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**PAUL APPLEBY, TENOR, AND SARAH MESKO, MEZZO-SOPRANO, SHARE THE  
GEORGE LONDON FOUNDATION'S SECOND RECITAL OF THE SEASON  
SUNDAY, MARCH 5, 2017, AT 4:00 PM**



Paul Appleby, photo by Frances Marshall ([download](#)); Sarah Mesko, photo by Kristin Hobermann ([download](#))

Tenor **Paul Appleby**, the 2011 George London Award winner who, it was recently announced, will be in the cast of the world premiere of John Adams's *Girls of the Golden West* with San Francisco Opera next season, teams up with mezzo-soprano and 2015 George London Award winner **Sarah Mesko** and pianist **Ken Noda** for the season's second event in the **George London Foundation Recital Series** at The Morgan Library & Museum on Sunday, March 5, 2017, at 4:00 pm.

Last April, the George London Foundation for Singers concluded the 20<sup>th</sup> year of its celebrated Recital Series with a gala featuring some of opera's most prominent American and Canadian stars. The foundation has been honoring, supporting, and presenting the finest young opera singers in the U.S. and Canada since 1971, and the annual series presents pairs of outstanding singers, many of whom were winners of a George London Award, the prize of the foundation's annual vocal competition.

On March 5, Sarah Mesko will perform a set she has titled "Stars and Night," featuring songs by Wolf, Fauré, Brahms, Barber, and Richard Hundley (see below for full program listing), as well as Brahms's *Two Viola Songs* (with a guest violist to be announced) and "Ah! Je vais mourir ...

Adieu, fière cité” from Berlioz’s *Les Troyens*. Paul Appleby will sing Poulenc’s song cycle *Tel jour, telle nuit*, Britten’s song cycle *On This Island*, and “Vainement, ma bien-aimée” from Lalo’s *Le Roi d’Ys*. The singers will end the program with the Act II duet from Berlioz’s *Béatrice et Bénédict*, “L’amour est un flambeau.”

### **Recent Praise for Paul Appleby and Sarah Mesko**

Paul Appleby appeared in the fall 2016 Metropolitan Opera production of Mozart’s *Don Giovanni*, eliciting praise from The New York Times: “Paul Appleby made the hapless role of Don Ottavio a thing of tenorial beauty.” And when he made his debut in January with the Dutch National Opera in the role of Belmonte in their production of *Die Entführung aus dem Serail*, the French publication Place de l’Opera said that he “as Belmonte...sounded young and lyrical and sang with the agility that you hope to hear in Mozart.”

When Sarah Mesko sang during the 2015 George London competition’s semi-finals, Opera News noted that “the judges weren’t scribbling at all; they were just listening.” She performed in the U.S. in the Metropolitan Opera’s “Rising Stars” concert tour, eliciting praise from the Washington Post: “Mesko also sports a lovely and flexible instrument, tossing off Rossini’s ‘Una voce poco fa’ ... without any strain and enlivening several ensembles with impish personality.” She also recent debuted at the Glimmerglass Festival in Vivaldi’s *Catone in Utica* to acclaim.

The **George London Foundation’s 2016-17 season** also included the 46<sup>th</sup> annual George London Foundation Awards Competition, at which on February 17 five singers – **Aaron Blake**, tenor; **Michelle Bradley**, soprano; **Errin Duane Brooks**, tenor (the George London-Kirsten Flagstad Award for a potential Wagnerian singer); **Will Liverman**, baritone; and **Lara Secord-Haid**, soprano (the George London Award for a Canadian singer) – were proclaimed the winners of the 2017 George London Awards.

The season concludes with the third event in the recital series: a program by **Amber Wagner**, soprano, and **Reginald Smith, Jr.**, baritone. Ms. Wagner, who sings the role of Senta in this spring’s Metropolitan Opera production of *The Flying Dutchman*, won her George London Award in 2010, and Mr. Smith won his in 2015. [Sunday, April 2, 2017, at 4:00 pm](#)

### **The Legacy of George London**

The goal of the London Foundation, the support and nurturing of young singers, was an abiding interest of the great American bass-baritone George London, who devoted a great part of the time and energy of his later years to this purpose. “Remembering his difficult road to success, George wanted to devise a way to make the road a little easier for future generations of singers,” said George London Foundation President Nora London. Initially created under the auspices of the National Opera Institute, the George London Awards program has been administered since 1990 directly by the Foundation as a living legacy to George London’s own exceptional talent and generosity. As The New York Times noted recently, “this prestigious competition...can rightfully claim to act as a springboard for major careers in opera.”

Visit [www.georgelondon.org](http://www.georgelondon.org).

**Paul Appleby** (2011 George London Award), tenor, had a 2015-16 season highlighted by his San Francisco Opera debut, singing Tamino in *The Magic Flute*, about which the San Francisco Examiner said, “Tenor Paul Appleby was impressive ... as the love-struck prince Tamino, warmly conveying his ardor for the princess Pamina with beautiful lyricism and a moving dramatic performance.” He also performed solo recitals at London’s Wigmore Hall and at Carnegie Hall’s Zankel Hall, eliciting praise for the latter from The New York Times: “As Mr. Appleby showed throughout this impressive recital, ... he is that special singer who puts words first in performing songs.”

Admired for his interpretive depth, vocal strength, and range of expressivity, rising star tenor Paul Appleby is one of the sought-after voices of his generation. A versatile artist, he is equally in demand on the world’s leading concert, recital, and opera stages.

Following a summer season that featured Paul Appleby at Glyndebourne in the title role of a new production by Laurent Pelly of *Béatrice et Bénédicte*, the tenor’s 2016-17 opera diary includes a debut at the Festival d’Aix-en-Provence in a new production of *The Rake’s Progress* conducted by Daniel Harding and directed by Simon McBurney. His concert calendar brings the artist together with Manfred Honeck and the Pittsburgh Symphony for Haydn’s *The Creation*, with David Zinman and the Bamberger Symphoniker for Elgar’s *The Dream of Gerontius*, and with Jeffrey Kahane and the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra for Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony.

Profoundly committed to the art of song, the tenor made his Wigmore Hall recital debut last season accompanied by Malcolm Martineau and toured North America with pianist Ken Noda under the auspices of Carnegie Hall, Boston’s Celebrity Series, Friends of Chamber Music of Miami, and the University of Notre Dame. With Steven Blier and the New York Festival of Song, he surveyed the exquisite lyricism of Franz Schubert and The Beatles. <http://paulapplebytenor.com>

**Sarah Mesko** (2015 George London Award) – Praised by The Washington Post for her “consistently beautiful sound,” American mezzo-soprano Sarah Mesko is rapidly gaining attention for her “rich mezzo soprano” voice and musicality. In the 2016-2017 season, Sarah Mesko makes her Metropolitan Opera debut as the Second Lady in *The Magic Flute*. She will also be heard in recitals with the Dallas Opera at the Dallas Museum of Art and at the University of Arkansas and Henderson State University in Arkansas. She will also sing Mozart’s Requiem with the Mercury Orchestra in Houston.

Sarah Mesko began the 2015-16 season in her role debut as Carmen at Washington National Opera in the Domingo-Cafritz Emerging Artists performance. She joined the Metropolitan Opera for their Rising Stars concert tour across the United States and also covered Malcolm in *La donna del lago* on the mainstage. In concert, she appeared with the Columbus Symphony in Alexander Nevsky and with the Mercury Orchestra in Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony. Recently, Ms. Mesko was seen at Washington National Opera as the Second Lady in *Die Zauberflöte* and made her debut at Houston Grand Opera as Mrs. Segstrom in *A Little Night Music*. In concert, she appeared with Ars Lyrica, the Bach Society of Houston, and Mercury Baroque in Houston. A native of Hot Springs, Arkansas, Ms. Mesko holds a master of music degree in vocal performance from Rice University and a bachelor of music degree in vocal and flute performance from the University of Arkansas. [www.sarahmesko.com](http://www.sarahmesko.com)

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[Sunday, March 5, 2017, at 4:00 pm](#)

*Gilder Lehrman Hall at The Morgan Library & Museum  
225 Madison Avenue at 36th Street, New York City*

The George London Foundation Recital Series presents  
PAUL APPLEBY, Tenor  
SARAH MESKO, Mezzo-soprano  
Ken Noda, Piano

- “Stars and Night”:  
WOLF “Der Mond hat eine schwere Klag’ erhoben” from *Italienisches Liederbuch*  
FAURÉ “Clair de lune” from Opus 46  
BRAHMS “Die Mainacht” from *Vier Gesänge*  
R. HUNDLEY “The Giver of Stars” from *Songs of Wonderment and Love*  
BARBER “Sure on this shining night” from *Four Songs*  
Sarah Mesko & Ken Noda
- POULENC *Tel jour, telle nuit*  
Paul Appleby & Ken Noda
- BRAHMS *Two Viola Songs*  
Sarah Mesko & Ken Noda (and guest artist to be announced)
- BRITTEN *On This Island*  
Paul Appleby & Ken Noda
- BERLIOZ “Ah! Je vais mourir ... Adieu, fière cité” from *Les Troyens*  
Sarah Mesko & Ken Noda
- LALO “Vainement, ma bien-aimée” from *Le Roi d’Ys*  
Paul Appleby & Ken Noda
- BERLIOZ “L’amour est un flambeau” from *Béatrice et Bénédict*  
Sarah Mesko, Paul Appleby, and Ken Noda

**Tickets: \$50**

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February 21, 2017