

South Country Concerts presents

“Down to Basses”

Sunday, October 28, 2007

Komm, süßes Kreuz, BWV 244 from “St. Matthew Passion”	J. S. Bach (1685-1750)
The Shadow of the Blues (1987) <i>Four Poems by Langston Hughes</i>	John Musto (1954-
Sonata in G Major Cello & Double Bass <i>Andante</i> <i>Adagio</i> <i>Allegro prestissimo</i>	Jean Barrière (1707-1747)
Per questa bella mano, K.V. 612	W. A. Mozart (1756-1791)
Sonata in D Minor for Cello & Piano (1915) <i>Prologue: Lent</i> <i>Sérénade et Finale</i>	Claude Debussy (1862-1918)
Diamonds The Spinster of Chelsea Embankment It Could Have Been You	Richard Pearson Thomas (1957-
Three American Duets 1. Blues 2. The Good High Alaska Boogie 3. Way Out West	Aaron Minsky

This evening’s performance of the Debussy Sonata is dedicated to Udo von Wimmersperg in celebration of his birthday.

This program is made possible in part with public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts. In Suffolk County the Decentralization Program is administered by the Huntington Arts Council, Inc. in partnership with the Suffolk Consortium of Arts Councils.

Meet the Artists

Michael Douglas Jones, bass, most recently appeared as Frère Laurent in Gounod’s Roméo et Juliette with Anchorage Opera and John Williams new opera The Captivation of Eunice Williams at the Smithsonian’s National Museum for the American Indian. With Le Chien Qui Chante, an arts collective in Montreal and the Taliesin Arts Centre in

Wales he appeared as man's best friend, a dog, for a remounting of *A Chair in Love* at Espace Go Theater in Montreal in five cities in Wales and Ireland. He won the prestigious Jessie award for "outstanding performance by an actor in a leading role" for his creation of the Marquis in *120 Songs for the Marquis de Sade* (Hannan) in the world premiere co-produced by Modern Baroque Opera and Vancouver New Music. He has sung lead roles in Sweden, the Banff Music Centre, the Quantum Theatre in Pittsburgh, Opera Festival of New Jersey, and Star Catalogues, Vancouver New Music, and the Goethe Institute.

Other opera performances include New York City Opera, El Paso Opera, Le Nouvel Ensemble Moderne in Montreal, Sarasota and Anchorage Operas, the Florida Philharmonic, San Antonio Symphony; Florentine, El Paso, and Memphis, and Sarasota. He has recorded new music theater pieces in progress for Atlantic Records and new works of composers for BMI. Most recently, he recorded an all Jazz CD with Jazz legend, Fred Ho. Originally from Hawaii, he now resides in New York.

Steven Fayette, double bass: received his Bachelor of Music degree from Ithaca College and did further studies at the Cleveland Institute of Music and the Julliard School. He has performed with the Grand Rapids Symphony Orchestra, the Syracuse Symphony Orchestra and the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. He is now the orchestra director at the Shoreham-Wading River High School.

Richard Pearson Thomas, composer and pianist, has had works performed by the Boston Pops, Covent Garden Festival, Houston Grand Opera, Chautauqua Opera, Eugene O'Neill Theater Center, Banff Centre, Skylight Opera Theatre, and Riverside Philharmonic Orchestra and Choir. His songs have been sung in Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, Kennedy Center, Wigmore Hall, Joe's Pub, and before the U.S. Congress by artists such as Audra McDonald, Sanford Sylvan, Lauren Flanagan and Kurt Ollmann. He is a recipient of an American Composers' Forum *Continental Harmony* commission for the Alabama Tri-State Orchestra. His work *Race for the Sky*, which was commissioned as a commemoration of the events of 9/11, has been performed by the Westchester Philharmonic Orchestra and in recitals nationwide.

Mr. Thomas' musical *Parallel Lives* (directed by Evan Pappas) was produced Off-Off Broadway by the Riverside Opera Ensemble, as was *Ladies in a Maze*, produced by Encompass Music Theatre. His musical *Golden Gate* is winner of the Michael Stewart Foundation Award, and his original music for *In Thinking of America: Songs of the Civil War* has been heard in more than 140 cities.

Mr. Thomas is currently on faculty at Teachers College/Columbia University and has taught at Yale. He is composer-in-residence of the Gold Opera Project, Young Audiences/New York. In that capacity, he has composed more than 80 operas with students in New York City public schools. His work with children was featured on CBS' "The Early Show," and singled out for praise by President Clinton when Young Audiences/New York was awarded the National Medal of Arts. Additionally, Mr. Thomas has concertized with singers worldwide.

He is a graduate of the Eastman School of Music and the University of Southern California, and is a native of Montana.

Laurinel Owen, cellist, enjoys an international career. She was a member of the Filarmónica de las Americas in Mexico City, Solo-Cellist of the Scottish Baroque Ensemble in Edinburgh and Principal Cellist of the National Symphony Orchestra of South Africa in Johannesburg. As soloist and chamber musician, she has toured the Southern African Continent and South America and has recorded for the Dutch Radio, the South African Broadcasting Corp., Radio France, Cablevision TV, TCI Cable TV and German Television. She has performed at the Berlin Wall with M. Rostropovich, was a performer at the World Cello Congress III, and elected a National Honorary Member of Sigma Alpha Iota, America's most prestigious music fraternity. She has been an Artistic Consultant for the D'Addario String Co. and the Tomastik-Infeld String Co. in Vienna, an instructor at the Oxford Cello School in England, and a judge for the Violin Society of America's international violin making competition. As a writer she has published over 120 articles and has been on "assignment" in France, Germany, Russia, England, Italy, the Czech Republic, China, South Africa and throughout the US. Her first book, a biography of cellist Bernard Greenhouse, was published in 2001 to critical acclaim and she is currently working on a book for Oxford University Press and a series of 10 DVDs about famous cellists in conjunction with the Kronberg Academy in Germany. Ms. Owen is the executive director of South Country Concerts.

South Country Concerts would like to thank our loyal subscribers and those who have given so generously.

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