# MAYA KHERANI SOPRANO



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Praised for her "crystalline tone" by *Opera News*, Indian-American soprano **MAYA KHERANI** has been lauded for her vibrant voice and exciting characterizations in repertoire from the Baroque to the modern. *San Francisco Classical Voice* recognizes her as "obviously an enormous talent" and the *Boston Music Intelligencer* applauds her performances as evoking "the sparkling effervescence of a fine champagne."

Most recently, Ms. Kherani made a "dynamic" role debut as Musetta in La Bohème with **West Bay Opera**, praised for her "shimmering high notes and stunning looks." This summer included her debut in the title role of Partenope with **Opera NEO** under the baton of Benjamin Bayl. For her performance *San Diego Story* raved, "From her opening ornate aria, Maya Kherani's Partenope sailed through Handel's effusive coloratura with gleaming precision and impassioned conviction. She dominated this production the same way an excellent Violetta commands Verdi's *La Traviata*."

Last season featured Ms. Kherani's mainstage company debut as Despina in Così fan tutte at **Opera San Jose**, where she also sang Lisette in the student matinee performance of La Rondine as well as Yvette in all other performances. Other roles last season include Britomarte with **West Edge Opera** in Martín y Soler's L'arbore di Diana (The Chastity Tree), Jill in the world première of Jack and Jill and the Happening Hill with **Salt Marsh Opera**, the title role of Semele with **Pocket Opera**, and Frasquita in Carmen with **West Bay Opera**.

This November, Ms. Kherani will make her European debut as a fellow with the **Fondazione Giorgio Cini – Seminari di Musica Antica** singing the modern-world première of French Baroque Caribbean Concerts Spirituels under the direction of Pedro Memelsdorff and Sophie Daneman. Upcoming roles include Beck (cover) and the Quartet Soprano in the world première of Laura Kaminsky's *Today It Rains* with **Opera Parallèle** and **American Opera Projects**, Frasquita with **Opera Modesto**, Rosina with **Cinnabar Theater**, and Polly Peachum in *The Threepenny Opera* with **West Edge Opera**.

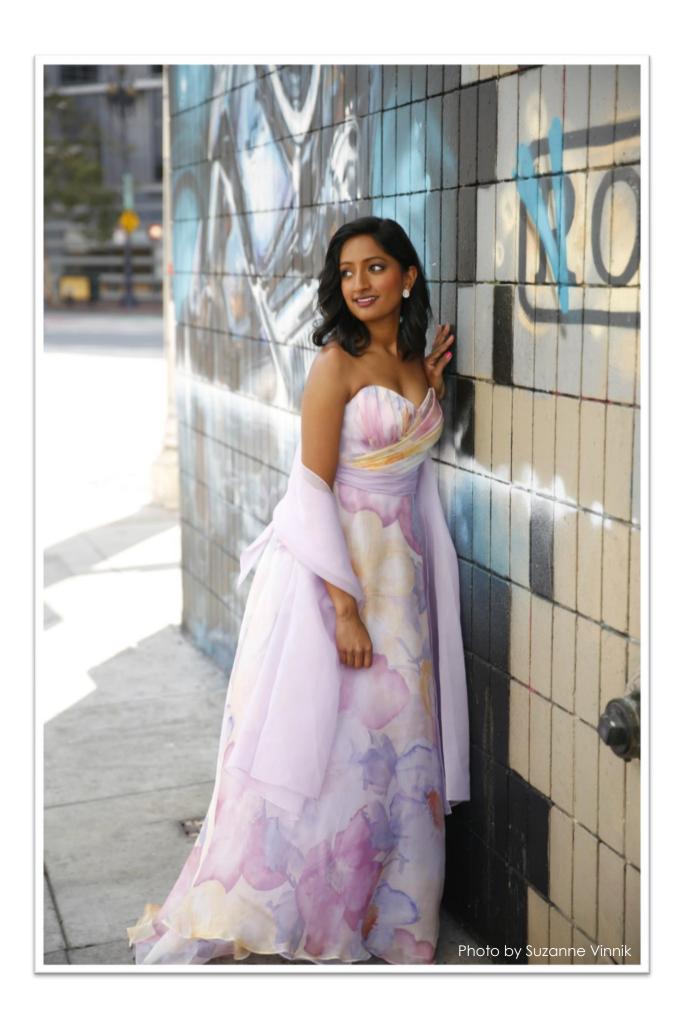
During the 2016-2017 season, Ms. Kherani covered the role of Madame White Snake in the world première of Paola Prestini's Gilgamesh with **Beth Morrison Projects**, as well as made acclaimed appearances as Marie (La fille du régiment) and Gilda (Rigoletto) with **Pocket Opera**, Gretel in **Boston Lyric Opera**'s outreach performances of Hansel and Gretel, and Tytania in A Midsummer Night's Dream with the Boston University **Opera Institute**. For her role and company debut as Susanna in **West Bay Opera**'s Le nozze di Figaro, Ms. Kherani received enthusiastic reviews by critics over her "astonishingly acrobatic" voice (Repeat Performances) and "sparkling" and "delightful" portrayal (San Francisco Classical Voice).

In demand for new and challenging works as well as from the Baroque era, Ms. Kherani has been engaged for many world premières in her young career. In 2014, she made her Houston Grand Opera (HGOco) debut in the role of Meera in the world première of Jack Perla's River of Light. Other premières include Neil Rolnick's Anosmia, released by Innova Records in 2013, and Dante de Silva's "graphic opera" Gesualdo, Prince of Madness with Opera Parallèle. In 2015, she appeared in the leading role of Altisidore in Boismortier's Don Quichotte chez la Duchesse at Central City Opera, for which she was praised for her "vocal triumph" in the "cruel demands" of the role; critics noted that her "bright, strong voice and fluid dancing were notable strengths of the production." She was also the recipient of the 2015 McGlone Award from Central City Opera. A passionate interpreter of early music, Ms. Kherani has been featured with the American Bach Soloists, the San Francisco Bach Choir, the Amherst Early Music Festival, Early Music Vancouver, and the American Handel Society Festival.

Other critically-acclaimed roles include Savitri (Savitri), Adele (Die Fledermaus), La Fée (Cendrillon), Rosina (Il barbiere di Siviglia), Eurydice (Orfée aux enfers), Mabel (The Pirates of Penzance), Poppea (Agrippina), Lieschen (J.S. Bach's The Coffee Cantata), Monica (The Medium), and Nuria (Golijov's Ainadamar with **Opera Parallèle**).

Ms. Kherani's numerous awards include 1st Place and Audience Favorite at the James Toland Vocal Competition (Tier II), 2nd Place at the Peter Elvins Vocal Competition (Opera Division), the Kalvelage Award at West Bay Opera's Holt Competition, two Encouragement Awards from the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, and the top overall Barlow Award at the San Francisco Bay Area NATS competition, where she also won 1st Place in both the Professional Art Song and Aria categories.

Ms. Kherani holds a B.S.E. in Mechanical Engineering and minor in Music Performance from **Princeton University**, where she graduated summa cum laude and received the **Isidore and Helen Sacks Award** for excellence in Music Performance. She holds a Master of Music degree from the **San Francisco Conservatory of Music**.



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# **OPERA ROLES**

Bold denotes upcoming, [cv] denotes cover], [wp] denotes world première

Quartet Soprano, Beck [cv]	Today It Rains (Kaminsky)	American Opera Projects (NYC)	2019
Polly Peachum	The Threepenny Opera	West Edge Opera	2019
Rosina	II barbiere di Siviglia	Cinnabar Theater	2019
Frasquita	Carmen	Opera Modesto	2019
Quartet Soprano, Beck [cv]	Today It Rains [wp]	Opera Parallèle	2019
Musetta	La Bohème	West Bay Opera	2018
Adina	L'elisir d'amore	San Francisco Opera Guild	2018
Blonde [cv]	Die Entführung aus dem Serail	Opera San Jose	2018
Partenope	Partenope (Handel)	Opera NEO	2018
Frasquita	Carmen	West Bay Opera	2018
Semele	Semele (Handel)	Pocket Opera	2018
Jill	Jack and Jill (Meneely-Kyder) [wp]	Salt Marsh Opera	2018
Yvette, Lisette [cv]	La Rondine	Opera San Jose	2017
Despina	Così fan tutte	Opera San Jose	2017
Britomarte	L'arbore di Diana (Martín y Soler)	West Edge Opera	2017
Marie	La fille du régiment	Pocket Opera	2017
Gretel	Hansel and Gretel	Boston Lyric Opera – Outreach	2017
Susanna	Le nozze di Figaro	West Bay Opera	2016
Madame White Snake [cv]	Gilgamesh (Prestini) [wp]	Beth Morrison Projects	2016
Gilda	Rigoletto	Pocket Opera	2016
Tytania	A Midsummer Night's Dream	Boston University Opera Institute	2016
Savitri	Savitri (Holst)	Festival Opera	2015
Meera	River of Light	Festival Opera	2015
Créuse	Médée (Milhaud)	Opera Parallèle/Mills College	2015
Altisidore	Don Quixote & the Duchess (Boismortier)	Central City Opera	2015
La Fée	Cendrillon	Boston University Opera Institute	2015
Trio Soprano [cv]	Trouble in Tahiti	Central City Opera	2014
Meera	River of Light (Perla) [wp]	Houston Grand Opera (HGOco)	2014
Lieschen	The Coffee Cantata (Bach)	Livermore Valley Opera	2014
Adele	Die Fledermaus	Lamplighters Music Theatre	2014
Leonora	Gesualdo (De Silva) [wp]	Opera Parallèle	2013
Dorinda	Orlando (Handel)	Pocket Opera	2013
Eurydice	Orfée aux enfers	Pocket Opera	2013
Nuria	Ainadamar (Golijov)	Opera Parallèle	2013
Despina	Così fan tutte	SF Conservatory of Music	2012
Poppea	Agrippina (Handel)	SF Conservatory of Music	2012
St. Settlement	Four Saints in Three Acts (Thomson)	Opera Parallèle	2011
Monica	The Medium	SF Conservatory of Music	2011
Musicienne	Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme (Lully)	Amherst Early Music Festival	2010
Guerriere	Les Arts Florissants (Charpentier)	Amherst Early Music Festival	2010
Melanto	Il Ritorno d'Ulisse in Patria (Monteverdi)	Princeton University	2009
Barbarina	Le nozze di Figaro	Princeton University	2008

#### **EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

Soprano-in-residence	Boston University Opera Institute	2014-2016
Bonfils-Stanton Young Artist – Apprentice (AGMA)	Central City Opera	2015
Bonfils-Stanton Young Artist – Studio	Central City Opera	2014
Academy – Soloist	American Bach Soloists	2013
Baroque Vocal Programme – Soloist	Early Music Vancouver	2013
M.M. – Vocal Performance	San Francisco Conservatory of Music	2010-2012
Baroque Academy – Soloist	Amherst Early Music Festival	2010
B.S.E. – Mechanical Engineering	Princeton University	2006-2010
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minor, Music Performance graduated summa cum laude

#### **AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS**

Seminari di Musica Antica Fellow (European Debut)	Fondazione Giorgio Cini, Seminari di Musica Antica	2018
1 <sup>st</sup> Place & Audience Favorite Award, Tier II	James Toland Vocal Arts Competition	2017
Encouragement Award (2-time)	Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions	2016
McGlone (CCO Guild) Award	Central City Opera	2015
2 <sup>nd</sup> place, Opera Division	Peter Elvins Vocal Competition	2015
Lisa & Bernie Kalvelage Award	Henry & Maria Holt Competition	2013
Edwin Barlow Award (overall best singer, age 24+)	San Francisco Bay Area NATS Competition	2013
1st place, Professional Aria Division	San Francisco Bay Area NATS Competition	2013
Isidore and Helen Sacks Prize for Music	Princeton University	2010

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DIRECTORS	<b>CONDUCTORS</b>	<b>TEACHERS</b>
Ken Cazan	John Baril	Penelope Bitzas
Audrey Chait	Benjamin Bayl	Marnie Breckenridge
Paul Curran	Ryan Brown	Pamela Fry
Brad Dalton	George Cleve	Sarah Pelletier
Michael Ehrman	Giuseppe Finzi	Deanna Peden
Candace Evans	Peter Grunberg	
Tara Faircloth	David Hanlon	
Nicolas Aliaga Garcia	Corey Jamason	
Stephanie Havey	Adrian Kelley	
Corinne Hayes	Craig Kier	
Tanya Kane-Parry	Christopher Larkin	
David Kneuss	Ming Luke	
Peter Kozma	William Lumpkin	
Kyle Lang	Robert Mollicone	
E. Loren Meeker	Nicole Paiement	
Elise Sandell	Adam Turner	
Michael Shell	Allison Voth	
Brian Staufenbiel	Julian Wachner	
Mark Streshinsky	Andrew Whitfield	
Igor Vieira	Christopher Zemliauskas	

SPECIAL SKILLS Dance: Baroque Gesture, Bollywood, Tap; Stage combat: hand-to-hand, weaponry

#### **CONCERT REPERTOIRE** (Performed as soloist)

J.S. Bach Magnificat

Mass in B Minor

Schweigt stille, plaudert nicht (Coffee Cantata)

Biber Missa Salisburgensis
Bowles Three Pastoral Songs

Campra Arion Fauré Requiem Handel Esther

Haydn

Il duello amoroso (Amarilli vezzosa)

Israel in Egypt Nell dolce dell'oblio

Paukenmesse

Schöpfungsmesse

Monteverdi Jubilet tota civitas

Mozart Ah se in ciel benigne stelle (K. 538, concert aria)

Exsultate, jubilate

Mass in C Minor (Soprano I)

Vesperae Solennes Carmina Burana

Orff Carmina Burana Vivaldi Nulla in mundo pax

# **CRITICAL ACCLAIM**

# La Bohème (West Bay Opera, 2018)





"Maya Kherani's Musetta boasted shimmering high notes and stunning looks (and clothes)." – Ilana Walder-Biesanz, San Francisco Classical Voice, Oct 16 2018

"Soprano Maya Kherani threatens to steal the stage more than once with her playful rendition of Musetta..." – Rachael Myrow, KQED Arts, Oct 13 2018





"From her opening ornate aria, Maya Kherani's Partenope sailed through Handel's effusive coloratura with gleaming precision and impassioned conviction. She dominated this production the same way an excellent Violetta commands Verdi's La Traviata."

- Ken Herman, San Diego Story, Aug 6 2018

# Le nozze di Figaro (West Bay Opera, 2016)



"Best of all may have been soprano Maya Kherani as Susanna. Her bright tones sparkled throughout the opera, and "Deh vieni, non tardar" in Act IV was delightful. Kherani had great chemistry with her Figaro, Isaiah Musik-Ayala. Their sense of timing of the physical humor was spot on and very funny."

- Charlise Tiee, San Francisco Classical Voice, Oct 18 2016

"The center of their machinations, and of the opera, is Figaro's bride-to-be, Susanna, portrayed by soprano Maya Kherani with a mischievous brightness. Her tight vibrato and nimble high notes are increasingly in demand around the Bay Area, and I most recently heard her sing as the soprano soloist in Orff's Carmina Burana with Chora Nova, where her clear high D (yes, a note above the usual benchmark, a high C) wowed an audience. Not



only is her voice astonishingly acrobatic, but her acting was so believable."

- Adam Broner, Repeat Performances, Oct 22 2016

#### Rigoletto (Pocket Opera, 2016)

- "...the sensational coloratura Maya Kherani as Gilda. [...] Kherani is an San Francisco Conservatory graduate and obviously an enormous talent..."
- Janos Gereben, San Francisco Classical Voice, July 5 2016

### A Midsummer Night's Dream (BU Opera Institute, 2016)



"Maya Kherani's Tytania had the sparkling effervescence of a fine champagne from her first utterance to the final dance. Her entrance duet with Oberon had the competitive air of vocal ping-pong as Britten intended, and from the first minute we knew that this was definitely a 'faery of no common rate.' Her extended cadenza of "Come now a roundel" was technically beautiful..."

- Joshua Collier, Boston Music Intelligencer, April 15 2016

"Maya Kherani is a divine Tytania, just a perfect fit. Her presence is powerful and glamorous, a titan among the fairies."

- Gillian Daniels, New England Theatre Geek, April 19 2016

#### Savitri & River of Light (Festival Opera, 2015)





"Kherani's account of the title role was sweet-toned and forthrightly dramatic, with a series of climactic high notes perfectly placed. [...] For the 40-minute "River of Light," Kherani returned to give another superb performance as Meera."

- Joshua Kosman, San Francisco Chronicle, Nov 16 2015

"Soprano Maya Kherani sang the title role with vibrant tone. [...] As Meera, Kherani returned sounding bright and infusing the role with comic flair."

- Georgia Rowe, San Jose Mercury News, Nov 15 2015

"The two operas, so different from each other, were linked together by talented soprano Maya Kherani, who sang the roles of both Savitri and Meera."

- Shobha Hiatt, India West, Nov 25 2015

#### Don Quixote & The Duchess (Central City Opera, 2015)



"These are hand-picked singers who are spending the CCO season in a nationally recognized training program, established years ago by the respected pedagogue John Moriarty. They are performers with a bright theatrical future. No surprise, then, that the cruel demands of Altisidore proved a vocal triumph for Maya Kherani, who easily traversed her treacherous passages as a servant girl or as the

bewigged Queen of Japan. Not only did she seem to enjoy those zillions of notes, but Kherani also reveled in her zany acting assignments, never once stooping to mugging or shtick."

- Marc Shulgold, Classical Voice North America, Aug 4 2015

"Everyone sang strongly, but one performer stood out: soprano Maya Kherani as Altisidore, the Duchess, who also appears as "The Queen of Japan"[...] Her bright, strong voice and fluid dancing were notable strengths of the production."

- Peter Alexander, Sharps & Flatirons, July 30 2015

# Cendrillon (BU Opera Institute, 2015)



"Maya Kherani's fairy godmother was a striking vision: in a white, classically-influenced gown and high-piled white wig she glided from place to place with fluid arm gestures while singing Massenet's quirky coloratura part with a brilliant voice with tight vibrato: five parts Isidora Duncan to one part Glinda the Good Witch (and I mean that as praise)."

- Brian Schuth, The Boston Music Intelligencer, April 17 2015

### Die Fledermaus (Lamplighters Music Theatre, 2014)



"The voices were beautiful, strong and pitch perfect the night I saw the performance. The sets, staging and costumes were uplifting carried the theme perfectly. The acting was superb as was the dancing. Maya Kherani was the standout in a cast that was outstanding."

- Barbara Keer, LA Splash Magazine, Feb 2014

"Maya Kherani especially shone in her Lamplighters debut as Adele, a chamber maid who dreams of someday becoming an actress. Kherani has what it takes for this typical Lamplighters fare: a strong, clear voice for the troupe's

signature unamplified singing, a bright stage presence and a genuine-feeling sense of humor that comes through in her every move."

- Elizabeth Warnimont, Benicia Herald, Jan 27 2014

"Coloratura soprano Maya Kherani sang the role of Adele, the young and flirtatious chambermaid. Kherani, who was brilliant in Opera Parallele's recent Ainadamar, complemented high trills with delightful overacting, and reached for the dizzying runs of the "laughter" aria."

- Adam Broner, Repeat Performances, Feb 22 2014





"Even with a degree in mechanical engineering from Princeton, soprano Maya Kherani may not be able to explain how such a great, luxurious voice can project from such a slender frame. Still, as Eurydice, Kherani filled the small theater with such force that we should look forward to hearing her in the War Memorial... or, what the heck, in the Met. She further impressed with flawless theatrical presence and crystalline diction."

- Janos Gereben, San Francisco Classical Voice, Apr 15 2013

"All of the performers were good singers and almost all were good actors, but the unquestioned star was Maya

Kherani as Eurydice. She had a fine soprano voice and her facial expression and body language told her every mood, from anger to boredom to ecstasy."

- The Opera Nut, May 6 2013

# Ainadamar (Opera Parallèle, 2013)



"The most impressive singers were cast in secondary roles: soprano Maya Kherani, whose voice was focused, penetrating and lustrous, as Nuria, Xirgu's student..."

- Richard Scheinin, San Jose Mercury News, Feb 17 2013

- "They were joined by Maya Kherani, whose pure high notes as Xirgu's student, Nuria, added a lovely top dimension."
- Adam Broner, Repeat Performances, Feb 16 2013
- "...soprano Maya Kherani was a lithe, silvery Nuria."
- Georgia Rowe, San Francisco Classical Voice, Feb 16 2013
- "The student Nuria was sung with penetrating, crystalline tone by soprano Maya Kherani, who had little difficulty being heard above Golijov's dense climaxes."
- Jeffrey S. McMillan, Opera News, May 2013

# FULL REPERTOIRE LIST

#### Opera

Full roles performed in **bold**, Partial roles in *italics*, All others suggested

Adamo Little Women

Lady with a Hand Mirror Argento Postcard from Morocco

Beethoven Fidelio Marzelline Bellini La sonnambula Amina, Lisa

Berlioz Béatrice et Bénédict Héro

Cunégonde Candide Bernstein **Bizet** Carmen Frasauita **Boismortier** Don Quichotte chez La Duchesse **Altisidore** 

Britten Miss Wordsworth Albert Herring

A Midsummer Night's Dream **Tytania** The Rape of Lucretia Lucia The Turn of the Screw Flora La Calisto Calisto

Cavalli Donizetti La fille du régiment Marie

> Adina, Giannetta L'elisir d'amore

> > Don Pasquale Norina

Gluck Euridice, Amor Orfeo ed Euridice

Golijov Ainadamar Nuria Händel Acis and Galatea Galatea Agrippina **Poppea** Alcina

> **Ariodante** Dalinda, Ginevra

Morgana

Giulio Cesare Cleopatra Il Trionfo del Tempo e del Disinganno Bellezza Orlando Dorinda Partenope **Partenope** 

Rinaldo Almirena, Sirena Scipione Berenice

Semele Semele

Xerxes Romilda, Atalanta

Holst Savitri Savitri

Gretel, Dew Fairy Hänsel und Gretel Humperdinck

La Fée Massenet Cendrillon Werther Sophie Martin y Soler L'arbore di Diana **Britomarte** 

Menotti Monica The Medium The Old Maid and the Thief Laetitia

The Telephone Lucy

Milhaud Médée Créuse Il ritorno d'Ulisse in Patria Monteverdi **Amore** 

> L'incoronazione di Poppea Poppea, Drusilla, Melanto

L'Orfeo Euridice, La Musica Mozart Così fan tutte **Despina** 

Der Schauspieldirektor

Mile Silberklang

Planda Konstanz

Die Entführung aus dem Serail **Blonde**, Konstanze Die Zauberflöte Pamina, Papagena

Don Giovanni Zerlina Idomeneo Ilia La clemenza di Tito Servilia

La finta giardiniera Serpetta, Sandrina Le nozze di Figaro **Susanna**, **Barbarina** 

Offenbach Orphée aux enfers **Eurydice**Pergolesi La serva padrona Serpina
Perla River of Light **Meera** 

Poulenc Dialogues des Carmélites Soeur Constance

Les mamelles de Tirésias Thérèse

Prestini Gilgamesh Madame White Snake

Puccini Gianni Schicchi Lauretta

La Bohème **Musetta** 

La Rondine Lisette, Yvette

Rameau Les Indes Galantes Zima, Hébé, Zaire, L'Amour

Hippolyte et Aricie Aricie, Diane
Platée Clarine, La Folie

Pygmalion L'Amour

Ravel L'enfant et les sortilèges Le Feu, La Princesse, Le Rossignol

Rossini II barbiere di Siviglia Rosina

La Cenerentola Clorinda
L'Italiana in Algeri Elvira
Tancredi Amenaide

J. Strauss Die Fledermaus Adele

Sullivan

Weber

R. Strauss Arabella Fiakermilli, Zdenka

Ariadne auf Naxos Echo, Naiade

Der Rosenkavalier Sophie
Pirates of Penzance Mabel

Thomson Four Saints in Three Acts St. Settlement

Verdi Falstaff Nannetta

Rigoletto Gilda
Un ballo in maschera Oscar

Un ballo in maschera Oscar

Der Freischütz Ännchen

#### Concert

Performed works in **bold**, All other suggested

J.S. Bach Jauchzet Gott in allen Landen

Magnificat
Mass in B Minor

Mein Herze schwimmt im Blut

Schweigt stille, plaudert nicht (Coffee Cantata)

St. John Passion St. Matthew Passion Weihnachts-Oratorium

Barber Knoxville: Summer of 1915

Biber Missa Salisburgensis
Brahms Eine Deutches Requiem
Bowles Three Pastoral Songs
Couperin Leçons de ténèbres

Fauré **Requiem**Händel Dixit Dominus

Esther

Il duello amoroso (Amarilli vezzosa)

**Israel in Egypt**La Resurezzione

Laudate pueri Dominum

Messiah Samson

Haydn The Creation

Lord Nelson Mass Paukenmesse Schöpfungsmesse

Mahler Symphony No. 4

Mendelssohn A Midsummer Night's Dream (1st Fairy)

Elijah

Monteverdi Jubilet tota civitas

Vespro della Beata Vergine

Mozart Ah se in ciel benigne stelle (K. 538, concert aria)

Exsultate, jubilate Mass in C Minor

Requiem Mass in D Minor

Regina Coeli

**Vesperae Solennes** 

Orff **Carmina Burana**Pergolesi Stabat Mater
R. Strauss Brentano-Lieder

Stravinsky Les Noces

Vivaldi In furore iustissimae irae

Laudate pueri Dominum

Nulla in mundo pax

Gloria