

9th SEASON
1988 – 1989



MARVIS MARTIN

• SOPRANO •

GARY LEDET • Piano •

Sunday, September 18th, 1988

Vancouver Playhouse



Meet the Artists...

Marvis Martin, Soprano

Soprano Marvis Martin was born in Miami, Florida and graduated from the University of Miami before moving on to the Manhattan School of Music. In 1981 she was awarded Young Concert Artists' Kathleen Ferrier Prize as winner of its international auditions. Other medals and awards have included three prizes in the 1980 Concours International de chant in Paris, the 1983 National Opera Institute Gold Medal, and First Prize in the WGN-Illinois Opera Guild "Auditions of the Air." Ms Martin recently performed her Lincoln Center recital debut at Alice Tully Hall as recipient of the Michaels Award of Young Concert Artists.

Marvis Martin has performed with such major orchestras as the Montreal, Pittsburgh, Detroit, Baltimore and Boston Symphonies, the Los Angeles Philharmonic and the Philadelphia and Cleveland Orchestras. She has appeared with such prestigious conductors as Sir Georg Solti, James Conlon, Robert Shaw, Charles Dutoit, Pinchas Zukerman, Claudio Scimone, Zubin Mehta and James Levine.

Her opera appearances at the Met have included a wide variety of roles such as Pamina in *Die Zauberflöte*, Echo in *Ariadne Auf Naxos*, the Princess in *L'Enfant et les Sortilèges*, and Clara in the first Met production of *Porgy and Bess*, a role which she also sang in concert performance at the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam and in Utrecht.

This season Marvis Martin will return to the Met for performances as Ilia in Mozart's *Idomeneo*, and the Celestial Voice in Verdi's *Don Carlos*. As well she will perform the Bruckner *Te Deum* with the New York Philharmonic, the Brahms *Requiem* with the Detroit Symphony, Mahler's *2nd Symphony* with the Chicago Symphony and *Messiah* with Musica Sacra at Lincoln Center's Avery Fisher Hall.

In great demand as a recitalist, Marvis Martin has been heard in music capitals such as New York, Paris, Chicago and Los Angeles. Ms Martin, who currently resides in New York, is a regular visitor to such summer music festivals as Tanglewood, Ravinia, Blossom, Edinburgh, New York's Mostly Mozart and Santa Fe.

COLUMBIA ARTISTS MANAGEMENT INC.

Personal Direction: Kevin S. Hassler/Associate: Ken Benson
165 West 57th Street, New York, N.Y. 10019

Gary Ledet

Gary Ledet is a native of New Orleans where he received a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of New Orleans. As a solo pianist, he has appeared with the St. Louis Symphony and the New Orleans Philharmonic. He holds a Master's Degree from the Manhattan School of Music where he turned his attention to vocal accompanying and coaching. He has appeared in over 100 recitals in the United States and Canada, including concerts at the Ravinia Festival, the Spoleto Festival, the Marlboro Concert Series, the International Music Center at Interlochen and the prestigious Ambassador Series in Los Angeles. He is on the voice faculty of the Manhattan School of Music and has served in the Opera Department at the State University of New York at Purchase. The New York Times has called his playing "uncommonly sensitive and colorful."

PROGRAM

Oh Sleep, why dost thou leave me?
Oh, had I Jubal's lyre
Piàngerò la sorte mia

George Frideric Handel
(1685–1759)

This evening's programme opens with a group of three Handel arias from *Semele*, *Joshua* and *Giulio Cesare* respectively. The latter (sung in Italian) begins with a recitative in which Cleopatra acknowledges her defeat by her brother Ptolemy; in the subsequent aria she sings, "I shall weep my fate as long as I have life, but after death my restless ghost shall wander."

Heimliche Aufforderung, Opus 27, No. 3
Ich schwebe, Opus 48, No. 2
Morgen!, Opus 27, No. 4
Kling!, Opus 48, No. 3

Richard Strauss
(1864–1949)

Four celebrated lieder of Strauss (from Opus 27 of 1894 and Opus 48 of 1900) follow.

Heimliche Aufforderung (John Henry Mackay)

Come, lift the sparkling cup to your lips,
And drink at the joyous feast to your heart's content
And, as you lift it, throw me a secret glance;
Then will I smile and drink as quietly as you...
Then, as I do, silently gaze around us over the crowd
Of intoxicated drinkers. Do not despise them too much.
No, lift the sparkling cup, filled with wine,
And let them enjoy their noisy feast,
But, after you've gaily dined and quenched your thirst,
Then leave that festive scene of riotous merrymakers,
And stroll into the garden, towards the rosebushes.
There I will await you, as custom was,
And, 'ere you know it, I'll recline against your breast
And drink your kisses, as in days of yore;
I will entwine in your hair the splendor of a rose,
Oh, come, you wondrous, longed-for night!

Morgen! (John Henry Mackay)

And tomorrow the sun will shine again,
And on the path that I will follow,
It shall again unite us, happy ones,
Upon this sun-breathing earth...
And to the wide shore, with its blue waves,
We will quickly and slowly descend,
Speechless, we shall look into each other's eyes,
And upon us will descend the muted silence
Of Happiness.

Ich Schwebe (Karl Henckell)

I am walking on air;
my foot scarcely touches the earth.
In my ears I hear ringing sounds
like my sweetheart's goodbye.
It sounds so lovely, gentle and low,
it speaks so shyly, soft and pure;
lightly the echoing melody
lulls me into deep, happy dreams.
My glistening eye, while
the sweetest of melodies fills me,
sees plainly and clearly
my smiling love passing by.

Kling! (Karl Henckell)
 My soul utters a pure sound, while I
 imagined the poor one
 to be torn by the sorrows of those
 turbulent times.
 Sing, my soul, the song of confession
 of regained fulfillment!
 Lift the veil from your heart! Hail to
 thee, resounding, innermost tone!
 Sing my soul, sing of your life,
 Sing, arising new image.
 New bloom has appeared on the dry plain,
 Sing my soul, sing.

Trois Melodies

Erik Satie
 (1866–1925)

Though almost contemporary with Strauss lieder, the *Trois Melodies* (1916) of Erik Satie could not provide a greater contrast. Slight, understated, enigmatic, the “dadaist” texts veer towards absurd and surreal.

La statue de bronz (Leon-Paul Fargue)

The frog is bored; she has had enough of being a statue. She would rather be with the others (who are blowing soap bubbles with the soap of the moon...)

Daphénéo (M. Godebski)

Tell me, Daphénéo, what is that tree whose fruits are birds who weep?
 That tree, Chrysaline, is a bird-tree.

I thought that hazel trees had hazel nuts, Daphénéo.

Yes, Chrysaline, the hazel trees have hazel nuts,
 but the bird-trees have birds who weep.

Ah!...

Le Chapelier (Rene Chalupt)

The hatter is astonished to find that his watch is going three days slow, although he has always taken care to grease it with butter of the best quality. But he has allowed some breadcrumbs to fall into the works, and even if he tries dipping his watch in the tea, it will not make it go any faster.

Io son l'umile ancilla

Francesco Cilea
 (1866–1950)

The first half of the programme is brought to a resounding conclusion with this famous aria from *Adriana Lecouvreur* (1902). The scene is set in the Comedie-Française where the actress heroine is rehearsing. Modestly deflecting her rightful acclaim, she asserts, “I am the creative spirit’s humble instrument; I have steeped my soul in the talents vouchsafed to me. I am merely the voice of the poet, an echo of tragedy. I carry out what others have assigned. I am faithful to horror, despair or comedy. My voice is no more than a breath that with every new day must die.”

Intermission

Steal me sweet thief

Gian Carlo Menotti
(1911-)

The second half of tonight's programme is devoted to modern American repertoire, beginning with Gian Carlo Menotti's pseudo-Puccini pastiche "Steal me sweet thief" from his youthful radio opera *The Old Maid and the Thief*.

Why do they shut me out of Heaven

Aaron Copland

Going to Heaven

(1900-)

The desire for hermitage

Samuel Barber (1910-1981)

Praise ye the Lord

Ned Rorem (1923-)

A group of well-loved American art songs follow: two of Aaron Copland's *Twelve Poems of Emily Dickinson*; "The desire for hermitage" from Samuel Barber's celebrated *Hermit Songs*, settings of anonymous texts by medieval monks; and, finally, Ned Rorem's setting of Psalm 148.

Ride on King Jesus

arr. Hall Johnson

City called Heaven

(1888-1970)

Witness

The programme concludes with three spirituals arranged by Hall Johnson.

Program notes by David Duke.

Tonight's concert is being recorded for broadcast on Oct. 19th on CBC Stereo's "Arts National" (FM 105.7).

The Vancouver Recital Society gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the Government of British Columbia through the Ministry of Tourism, Recreation and Culture; the City of Vancouver. and the Leon and Thea Koerner Foundation.

The Vancouver Recital Society's Hamburg Steinway is maintained and serviced by Johann B. Krebs.

Board of Directors

PRESIDENT

Leila Getz

VICE PRESIDENT

Shirley Fishman

SECRETARY

Ann Harding

ADVISORY BOARD

David Duke

Margot Ehling

Hildegard Eppich

Susan Gifford

Edwina Heller

Martin Linsley

Denise Mara

Abe Rosenbaum

Leyla Sacks

Bill Soper

Elaine Stevens

Next Concert

Sunday, October 30th, 1988 at 8:00 p.m.

MARINA PICCININI, Flute and ANDREAS HAEFLIGER, Piano

Sonata in D Major, Op. 50 Hummel

Sonata in D, Op. 94 Prokofiev

Sonatine Boulez

Three Romances, Op. 94 Schumann

Carmen Fantasie Borne

SUPPORTING MEMBERS OF THE VRS

Kristl Armstrong
Dr. Morton Beiser
Dr. Eva Bene
Mrs. L.L.G. Bentley
Joost Blom
Harold Douglas Brown
Mrs. V. Bryer
Gwen Cowell
E. Mary Craig
Alexander de Halmy
Anthony J. Dodd
Dr. & Mrs. Morton Dodek
Dr. Peter Dodek
Mr. & Mrs. Leo Ehling
Mrs. Hildegard Eppich
Dr. & Mrs. Sherold Fishman
Abram Gercik
Leon Getz
Mr. & Mrs Paul Gilmore
Mr. & Mrs. Leon Glassman
Alma M. Grant
Dr. & Mrs. N.F. Gropper
Vera Susan Gyemant
Ann Harding
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Heller
Mrs. S. Heller
Martha Lou Henley
Mr. Fred Hirschler
Mr. & Mrs. M. Horvat
Dr. & Mrs. George M. Hougham
Mrs. Robert Inouye
C.M. Jutte
Mrs. F.W. Koerner
Mr. & Mrs. Len Korsch

Mrs. S. Kort
Dr. & Mrs. Harold Laimon
Douglas and Barbara Lambert
Gabiella Lieblich
Mr. & Mrs. Martin A. Linsley
Harry Locke
Mr. & Mrs. Joel Mackoff
Mr. & Mrs. H. Richardson Malkin
Denise Mara
Anne Mathisen
Mr. & Mrs. H. Morris
Naomi Muto
W.S. Ornstein
Dr. John Parnell
Esa Rapaport & Robert C. Goldstein
Anthony Robertson
Mr. & Mrs. Abe Rosenbaum
Mr. & Mrs. A. Sacks
Mr. & Mrs. Manny Schwartz
Dr. & Mrs. Cecil Sigal
Margaret J. Sinclair
Mr. & Mrs. William Soper
Mr. & Mrs. Marvin Stark
Mrs. Mary Steiner
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Szasz
Dr. & Mrs. Gordon Trueman
Mrs. Verda Tweed
Peter van den Bosch
Dr. G. Volkoff
Mrs. Sophie Waldman
Mr. Gordon Walters
Mr. & Mrs. Marvin Weintraub
John & Hazel Wood
Mr. & Mrs. H. Woogman

The Society acknowledges with gratitude a bequest from the Estate of Kory Shandler. Kory Shandler was an enthusiastic and supportive member of the Recital Society from the beginning.