Antonio Music Festival, the Library of Congress, the National Gallery of Art, the Smithsonian Institution, the Corcoran Gallery of Art, the Organization of American States and the Marian Anderson International Vocal Arts Competition.

Cáceres was Carmen Balthrop's stage partner for 35 years, where he performed extensively with her in major concert halls throughout the United States and Europe, including a five-city tour throughout The Netherlands. With Balthrop, he recorded the world premiere of Robert Greenleaf's *A Modern Woman's Life and Love*—a cycle of eight songs based on poems by Kenneth Walters—and *The Art of Christmas, the Original*—an exquisite collection of Christmas art song jewels from world-renowned composers. He received both his bachelor's and master's of music from the University of Maryland, College Park.

KIRA NEARY is currently pursuing her master's degree at the Maryland Opera Studio, after having completed her undergraduate study at Northwestern University. Recent roles include Pamina in *Die Zauberflöte* with Washington Opera Society, Donna Elvira in *Don Giovanni* at Prague Summer Nights, Sara Turing in scenes from *The Life and Death(s) of Alan Turing* and Papagena in *Die Zauberflöte* with Maryland Opera Studio, La Musica in Northwestern University's online production of *L'Orfeo*, Mother in David T. Little's *Dog Days* and Theodora in Handel's *Theodora* with Northwestern University Opera Theater and Poppea in *L'Incoronazione di Poppea* at Miami Music Festival. She also sang First Wren in a workshop of Justine F. Chen's *The Life and Death(s) of Alan Turing* with Chicago Opera Theater. This spring, she will sing Donna Elvira in Maryland Opera Studio's *Don Giovanni*. Neary is a student of Kevin Short.

LAWRENCE BARASA is the performance director of The Kenyan Classical Singers' Organization. A tenor from Kenya, Barasa developed his artistic profile as a member and assistant production manager of The Kenyan Boys Choir. He has performed the roles of Spoletta in Astoria Music Festival and Eugene Opera's production of *Tosca*. He also appeared as Don Basilio and Don Curzio in *Le nozze di Figaro* at the Astoria Music Festival in 2018, and he also appeared as Hoffmann in *Les contes d'Hoffmann* and as Don José in *La tragédie de Carmen* at the University of Oregon School of Music and Dance. He also completed training at the Savannah Voice Festival in 2019 and 2020 under the tutelage of Sherrill Milnes and Maria Zouaves. This spring, he will sing Don Ottavio in *Don Giovanni*. Barasa graduated from the University of Oregon with a Vocal Performance Degree under Karen Esquivel. Barasa is a student of Delores Ziegler.

KEVIN SHORT is professor of voice at both the Maryland Opera Studio and The Juilliard School, as well as a sought-after performer for companies such as the Metropolitan Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Houston Grand Opera, Washington National Opera, Los Angeles Opera, Seattle Opera, Opera Company of Philadelphia, Santa Fe Opera, Florida Grand Opera, Paris's Opera Comique, Welsh National Opera, Theatre Caen, Grand Theatre du Luxembourg, Oper der Stadt Köln, Stadttheater Stuttgart, Theater Aachen, Theater Basel and many more. He has also performed on the concert and recital stage, including with the Boston Symphony, the Philadelphia Orchestra, the San Francisco Symphony, the Cleveland Orchestra, the St. Louis Symphony, the National Symphony Orchestra, the Baltimore Symphony, the Royal Stockholm Philharmonic Orchestra, the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra, the Netherlands Filharmonisch Orkest and the like. His solo CD on the Pentatone label, *Mephistopheles and Other Bad Guys*, was listed by WQXR as one of the outstanding classical recordings of 2018.

DR. LESTER GREEN, JR., pianist, is a vocal coach and member of the Graduate Faculty in the Division of Voice and Opera in the School of Music. He is a member of the conservatory faculty at the Peabody Institute of Johns Hopkins University and Morgan State University, while also serving in an artistic advisory role to the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra and the Coalition for African Americans in the Performing Arts.

Active as a professional musician in diverse capacities for more than 30 years, Green earned degrees in solo piano performance from the University of South Carolina School of Music and the Peabody Institute of Johns Hopkins University. Green earned the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Collaborative Piano Performance from the University of Maryland, College Park.

As a pianist, Green has worked in numerous venues for organizations such as the National Symphony Orchestra, Washington National Opera, Washington Performing Arts, DaCamera of Houston, Corrales Music Festival, the Aspen Music Festival, the InSeries, the Colour of Music Festival, the MOJA Festival, Heifetz Institute, Opera North, Houston Ebony Opera Guild, Washington Opera Society, Annapolis Opera, Alexandria Symphony Orchestra, Children's Chorus of Washington, Vocal Arts DC, Friday Morning Music Club, the Coalition for African Americans in the Performing Arts and many other organizations.

As a conductor Green has led performances with Alexandria Symphony Orchestra, the Longfellow Chorus Festival, Charleston Gospel Choir, the Dunbar Operas Project, Opera Morgan, the United States Air Force Strings and others. Additionally, Green served as Minister of Music and principal organist for the historic Metropolitan AME Church of Washington, DC, for more than 9 years.

THE ST. LUKE'S PARISH SINGERS, comprised primarily of Carmen's students, have long adorned sanctuaries with choral Mass settings and sacred motets. Their decades-long conductor, Carmen lent her inestimable talents to ensure no exquisite note would go to waste. It would be the prelude to that more celestial loft where her voice continues to resound.

Jason Max Ferdinand, *Conductor*
Nathan Lofton, *Assistant Conductor*
Yihan Sun, *Accompanist*

Joshua Bates
Sydney Black*
Scott Boggs
Darby Brandenburg
Amelia Brooks-Everist
Mykayla Brown
Kobe Brown
Bella Cadirola*
Louis Cleare
J. Solomon Collins
Kai Daley
Brynn Farlow
Megan Flynn*
Liam Gallihue
Mark Helms
Mihika Kulkarni*
Ana Lane
Delina Levine
Nathan Lofton
David Mann
Nicholas Mathew
Jacob Mitchell
Reyna Moore
Gracie Null
Paige Percy
Cecilia Plumer
Keely Sigler
Colton Smith
Aidan Wilbur
Joel Zinkievich

*Ensemble Assistant



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SCHOOL OF
MUSIC

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