

Master VOICES

TED SPERLING | ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



THE ART OF
MUSICAL
STORYTELLING

JOIN US FOR THE
2019-2020 SEASON



Photo by Laura Marie Duncan

Dear Friends,

Welcome to MasterVoices' 2019-20 season! This year we bring you a collection of new Musical Storytelling projects that highlight the human voice in all its diversity and glory — from musical theater and opera to a cantata and a new commission. You'll find classics, a rare gem, world premieres, and even a few new collaborations.

To kick off the season in November I couldn't resist programming *Let 'Em Eat Cake*, the sequel to *Of Thee I Sing*. The iconic Gershwin brothers re-teamed with librettists Kaufman and Ryskind to create an even darker comic world that is, in the words of Ira, "a satire on practically everything." With a tuneful score and laugh-out-loud libretto, the show is both a farce and a savage warning... a timely set-up for our next election cycle.

Of course it's always a good time for *Carmen*. But for six years, ever since the late James Marcus handed me Sheldon Harnick's English translation, I've been wanting to bring this particular version — which restores it to its original musical theater format — to life. It's a privilege finally to do so this season, in a production that pairs one of our greatest living legends with a young wunderkind director and a sexy, diverse cast.

Two other exciting projects also await — *Iron & Coal* is our first collaboration with Beth Morrison Projects, recognized as the country's foremost incubator of new opera, with whom we share a mission to bring serious new works into the canon. And in May, our latest *Bridges* project puts us in collaboration with two exciting partners: East Side House Settlement in the South Bronx and the extraordinarily talented composer Tariq Al-Sabir, whom we have commissioned to create a new piece written specifically for the East Side House community.

There's always a leap of faith when planning a full season of work — especially when the world seems so unstable, with passions riding high. But that is precisely when art can work its best magic, transforming the darkness of politics, greed, jealousy, and even trauma into something... beautiful. So let MasterVoices be your beacon this year. We may not know what the future will bring, but we can always look to music and stories to restore our faith in humanity.

Sincerely,

THIS SEASON IS GENEROUSLY FUNDED BY



NOVEMBER 21, 2019 AT 7PM
STERN AUDITORIUM / PERELMAN STAGE AT CARNEGIE HALL

LET 'EM EAT CAKE

"JUST WHEN YOU THOUGHT IT WAS
SAFE TO VOTE AGAIN..."

Music by **GEORGE GERSHWIN**

Lyrics by **IRA GERSHWIN**

Book by **GEORGE S. KAUFMAN**
and **MORRIE RYSKIND**

Directed and Conducted by **TED SPERLING**

Choreography by **ANDREW PALERMO**

With the **ORCHESTRA OF ST. LUKE'S**

Sound Design by **SCOTT LEHRER**

Costume Design by **TRACY CHRISTENSEN**

Lighting Design by **MAARTEN CORNELIS**

Starring **BRYCE PINKHAM, MIKAELA BENNETT,**
CHRISTOPHER FITZGERALD, CHUCK COOPER,
FRED APPEGATE, KEVIN CHAMBERLIN

Featuring the **MASTERVOICES CHORUS**

After the resounding success of their 1931 hit, *Of Thee I Sing* (performed by MasterVoices in 2017), the **Gershwins** re-teamed with librettists **George S. Kaufman** and **Morrie Ryskind** for this madcap and blisteringly dark sequel. *Cake* picks up with the same motley crew, four years later — President Wintergreen has lost re-election, stages a military coup, fires the Supreme Court, and paints The White House blue. But never mind all that — *Cake* is a sparkling gem filled with wonderful Gershwin tunes, and it hasn't been heard in NYC since 1987! Tony Award nominee **Bryce Pinkham** returns as our President Wintergreen, along with **Kevin Chamberlin** (*The Addams Family*), **Chuck Cooper** (*The Life*) and some new faces too — **Mikaela Bennett** (*The Golden Apple*) as his wife Mary and **Christopher Fitzgerald** (*Waitress*) as his campaign nemesis.

MAKE A NIGHT OF IT!

JOIN US FOR MASTERVOICES' FALL GALA ON NOVEMBER 21 FOLLOWING THE CONCERT PERFORMANCE.
LEARN MORE AT MASTERVOICES.ORG/FALL-GALA-2019



TICKETS FROM \$30
ON SALE SEPTEMBER 9

(MV MEMBERS PRESALE FROM SEPTEMBER 3)

GET TICKETS AT CARNEGIEHALL.ORG
CALL CARNEGIECHARGE AT 212.247.7800
VISIT THE BOX OFFICE AT 57TH ST. & 7TH AVE.

Pictured: Bryce Pinkham, Mikaela Bennett and Christopher Fitzgerald.

JANUARY 10 & 11, 2020 AT 8PM
GERALD W. LYNCH THEATER AT JOHN JAY COLLEGE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE



IRON & COAL

PRESENTED BY BETH MORRISON PROJECTS AS PART OF THE PROTOTYPE FESTIVAL

Composed, Created and Performed by
JEREMY SCHONFELD

Directed by **KEVIN NEWBURY**

Music Direction & Arrangements by **DAVID BLOOM**

Projection Design by **S. KATY TUCKER**

Animation Design by **TOM SELTZER**

Movement by **NATALIE LOMONTE**

Featuring **RINDE ECKERT,**
LINCOLN CLAUSS, CONTEMPORANEOUS,
and **BROOKLYN YOUTH CHORUS**

With the **MASTEROICES CHORUS**

Produced by **BETH MORRISON PROJECTS,**
and co-presented by **PROTOTYPE FESTIVAL**
and **GERALD W. LYNCH THEATER** at
JOHN JAY COLLEGE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

This powerful and personal opera explores the relationship between a father and son in the shadow of the Holocaust. Taking inspiration from his father's memoir as a childhood survivor of Auschwitz, composer **Jeremy Schonfeld** leads us on a journey through past and present, from the death of his father to the birth of his son, brought to life with a pulsating score, animated projections, and a sumptuous orchestral and choral landscape. Don't miss what *The Washington Post* calls a "gripping, forceful, and stirring opus." Presented in collaboration with **Beth Morrison Projects**, one of the country's leading incubators of contemporary opera.



TICKETS FROM \$30
ON SALE OCTOBER 15

PROTOTYPE
OPERA | THEATER | NOW

GET TICKETS AT PROTOTYPEFESTIVAL.ORG
CALL THE BOX OFFICE AT 212.647.0251 EXT. 1
VISIT THE BOX OFFICE AT 145 6TH AVE.
(ENTER ON DOMINICK ST. ONE BLOCK SOUTH OF SPRING ST.)

APRIL 2, 2020 AT 8PM
ROSE THEATER, JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTER'S FREDERICK P. ROSE HALL



CARMEN

ENGLISH TRANSLATION BY BROADWAY'S SHELDON HARNICK

Music by **GEORGES BIZET**

Libretto by **HENRI MEILHAC** and **LUDOVIC HALÉVY**

English Translation by **SHELDON HARNICK**

Conducted by **TED SPERLING**

Directed by **SAMMI CANNOLD**

Choreography by **GUSTAVO ZAJAC**

With the **ORCHESTRA OF ST. LUKE'S,**
MANHATTAN GIRLS CHORUS

Starring **PEABODY SOUTHWELL,**
NOAH STEWART, NICOLE CABELL,
STEVEN LABRIE

Featuring the **MASTEROICES CHORUS**

MasterVoices gives you an English-language *Carmen* as you've never heard it before, using the acclaimed Opéra Comique translation by **Sheldon Harnick** (*Fiddler on the Roof*). With dialogue replacing recitative, this boldly modern production is directed by wunderkind **Sammi Cannold** — named one of *Forbes Magazine's* 30 Under 30 — and features a gorgeous and diverse cast including **Peabody Southwell** as Carmen, **Noah Stewart** as Don José, **Steven LaBrie** as Escamillo, and **Nicole Cabell** as Micaela. With the full 150-member MasterVoices chorus, it's the art of musical storytelling at its finest!

TICKETS FROM \$30
ON SALE DECEMBER 9

(MV MEMBERS PRESALE FROM DECEMBER 2)

GET TICKETS AT JAZZ.ORG

CALL CENTER CHARGE AT 212.721.6500

VISIT THE BOX OFFICE AT BROADWAY & 60TH ST.

Pictured Clockwise: Peabody Southwell, Noah Stewart,
Nicole Cabell and Steven LaBrie.

MAY 9, 2020 AT 3PM, THE REGIS PHILBIN AUDITORIUM AT
CARDINAL HAYES HIGH SCHOOL
MAY 11, 2020 AT 7PM, MASON HALL, BARUCH PERFORMING ARTS CENTER



BRIDGES

FEATURING CARL ORFF'S *CARMINA BURANA*

Original Piece Composed by **TARIQ AL-SABIR**

Carmina Burana Composed by **CARL ORFF**

Conducted by **TED SPERLING**

Starring **TARIQ AL-SABIR, SIDNEY OUTLAW**

Featuring the **MASTEROICES CHORUS**

MasterVoices joins forces with **East Side House Settlement** in the South Bronx for our third *Bridges* project, bringing diverse communities together to celebrate the joy of making music. The first *Bridges* project in 2016 led to the creation of *Naamah's Ark* with Lower Manhattan communities in 2018 — this time we'll be pairing a brand new commission by **Tariq Al-Sabir** (one of The Shed's inaugural Open Call Artists) with a lively intergenerational take on *Carmina Burana*. Both pieces will be created with, for, and by members of the East Side House community. Let *Bridges* take you back to the joy you felt when music first entered your life!



East Side House
SETTLEMENT



TICKETS FOR MAY 9 ARE FREE
TICKETS FOR MAY 11 START AT \$30

GET TICKETS AT [MASTEROICES.ORG](https://mastervoices.org)
STARTING DECEMBER 9

CARDINAL HAYES HIGH SCHOOL, 450 GRAND CONCOURSE, BRONX, NY 10451
BARUCH PERFORMING ARTS CENTER, 55 LEXINGTON AVE., NEW YORK, NY 10010

Pictured: Tariq Al-Sabir and Sidney Outlaw.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM PAST SEASONS



Victoria Clark in *Lady in the Dark* at New York City Center 2019



Side-by-Side Student Singers with Kelli O'Hara



Nmon Ford and Anderson & Roe at Alice Tully Hall, Lincoln Center 2019



Anthony Roth Costanzo in *Orphic Moments* at Rose Theatre, Lincoln Center 2018



Ted Sperling conducting *Israel in Egypt* at Carnegie Hall 2018